

**WHY WE OPPOSE
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE/UNIONS IN CONNECTICUT
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BACKGROUND

Since the 1960's, small, but well organized, groups of homosexual activists have worked to change the definition of marriage and family in our culture. In the words of one activist, "Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality and family and, in the process, transforming the very fabric of society."¹ More specifically, the push for same-sex marriage sees its goal as "an opportunity to reconstruct a traditionally homophobic institution by bringing to it our more equitable queer value system ... and to wholly transform the definition of family in American culture."² To date, the homosexual lobby has succeeded in pushing many of its objectives into the "fabric of society," including **the legalization of same-sex unions in Vermont**. This movement has now set its sights on Connecticut. Since March, 2001, hearings have been held in the State Judiciary Committee, where activists have attempted to legalize same-sex marriage/unions. Such a legal re-definition of marriage has been opposed by a coalition of a number of organizations who have fought to affirm the institution of marriage as the union between one man and one woman. This understanding of marriage has been the foundation for human culture for thousands of years and must continue to be esteemed in this way for the benefit of all citizens.

The following brief summary is a resource to help you begin to make sense of the same-sex marriage debate. References for more detailed discussion and further information are provided and it is hoped that you will use them to deepen your understanding of the many issues involved.

ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE MOVEMENT

The attempt to redefine marriage has progressed to this point because many people have accepted certain assumptions concerning persons living a homosexual lifestyle. These assumptions are building blocks in the homosexual agenda:

1. **Anyone** disagreeing with the homosexual **agenda** is hateful and bigoted.
2. **Sexual orientation and sexual behavior is genetic, inherited, unchangeable and widespread. In other words, it is an "innate" characteristic.**
3. **Since homosexuality is "innate," homosexual marriage is part of a fundamental "right" of equality.**
4. Children raised by same-sex couples are no different from children raised by a mother and father.
5. The Bible and religious tradition has not actually taught that homosexual relationships are outside of God's plan.

Each of these assumptions is untrue. Let's look at each one closely.

ASSUMPTION #1: Anyone disagreeing with the homosexual agenda is hateful and bigoted.

As author of this summary, I stand a good chance of being labeled a bigot. This is so because opposition to homosexual unions has been framed in an unrealistic either-or scenario: Either you support same-sex marriage or you are a hateful person. Homosexual activists have fostered this false "disagreement = hate" proposition for many years. As stated in the book, The Homosexualization of America, "The greatest single victory of the gay movement ... has been to shift the debate from *behavior to identity* thus forcing opponents into a position where they can be seen as attacking civil rights of homosexual citizens."³

The truth is that I am not a bigot, nor are those who are working to support traditional marriage. All of us believe in the dignity of all human persons, regardless of how they live their lives. We hold that all persons, whether their sexual behavior is heterosexual or homosexual, deserve respect and no one's rights under the Constitution should ever be denied. We disagree with the homosexual lobby because we know that to endorse their agenda will further erode the foundation of marriage and family life in our society. We are a people of love, but, sometimes, love requires us to stand for what is healthy and true.

ASSUMPTION #2: Sexual orientation and sexual behavior is widespread, genetic, inherited and unchangeable. In other words, it is an "innate" characteristic.

As quoted above, the shift of the "debate from behavior to identity" required people to believe that anyone living a homosexual lifestyle didn't choose to do so, rather, they did so because they were "born that way." This belief was created primarily in the early 1990's when several researchers published studies which were reported in the media to have established a genetic or biological cause for homosexuality. Let's look at what was reported in the media and at what was left out.

The media proclaimed: Levay (1991)⁴, found that the size of a certain brain area (hypothalamus), was linked to sexual orientation.

The media didn't highlight: Levay wasn't really sure if his subjects were homosexual or heterosexual. Many had died from AIDS which results in a change in testosterone levels that effects the brain's size in this area.⁵ His sample size was too small to draw valid conclusions and his results have never been duplicated. Also unreported was that Levay, himself said, "...there is no way of telling whether those structural differences are the cause of people's sexual behavior or the consequence or none of the above," or that he left research afterward to become a homosexual activist.⁶

The media proclaimed: Bailey and Pillard (1991)⁷, found a genetic link for homosexuality in studies of twins.

The media didn't highlight: Bailey and Pillard's way of getting subjects (ads in homosexual magazines) likely biased their results, and that they used their statistics to inflate the percentages of twin pairs that were "homosexual." Also, their results were totally inconsistent with genetic principles. (e.g. Adopted siblings of homosexual's share no genetic material but these adopted siblings had a higher incidence of homosexual behavior (7%), compared to biological siblings (4%), who share 50% of their genetic material.) The media also generally ignored a study by King and McDonald (1992),⁸ which found no genetic link at all, and Bailey's better designed study (1999)⁹ which found that genetics was not significant in sexual orientation. The mainstream media also glossed over Pillard's conclusion in 1999: "Sexuality is greatly influenced by environment and that the role of genetics is, in the end, limited"¹⁰

The media proclaimed: Hamer, et al., (1992),¹¹ found a gene (Xq28) that determines a man will be homosexual.

The media didn't highlight: Hamer's statistical analysis was so poor that no valid conclusions could be reached, and that no two pairs of homosexual twins shared the same gene in question. Also, heterosexual brothers of homosexual twins were not studied to see if they shared the same gene. It also went generally unpublicized that in 1995, Hamer, himself, agreed that his findings did not support a genetic cause and that homosexuality was "culturally transmitted, not inherited."¹² This conclusion was supported by other studies in the later 1990's.^{13,14,15}

Can a homosexual orientation/lifestyle be changed?

Although many activists would like us to believe otherwise, research supporting the successful leaving of a homosexual lifestyle has existed for many decades^{16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24} More recent studies,^{25,26} have added to the knowledge that, although certainly difficult, men and women who have identified themselves as gay and lesbian are able to discontinue such lifestyles. Dr. Robert Spitzer,²⁷ studied 153 men and 47 women who reported successful counseling for unwanted sexual attractions and maintained a change in behavior and fantasies for 5 years. 76% of the men and 47% of the women eventually married. Joseph Nicolosi, another researcher in this area has stated, "The assumption that people can't change is a political conclusion rather than a scientific one."²⁵

Just how widespread is homosexuality? Most activists want us to believe that 10-15% of the population is homosexual. This number is derived from the publications of Alfred Kinsey over 50 years ago which have been widely challenged and proven false.. Adults who have only same-gender sex over a 5 year period is estimated at 1-2%,²⁸ and the number of Connecticut households occupied by "same-sex partners" is less than 6/10 of 1%.²⁹

So is homosexuality inherited/genetic, unchangeable and widespread? The answer is no. The consensus of researchers is that homosexuality is not biologically based, rather it is socially influenced.^{30,31,32,33}

ASSUMPTION #3: Since homosexuality is "innate," **homosexual marriage** is part of a fundamental "right" of **equality**.

Having seen that homosexuality is not "innate", this assumption loses the foundation on which it tries to stand. Even so, the U.S. Constitution does not grant a right that a person can marry anyone of their choosing. Homosexual activists are seeking to make marriage an issue of personal freedom, choice and rights which is far from the bedrock of a marriage between a man and woman based on a permanent, life-long commitment in which sexual intimacy occurs exclusively between spouses.

What about other rights that activists say they can't have without same-sex marriage such as hospital visitation, the making of medical decisions, inheritance, etc.? Simply put, all of these "rights" or privileges are available to same-sex couples, via durable power of attorney, designation of health care agent/conservator, wills, living trusts, designation of custody of remains in case of death, etc. Marriage does not need to be re-defined in order obtain them.

ASSUMPTION #4: 4. Children raised by same-sex couples are not different from children raised by a mother and father.

This assumption has come to the forefront of the *debate* as the American Academy of ^{pediatrics} and the American Academy of Family Physicians have recently adopted policies echoing this conclusion. AAP, for example, wrote: "A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with 1 or 2 gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual."³⁴

If we closely evaluate this "body of scientific literature," it does not support AAP's or the homosexual agenda's position. Most importantly, most of the research on which such claims are based does not compare children reared in same-sex homes to children reared by both a mother and father. They usually compare same-sex homes to single-parent, heterosexual homes. Secondly, the studies cited are some of the worst examples of agenda-driven research imaginable and the authors of these studies, themselves, state in the body of their publications that the research is so poorly designed with small samples, lack of random sampling, bias on the part of the subjects, etc., that valid conclusions cannot be established^{35,36}. The AAP report vaguely refers to these research problems, but disregards them when reaching its conclusions.

A broader, more valid "body of scientific literature" says something very different about child development compared to what the same-sex marriage movement tells us: It tells us that children will have much healthier lives if they grow up in a home with both a mother and father present. Specifically, kids who live with mom and dad:

- are generally better off academically, financially, emotionally, socially and behaviorally and have better health
- delay sex longer and receive more parental support
- have a mom who provides emotional and physical nurturance and dad who helps develop positive character traits.^{37,38,39,40,41,42,43,45,46,47,48,49,50}

Certainly no one would conclude that a child who grows up in a single-parent home will be unable to thrive. Thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of his or her mom or dad, wonderful growth can occur, but, as a whole, the challenges of single-parenting are many and kids who grow up in single parent families:

- are 6 times more likely to live in poverty"
- are 77% more likely to experience physical abuse and 87% more likely to experience physical neglect⁵¹
- have an 80% greater risk of serious injury or harm from abuse or neglect⁵¹
- have a greater risk of accidental injury, asthma, health problems, repeating a grade or being expelled and a greater likelihood to be treated for emotional and behavioral problems.⁵²
- boys are 2 times more likely to end up in prison.⁵³
- teens are 2 times more likely to have a child before age 20, and drop out of school⁵⁴
- are more likely to divorce³⁴

Since the research usually cited to support Assumption 4 compares kids raised in gay or lesbian homes to homes without a mother and father present and argues that they are no different, then logic holds that children raised by same-sex couples are subject to the same increased risks as children raised without both mom and dad in the home. Additionally, research also shows that gay and lesbian homes are different in other important ways which place children at risk. Conclusions of these studies include:

Promiscuity:

- Homosexuals are much more promiscuous than married heterosexuals and few homosexual relationships last longer than 2 years.^{55,56}
- 43% of white gay men have 500 or more sexual partners over a lifetime, 28% have 1,000 or more.⁵⁷
- In one study of 156 gay couples, 100% of these who were together more than 5 years had sex outside their "committed" relationship.⁵⁸
- In contrast, over 75% of married heterosexual couples remain faithful over their lifetime.^{59,60,61,62}

Modeling:

- This behavior tells kids that "marital" relationships are temporary and mostly sexual in nature. Monogamy is not the norm.⁶³
- Heterosexual children are deprived of a living model for heterosexual relationships.

Health:

- In homosexual monogamous relationships, there is increased anal/oral-anal intercourse and more unsafe sexual practices compared to those without a steady partner and this is linked to increased bacterial and parasitical STDs including AIDS.^{64,65,66}

Violence:

- 90% of lesbians report being verbally abused by their partner, 31% report being physically abused⁶⁷
- Violence among gay men is twice as high as violence in the heterosexual population.⁶⁸

Mental Health Problems and Suicide:

-32% of lesbians report having been raped or sexually assaulted, 19% reported childhood-incest, 21% experienced suicidal ideation sometimes or often, 33% had been depressed, 18% attempted suicide, ^{69,70} Suicide usually did not follow an episode of harassment and was usually preceded by evidence of a significant psychiatric disorder. ⁷¹

Substance Abuse:

-Lesbians are 3 times more likely to abuse alcohol and suffer other compulsive behaviors. ^{72,73}

Sexual Identity Confusion:

A number of studies have looked at how many children raised by gay and lesbian parents practice homosexual behavior in their lifetimes. For these children, results showed a higher incidence of homosexual behavior, ⁷⁴ ranging from 9% to 27% of children raised in these homes. ^{75,76,77,78,79,80,81}

Incest:

-29% of children of homosexual parents were subject to sexual molestation by that parent, compared to .6% for children of heterosexual parents. ⁸²
-12% of homosexuals experienced incest compared to .8% for heterosexuals. ⁸³

Life Span:

-Gays have a lower life expectancy of 8-20 years, and, if this continues, half of all gay men will not reach age 65. ⁸⁴

If same-sex marriage is legalized, adoption and foster-care placements into same-sex homes would place children in settings vulnerable to the above influences and risks. Contrary to what the AAP and AAFP may imply, children are at greater risk if they are raised outside of a home in which both a mother and father are present. The homosexual movement appears more concerned with placing the desires of same-sex couples ahead of the intrinsic right of every child to the healthiest family environment possible: that provided by a man and women in marriage.

ASSUMPTION #5: The Bible and religious tradition actually does not teach that homosexual relationships are outside of God's plan.

This assumption attacks the faith foundation of our culture in an attempt to create doubt and remove morality as an objection to same-sex marriages/unions. The Bible remains clear, however, that homosexual behavior is not part of God's plan for love and sexuality. In both the Old and New Testaments, scripture doesn't waiver and reinforces the truth that the expression of sexual intimacy is designed for a man and woman in marriage. See these scriptural references:

- Genesis 19:1-29 -Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 -Judges 19-21 -Romans 1:24-32 -1 Corinthians 6:9-11 -Timothy 1:8-11

SUMMARY

We oppose the re-definition of marriage. The assumptions behind the homosexual agenda are false and unfounded. It is up to each of us to challenge the same-sex union movement in Connecticut so that the truth concerning the goodness of traditional marriage can be seen through a light of reason and experience. The health and well-being of children, of adults and of society depends on the nurturing power of the family centered in one man and one woman in a life-long, faithful, and fruitful marriage. We all must work to ensure that our State Constitution will strengthen the families of Connecticut by affirming that marriage will remain the faithful union of one man and one woman.

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