

**Connecticut General Assembly's Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing
Testimony by Dawn Stefanowicz
March 26, 2007**

To Judiciary Committee Members,

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify.

I am an adult child who grew up in a homosexual household. My mother was quite ill. I attended school, community and church programs like most children. However, from my infancy my father was involved in homosexuality, inside and outside of the home. My mental and physical health was jeopardized as I was exposed to my father's and his partners' lifestyle choices, leaving me traumatized. I was at high risk of exposure to particular pathogens, including Hepatitis. I was aware of polygamous relationships, experimentation with gender and varying sexuality,¹ and grieved suicides and the treatment of discarded (ex) partners. Laws around public sex were often ignored in the subcultures and I saw precious few heterosexual couples. By 30 years old, I was deeply grieved as my father had died of AIDS and many of his (ex) partners were either dead or dying.

I too had my "days of silence" as my father threatened me. He used me as bait to attract sexual partners. Though I was deeply disappointed with my father and his partners' sexual behaviors, I couldn't say anything negative about my dad or the homosexual lifestyle. For a time, I coped by being performance oriented and denying the influences around me, pretending I could rise above everything.

There didn't seem to be anywhere safe to go. I was physically, emotionally, and economically dependent on my father, and I wasn't going to risk losing my relationship with him. I was raised to tolerate and accept my father's values and behaviors. I loved Dad. During adolescence, I would have lied and withheld negative information about my father just to protect him. My father only allowed positive comments around him while any upsetting comments were outlawed, i.e. moral or religious ones. I could not express my struggles and suppressed conscience with hardly anyone, suffering through my childhood and adolescence with much confusion, anxiety, and depression. There was a lot of pressure on appearances as I was burdened with hiding my pain. I knew about the less savory details, various living arrangements, multiple transient partnerships and the violence in the subcultures. I knew the common negative lifestyle consequences were as follows: substance abuse, depression, same-sex domestic violence,² suicide and sexually

¹ Laumann, E.O. et al., (1994) *The Social Organization of Homosexuality* 305

² Island, D. and Letellier, P., "Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence," New York, Haworth Press (1991): 14

transmitted diseases.^{3, 4} Even women who were involved in same-gender sexual behavior shared similar sexual health risks.⁵

A judge may have ruled that some of my father's partners should be named my "legal" and "psychological" parents against my will. My father's partners were not interested in me, only using me to get closer to my father. The instability of the GLBT communities over thirty years never provided me with a sense of "family."

From my own life experiences and communications with other adult children, and family members of children, children and teens are at a higher risk of sexual molestation and recruitment.^{6, 7, 8} You see the political advocacy toward lowering the age of consent laws, teaching sexual diversity to innocent kids who don't even know what academic or employment path they will take, labeling children's sexuality, and providing clubs and general assemblies which are directly linked to GLBT organizations.

Are homophobia and ignorance the causes of children's pain or is it parental lifestyles? I never wanted anyone to accept my father's relationships and lifestyle. Burdened with the impact of my father's and his partner's lifestyles, I struggled with severe anxiety, stress, finding it hard to concentrate in school. I dealt with prolonged and unresolved grief. It was difficult to struggle with sexuality confusion, feeling like I had to prove my sexuality. As children, we are unable to describe our feelings, choosing to hide them or

³ Dailey, Timothy J., Ph. D., "Comparing the Lifestyles of Homosexual Couples to Married Couples," Family Research Council, April 17, 2004. See <http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?1=IS04C02&v=PRINT> extracted 24/03/05.

⁴ The prestigious *Journal of the American Public Health Association* has devoted a substantial portion of its latest edition (June 2003, Vol.93, No. 6) to the risks associated with homosexual practices. For anyone interested, they may look at two sources as found on NARTH's website as follows: <http://www.narth.com/docs/risks.html> and <http://www.narth.com/menus/medical.html> extracted 07/12/06.

⁵ Diamant, Allison L., MD, MSHS; Mark A. Schuster, MD, PhD; Kimberly McGuigan, PhD; Janet Lever, PhD "Lesbians' Sexual History With Men: Implications for Taking a Sexual History," Archives of Internal Medicine, <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/159/22/2730?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=1&title=Lesbians%27+Sexual+History+With+Men&andorexacttitle=and&andorexactitleabs=and&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&resource-type=HWCIT> (Of respondents, 77.3% had 1 or more lifetime male sexual partners, 70.5% had a lifetime history of vaginal intercourse, 17.2% had a lifetime history of anal intercourse, and 17.2% had a lifetime history of a sexually transmitted disease. Exactly 5.7% reported having had a male sexual partner during the past year.)

⁶ Dougherty, Jon, "Report: Pedophilia more common among 'gays' Report purports to reveal 'dark side' of homosexual culture." WorldNetDaily, Monday April 29, 2002. See http://w115.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=27431 extracted 24/03/2005.

⁷ Reisman, Judith A., "Crafting Bi/Homosexual Youth," <http://www.drjudithreisman.org/archives/regent.pdf> extracted 24/03/07.

⁸ Homosexual Child Molestations By Foster Parents: Illinois, 1997-2002, Family Research Institute, http://www.familyresearchinst.org/FRI_SPECRPT_foster-parent-molestation-illinois.html extracted 22/03/07 (Each year, 1% of Illinois foster and subsidized-adoption children are molested and 3% are physically abused, according to this article in Psychological Reports. Over a six-year period, 34% of the sexual molestations of these DCFS-placed girls and boys were homosexual in nature, committed by the persons approved as parents by DCFS. Cameron recognizes that heterosexual abuse of children does occur in the foster care setting, but his point is that homosexual abuse is disproportionately higher compared to their percentage in the general population.)

act out in socially destructive ways. Please look at my website for a list of some of the concerns and risks children face as well as other testimonials from adult children.^{9, 10}

Same-sex “marriage” and same-sex “parenting” are not in children’s best interests. The media campaigns, millions of dollars in GLBT promotion, and public hearing rooms that show “happy” children in same-sex environments disregard the fact that many children are afraid to offend their parent and be discarded like one of their parent’s partners.

Yet, children are exploited to garner support for adult “rights” and “equality” in these households and at school. I never wanted social policies to enforce acceptance of our parents’ lifestyle choices and same-sex “marriage.”

Parenting children within monogamous, stable, long-term marriages where a mother and father are equally represented instills a strong sense of identity and security in the children. Innumerable studies point out that children’s outcomes are significantly better in father-mother households compared with single-parented and homosexual households.^{11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18}

⁹ Stefanowicz, Dawn. “Concerns and Risks,” and “Our Stories.” Dawn Stefanowicz - Out From Under. <http://www.dawnstefanowicz.com/concernsandrisks.php> and <http://www.dawnstefanowicz.com/ourstories.php> extracted 24/03/07.

¹⁰ Marquardt, Elizabeth, Principal Investigator. “The Revolution in Parenthood: The Emerging Global Clash Between Adult Rights and Children’s Needs.” An International Appeal from the Commission on Parenthood’s Future, signed by the following: Institute for American Values, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, Institute for the Study of Marriage, Law, and Culture Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, see http://www.imfcanada.org/article_files/Revolution%20in%20Parenthood.pdf extracted 24/03/07.

¹¹ Sarantakos, S. (1996). Children in three contexts: Family, education and social development. *Children Australia*, 21 (3): 23

¹² “Homosexual Parents: ‘Hidden Study’ Uncovered!!!” Family Research Reports, Family Research Institute, see http://www.familyresearchinst.org/FRR_01_06.html extracted 24/03/07.

¹³ Byrd, A. Dean, Ph.D, MBA, MPH*. “Gender Complementarity and Child-rearing: Where Tradition and Science Agree.” NARTH, see <http://www.narth.com/docs/GenderComplementarityByrd.pdf> extracted 22/03/07.

¹⁴ “Children Need Both A Mother And A Father.” NARTH. See <http://www.narth.com/docs/needboth.html> extracted 27/03/2005.

¹⁵ Popenoe, David, *Life Without Fathers: Compelling Evidence that Fatherhood and Marriage Are Indispensible for the Good of Children*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996), pp. 144, 146.

¹⁶ Wallerstein, Judith, et al., *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25 Year Landmark Studies*, (New York: Hyperion, 2000)

¹⁷ “French Report Submitted on Behalf of the Mission of Inquiry on the Family and the Rights of Children.” Edited English Version http://www.preservemarrriage.ca/docs/France_Report_on_the_Family_Edited.pdf extracted 24/03/07.

¹⁸ Cameron P, Cameron K. Children of homosexual parents report childhood difficulties. *Psychol Rep*. 2002 Feb;90(1):71-82.

There are scientifically unsubstantiated studies which are incorrectly used to support same-sex legislation.^{19, 20, 21, 22, 23}

The GLBT groups have a strong political desire to legally redefine the meanings of gender, sexual preferences, marriage, husband, wife and parent, in effect permitting state powers to override the autonomy of biological parents. Same-sex "marriage" in Canada automatically redefined parenting, removing parentage from its biological origin.^{24, 25} Most children in same-sex households originally came from heterosexual unions. But now, children are being traded like commodities in motherless and or fatherless units, using reproductive technology, artificial insemination, surrogate mothering, foster care and adoption.²⁶ Thus, children lose the innumerable protections and benefits encompassed in the natural family of origin, including their full biological identity, the natural right to be raised by their own biological Mom and Dad, connection with blood-related relatives, and knowledge of their medical history, among many other benefits. Social and economic successes, good parenting skills, and love cannot replace these losses.

¹⁹ Trumbull, Den A., MD, Joseph R. Zanga, MD, FAAP, Leah M. Willson, MD, FAAP, Vicki Tucci, Esq. "The Effects of Marriage, Civil Union, and Domestic Partnership Laws on the Health and Well-being of Children: In Reply. Letter to the editor of the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics." *Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*. See <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/118/5/2261b?ijkey=6nleW-HRtRpiao&keytype=ref&siteid=aapjournals> extracted 24/03/07.

²⁰ "Marriage Rights for Homosexual Couples: Not Best for Children." Critique of AAP Special Report. See <http://www.acpedcs.org/index.cgi?CONTEXT=cat&cat=10041> extracted 24/03/07.

²¹ Quick, Sharon L., M.D., "Replication of Quotation Errors," November 17, 2006, American College of Pediatricians. See http://www.acpedcs.org/fastmedia/pdf/ErrorsAAP/media/P3RPediatricsNov20066ACP.pdf?id=82&type=f&stion=Bocea&slow=http%3a%2f%2fwww.acpedcs.org%2findex%2ecgi%2fpdf%2ferrorsAAP%2fmedia%2fP3RPediatricsNov20066ACP%2cpdf%3fBISKIT=3838463042%26CONTEXT=show_media%26id=82%26type=f%26pdf%2ferrorsAAP%2fmedia%2fP3RPediatricsNov20066ACP%2cpdf&file=P3RPediatricsNov20066ACP.pdf extracted 23/03/07.

²² Lerner R, Nagai A. No Basis: What the Studies Don't Tell Us About Same-sex Parenting. Washington, D.C.: Marriage Law Project; 2001. See <http://www.marriagewatch.org/publications/nobasis.pdf> extracted 24/03/07.

²³ "Flawed Studies Used For Promoting Same-Sex Marriage," Says Policy Institute, NARTH. See <http://www.narth.com/docs/flawed.html> extracted 24/03/07.

²⁴ Sugrue, Seana, D.C.L., Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Politics, Ave Maria University, "Canadian Marriage Policy: A Tragedy for Children." Institute of Marriage and Family Canada. See http://www.imfcanada.org/article_files/060526-SugruePaper.pdf extracted 23/03/07.

²⁵ Ross, Ruth A.M., lawyer and Executive Director, "Let the Little Children... Three Parent Case Update." Christian Legal Fellowship. See http://www.christianlegalfellowship.org/Interventions/Three%20Parent_ThreeParentCaseUpdateFINALFINALFINALoftheWebsite.pdf extracted 23/03/07.

²⁶ Serjeant, Jill, "Gay male parents get dedicated fertility program." ABC News, March 14, 2007. See <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=2949985> extracted 24/03/07.

Further, it is deceptive for a number of professional mental health associations to place children at risk to appease a tiny group.²⁷ This is why it is so important to uphold man-woman marriage for the numerous benefits provided for children, families, and society. As you can see, poor legislation ignores the research on the benefits of gender differences for children, leaving kids hopelessly motherless or fatherless²⁸ – and defenseless.

Children are too young and dependent. We have no choices around parent(s), partner(s), our family's social structure, living arrangements and changing value system.²⁹ While our parent(s) and other adults in our lives want acceptance, we try to not hurt their feelings. We are often raised to approve and tolerate all forms of expressed sexuality, including sexual preferences, gender neutrality, and non-distinct gender roles. We are often not allowed to express our disagreement, pain and confusion about our parent(s) beliefs, sexual behavior and lifestyle choices and how it impacts us.³⁰

Like children of divorce, we are often better able to express the impact of our childhoods beginning in our early thirties. Because the adults in our lives want public acceptance of our family form, we become astutely aware of political correctness and the barriers that this presents for us in seeking healthy therapeutic interventions.³¹

The freedoms of speech, religion, education, and democracy are eroded by hate crime and same-sex "marriage" legislation. Human Rights Tribunals in Canada police speech and penalize upstanding citizens for any expressed opposition to homosexuality. It takes only one complaint against a person to be brought before the tribunal, costing the person tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. On the other hand, the government pays the legal fees of the person making the complaint. Even if the defendant is found innocent, he cannot recover his legal costs. If he is found guilty, he must pay fines to the person(s) who brought forth the complaint. All television, radio and print media are monitored. Do people in Connecticut really want to face legal battles over their freedoms? Will you forfeit your freedoms, and children to legitimize homosexual "marriage" for a powerful, well-funded clique who are intent on forcing their values on all of society?"

²⁷ Wright, Rogers H., and Nicholas A. Cummings, editors. Destructive Trends in Mental Health: The Well-Intentioned Path to Harm, (New York: Routledge, 2005). Review: <http://www.narth.com/docs/destructive.html> extracted 24/03/07.

²⁸ Gallagher, Maggie, and Joshua K. Baker. "Do Mothers and Fathers Matter?", iMapp Policy Brief, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy. See <http://www.marriagedebate.com/pdf/MothersFathersMatter.pdf> extracted 27/03/2005.

²⁹ Dailey, Timothy, Ph. D., "Homosexual Parenting: Placing Children at Risk." Family Research Council. Issue No.:238. See <http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=150113> extracted 24/03/2005.

³⁰ O'Leary, Dale. "Is This Diversity, Or Tragedy: Children as Victims of their Parents' Choices." NARTH. See <http://www.narth.com/docs/diversity.html> extracted 24/03/2005.

³¹ Satinover, Jeffrey, M.S., M.D., The Trojan Couch: How the Mental Health Guilds Allow Medical Diagnostics, Scientific Research, and Jurisprudence to be Subverted in Lockstep with the Political Aims of their Gay Subcomponents, NARTH Conference Reports 2005. See <http://www.narth.com/docs/TheTrojanCouchSatinover.pdf>. extracted 16/11/06.