



06.26.15      **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SUPREME COURT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ACTIVISM LEVIES BLOW TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Same-sex activists who oppose the biblical view of marriage now have law on their side to persecute religious citizens in West Virginia who believe the definition of marriage should be one man and one woman for life. In 29 ballots on this issue nationwide more than 62 million votes have been cast against redefining marriage to only 35 million votes for. But five handpicked lawyers in Washington, D.C. have now forced their progressive view on all of us against the will of the people.

Citizens of faith must now prepare for the inevitable: the further erosion of our precious, constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty. As sexual freedom increasingly trumps religious freedom, everyone who believes in God's definition of marriage must expect to be targeted.

We should all agree government should not discriminate against people of faith but this decision allows that. We should also agree our government shouldn't force Americans to violate their beliefs about marriage. But this decision demands that. Same-sex couples are free to live and love however they want. That's tolerance. And that's what America is all about.

But Allen Whitt, President of the Family Policy Council of West Virginia said, *"Every child deserves the best opportunity we can give them to be raised by a married mom and dad. Today's Supreme Court activism puts the government's stamp of approval on intentionally depriving kids of either a mom or a dad."*

*"And a Christian florist in Morgantown who believes marriage is between a man and a woman should also be free to run her business how she wants. Her creative talent and her name brand should not be forced into temporary slavery and coerced into putting her stamp of approval on a same-sex wedding if she has a sincerely held religious belief that doing so would cause her to sin. But this frightening SCOTUS decision will do just that under threat of lawsuit or jail time if she fails to violate her religious conscience and become a creative slave."*

Whitt continued, *"Now that same-sex marriage has been forced on us, we need to answer this crucial question: Is there any tolerance left for those whose faith still teaches that marriage is the union of a man and a woman? Nobody has the right to ask you or me to violate our deeply, genuinely held religious beliefs. That's the West Virginia I know. Are there still legislators here who will support a religious liberty bill that prevents discrimination against the faithful? We are confident that our citizens will see that there are plenty who still do this coming legislative session."*

And that's why churches, pastors, Christian schools and non-profit ministries should have a West Virginia religious liberty law to protect their First Amendment rights to recognize and act according to God's design for marriage, without government interference or loss of their tax-exempt status. They should be able to hire employees who share their biblical view of marriage. That will change now that



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same-sex marriage is the law of the land.

This judicial activism will change what's taught in public schools. The full weight of our government will now be given to indoctrinating our children that same-sex marriage is the equivalent of marriage between a man and a woman. Parents are going to have to make some tough decisions about their children's education.

*Tony Perkins President of The Family Research Council in D.C. said, "In reaching a decision so lacking in foundation in the text of the Constitution, in our history, and in our traditions, the Court has done serious damage to its own legitimacy.*

*"No court can overturn natural law. Nature and Nature's God, hailed by the signers of our Declaration of Independence as the very source of law, cannot be usurped by the edict of a court, even the United States Supreme Court.*

*"Marriage is rooted not only in human history, but also in the biological and social reality that children are created by, and do best when raised by, a mother and a father. No court ruling can alter this truth."*

The First Amendment gives us the right to live our lives and run our businesses according to our beliefs. That's why the Family Policy Council works to create space in the public square for Christians to live out their faith.

*Whitt said, "This ruling is a tragic day for America and for West Virginia. It marks a promotion of sinful behavior and a loss of liberty and surpasses even the cultural destructiveness levied on America by the Roe vs. Wade decision."*

*"Now an effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman is underway to trump the current wrongheadedness of the judicial activists currently on the Supreme Court of the United States."*

### **About The Family Policy Council of West Virginia**

The Family Policy Council positively influences West Virginia's laws, lawmakers and state elections to defend the constitutional rights of religious freedom for families and churches. The Family Policy Council of WV is affiliated with Focus on the Family and CitizenLink.