



THE FAMILY
POLICY COUNCIL
OF WEST VIRGINIA

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NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2009

Federal lawsuit threatens West Virginia's Defense of Marriage Act

Poll: 94% of West Virginians do not want politicians to allow a judge to redefine marriage before West Virginians vote on it

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A federal lawsuit seeking to void the federal Defense of Marriage Act threatens the definition of marriage in West Virginia and the validity of the West Virginia DOMA, according to the Family Policy Council of West Virginia. A federal lawsuit filed Tuesday by homosexual advocates in Massachusetts is the most recent attempt to circumvent the democratic process and further weaken the definition of marriage in West Virginia.

“Marriage as one man and one woman is clearly an important and unifying issue for West Virginians. The most recent polling data shows that more than 9 out of 10 West Virginians don’t want their elected officials to allow a court to redefine marriage,” said Jeremy Dys, president and general counsel of the Family Policy Council of West Virginia. “Marriage is a unifying issue that reaches across party lines. Public policy should be decided by the public – not by one, out-of-state judge and a small number of activists and legislators.”

Dys is referring to a poll conducted last week by the Family Policy Council of West Virginia that surveyed almost 10,000 West Virginia households. According to that poll, 94% of West Virginians surveyed believe that voters in West Virginia – and not judges – should define marriage. The poll can be downloaded at www.wv4marriage.com/poll.

Tuesday’s lawsuit comes after a year in which judges in California, Massachusetts, and Connecticut altered the definition of marriage in their state without voter input. Another court in Iowa is expected to do likewise this year. Policymakers in at least a half-dozen states are considering bills that would fabricate same-sex “marriage” legislatively.

Meanwhile, a same-sex adoption case pending before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia leaves the definition of marriage in the hands of five unaccountable judges. In addition, the West Virginia Legislature is considering several pieces of legislation designed to pave the way for same-sex “marriage” in the state.

The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is urging voters to call their legislators by calling (877) 565-3447 and asking for the right to define marriage within the state constitution.

More information is available at www.wv4marriage.com.

The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is a servant organization that advocates for policies that embrace the sanctity of human life, enrich marriage, and safeguard religious freedom.

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