



THE FAMILY
POLICY COUNCIL
OF WEST VIRGINIA

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NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The FPCWV applauds WV House of Delegates for passing study resolution

Legislators to form select committee to study marriage protection amendment

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The West Virginia House of Delegates voted to form a select interim committee Friday to study the need for a marriage protection amendment more closely. The state group that has led efforts to give West Virginians the opportunity to vote on the definition of marriage says the committee will help legislators to better understand the need to defend marriage in the state.

“We are thankful that the leadership of the House of Delegates is setting aside time to carefully study this issue,” Dys explained. “When the legislature carefully studies the marriage issue, they will understand why 94% of West Virginians believe voters—not judges or legislators—should decide the legal definition of marriage.”

The study resolution passed the West Virginia House of Delegates one week after Iowa’s highest court became the fourth state court to invalidate a state defense-of-marriage law and just a few days after the Vermont Legislature overrode a gubernatorial veto to fabricate same-sex “marriage.” On that same day, the Washington, D.C., City Council approved a measure to recognize “marriages” between members of the same sex that are performed in other jurisdictions.

The study resolution ([HCR 88](#)), sponsored by 50 Democrats and 20 Republicans, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Once approved by the Senate, a select committee of the West Virginia Legislature will be formed which, during interim meetings later this year, will carefully review the possibility of allowing the state’s voters to decide the issue. That committee could then hear from experts on both sides of the issue and would afford the public a greater hand in the discussion than the time limits of the regular legislative session allow.

While eight state courts have invalidated state DOMAs, or similar laws, 30 states have allowed voters to decide the definition of marriage. The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is

considering a same-sex adoption case that will implicate the state's marriage laws, a federal lawsuit has been filed to repeal the federal definition of marriage, and at least nine state legislatures are attempting to legislatively manufacture a right to same-sex "marriage" for their states.

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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