

Date, 2022

The Honorable Senator's Name
United States Senate

Location Senate Office Building (Tim Kaine, 231 Russell; Mark Warner, 703 Hart)
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine or Warner:

On behalf of Name of church or school, I want to express our disappointment with the recent passage of the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404) by the House of Representatives, as well as our hope that the Senate will not pass the bill. We believe that the negative consequences of the bill to our American society, as well as to our church and school ministries, would be immeasurable. As you examine your own position on the bill, we would ask that you consider the following matters.

Repealing the Defense of Marriage Act

H.R. 8404, if enacted, would repeal Section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, also known as the Defense of Marriage Act. As you are aware, the Defense of Marriage Act was passed in 1996 with overwhelming bipartisan support (342-67 in the House and 85-15 in the Senate) and then was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Portions of the Defense of Marriage Act were subsequently struck down by the Supreme Court in the 2015 case *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, a case which we believe to have been incorrectly decided. At its core, the Defense of Marriage Act affirms the centuries old traditional belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and it protects the freedom of Americans to practice and to proclaim that belief. H.R. 8404, on the other hand, would remove our freedom to practice and to proclaim that belief, and it places Americans in danger of legal action simply for not agreeing to participate in the cause of so-called same-sex marriage.

Equivocation

Non-traditional definitions of marriage are built upon the cornerstone of the subjective nature of truth, and in turn the individual nature of truth. However, if truth is indeed subjective, then a person should be equally free to ascribe to the traditional and Biblical beliefs regarding marriage. The Respect for Marriage Act represents an open attack on such freedom. In other words, while the affirmation of same-sex marriage at the core of H.R. 8404 is based on subjectivity, the bill codifies same-sex marriage as if it were a matter of objective truth with which no person has a right to disagree. This equivocation poses a serious threat to individual freedom as well as to Religious Liberty. It flies in the face of our long-standing tradition of being a pluralistic society. While claiming to foster inclusion, it instead seeks the exclusion of deeply held religious and personal beliefs; while claiming to seek an end to discrimination, it instead would establish and perpetuate a new and far more insidious kind of conscience discrimination.

The Origin of Marriage

The validity of non-traditional definitions of marriage depends entirely upon the false assumption that the traditional definition is merely a human invention. This assumption is made with no evidence of who invented marriage or when. If this assumption were true, then the cause of same-sex marriage would be a just one.

However, we affirm and believe that God is the Author and Designer of marriage. From the beginning of time, He has ordained marriage to be the union of one man and one woman. He has designed the man and the woman to complement each other biologically, emotionally, and intellectually. By so doing, He demonstrates His wisdom, His love, and His goodness. God makes no mistakes. No marriage arrangement can represent equality better than one man and one woman; two men and zero women represents inequality, not equality. Any attempt to change God's definition of marriage will ultimately fail, leaving in its wake a trail of human heartache and misery.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife. And they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

Mark 10:5-9

Our Position

Name of church or school believes strongly in the traditional, Biblical definition of marriage. ***No law, no court, and no decree can ever succeed at eradicating this firmly held belief.*** We must be free to teach children and adults the truth about God’s beautiful design and purpose for marriage. To punish any institution or individual for refusing to violate their conscience with regard to this sacred truth is a gross miscarriage of justice, entirely inconsistent with the Constitution, and counterproductive to the best interest of our civil society.

We appreciate your considering our perspective as the debate over H.R. 8404 continues in the Senate. Thank you for your service to our state and to our nation.

Sincerely,

Name
Title