

By: Senators Rapert, Bledsoe, Burnett, Caldwell, A. Clark, J. Dismang, J. English, Files, J. Hendren, Hester, Hickey, Holland, J. Hutchinson, Irvin, J. Key, B. Sample, D. Sanders, G. Stubblefield, E. Williams, J. Woods

SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE SENATE'S COMMITMENT TO DEFINE MARRIAGE AS THE UNION OF A MAN AND A WOMAN AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO UPHOLD AND ENFORCE THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT.

Subtitle

REAFFIRMING THE SENATE'S COMMITMENT TO DEFINE MARRIAGE AS THE UNION OF A MAN AND A WOMAN AND URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS, U.S. SUPREME COURT, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO UPHOLD AND ENFORCE THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT.

WHEREAS, marriage is the building block upon which our society is based; and

WHEREAS, in November 2004, 75% of Arkansas voters expressed their collective intent to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman by adopting Amendment 83 to the Arkansas Constitution; and

WHEREAS, support of traditional marriage was affirmed nationally through the enactment of the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, 1 U.S.C. § 7, signed into law by the president, Public Law No. 104-199 § 3(a), and is specifically recognized by the laws of 41 states; and



WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in cases that challenge the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act; and

WHEREAS, the power to regulate marriage is a power reserved to the people that lies within the domain of state legislatures and not with the courts; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court should uphold the federal Defense of Marriage Act and respect the constitutional authority of citizens and their elected officials to make marriage policy; and

WHEREAS, while the Senate of the State of Arkansas recognizes that families take many forms, the institution of marriage itself is sacred and must be upheld in its traditional form; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation should support an amendment to the United States Constitution that requires all states to recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate reaffirms its commitment to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman and urges the United States Supreme Court to uphold the Defense of Marriage Act and the President of the United States to enforce the law defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate urges the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, Senator John Boozman, Senator Mark Pryor, Representative Rick Crawford, Representative Tim Griffin, Representative Steve Womack, and Representative Tom Cotton, to propose a United States Constitutional Amendment that recognizes marriage as the union of one man and one woman.