

Written Statement regarding H.B. 7395 an Act Concerning Marriage Equality  
Statement of Brian S. Evelich, 730 Boundline Road, Wolcott, CT – March 26, 2007

Ladies and gentlemen of the Judiciary Committee, and fellow citizens in observation, my Name is Brian Evelich, and I'm from Wolcott, Connecticut. I come before you to speak, in support of maintaining the current, traditional, anthropological and historically faith based definition of marriage.

As other speakers on all sides of this issue have stated so effectively, the matter before you incorporated into House Bill 7395 has ramifications that reach far beyond the obvious seeking of rights.

Many matters of civil rights injustices have had clear evidence of substantiated oppression, denial of rights and privileges, and outcomes that have identified the necessity for legislative remedy. The evidence and clarity of past injustices have been irrefutable in regards to matters of race, gender and age discrimination, and has been based on inalienable characteristics that are not caused the exercising of the freedoms of choice, habit or behavior. As a result, necessary corrective action has been taken based on evidence of injustice, not based on the simple demanding of a right. Simply demanding a right has not been the criteria on which it is determined that a right exists. In the declaration of Independence, our founders recognized that our rights are endowed by our creator, not by ourselves or our legislative processes.

This debate is not a simple matter where right and wrong can be observed through comparative analysis. The perceived imbalance of rights is based on personal beliefs, desires and behaviors, so simply declaring things right or wrong is subjective.

By polarizing society and compartmentalizing those who oppose redefining marriage, we are painted into a box that has had the consequence of demonizing those who support marriage as it has always existed. For most of us, maintaining the definition of marriage is an outgrowth of our faith and beliefs, and our understanding of the measurable benefit that a traditional marriage structure and subsequent family structure brings to society and individual children. Protecting marriage for many of us does not involve the matter of orientation or behavior differences. In God's eyes any of our non-scriptural behaviors do not separate us from each other, they separates us from Him. So in essence we're all in the same boat.

It is through core values that these beliefs are shaped, not by the changing whims of man. Marriage as an institution is severely wounded in its current state, and it needs societies' nurturing to be healed, not a further inflicting of injury upon it. This issue is much more substantial to the success of our stability as a society than just the awarding of rights and privileges, which incidentally were accomplished through the Civil Union action already taken by this legislative process.

Politicizing this issue has in-advertently or deliberately declared that supporters of traditional marriage are somehow unjust, discriminatory, or homophobic based on our desire to preserve a pre-existing and uniquely freestanding institution that pre-dates any legislative processes. This demonizing is in itself an injustice. It minimizes our values and implies they are less valid than that of those on the other side of this issue.

I would implore our legislators and every citizen to put aside their individual goals and evaluate the impact and detrimental consequences both this process and desired outcome has had, is having and will ultimately have on our society. No legislature in history is credited with defining marriage in the first place. It is arrogant and self absorbed for us to believe that that a legislative action has the right then to re-define marriage.