

Testimony Opposing Raised Bill No. 7395; “An Act Concerning Marriage Equality”

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Senators and Representatives on the Judiciary Committee, I urge you to vote no on H.B. #7395, “An Act Concerning Marriage Equality.”

H. B. No. 7395 is harmful to the citizens of the State of Connecticut, and therefore to the State itself. By removing any language in the General Statutes about gender in marriage, the Legislature of the State of Connecticut is telling its citizens that gender doesn't matter. When we teach children in schools that having two “mommies” or two “daddies” is the same as having parents of opposite genders, we are telling them that their gender is irrelevant to the family, and therefore doesn't matter. We tell them that their gender isn't needed for the family, and therefore expendable. The title of this raised bill is “An Act Concerning Marriage Equality,” but this is anything but equal. If two women or two men can have a marriage that's equivalent of heterosexual marriage, we say that one gender or the other isn't equal to the opposite, because it is expendable from marriage.

Secondly, there is an opportunity for this to go much, much further. In Canada, a country that has already legalized gay marriage, there has been lawsuit filed against the “Knights of Columbus” for not allowing a lesbian couple to have a wedding reception in their facilities. This organization's religious beliefs say that homosexuality is wrong, but they are being sued and told that their right to religious freedom is irrelevant. It is entirely possible that, if same sex marriage is made legal in Connecticut, that the religious freedom of the citizens will be in jeopardy. All a homosexual couple has to do is take a

church that denies them the opportunity of being married in its facilities to court, and state that, as the church is given a tax-exempt status by the state, it has no right to deny them marriage in their building, no matter what the creed of the church is.

Proponents of this bill would tell you that we, who oppose it, are bigots and “homophobic.” They compare our view to those who, in the past, opposed interracial marriages. This is quite the opposite. The point of racism and segregation was to separate the races. The institution of marriage as we know it today is about bringing the genders together.

Others would tell you that marriage is a “fundamental, civil right for all people.” They say we are denying same sex couples “equal rights.” However, we are not denying them “equal rights,” but we are denying them “extra rights.” You might ask, “What do you mean by this?” and I’ll elaborate. Marriage, as we have known it throughout history, has always been the union of one man and one woman. People over the years have tried to pervert that theory, but all results were negative, not positive. What is to stop this from growing onward? The answer is nothing. What about transsexuals? What about polygamy? What about incest? What about the marriage of adults to minors? Don’t these people have the same “fundamental, civil rights” that homosexuals and heterosexuals do? If we make an exception for one group’s “extra rights,” we are discriminating against these other sexual perversions.

In accordance with the aforementioned points and facts, I respectfully request that you vote “no” on House Bill No. 7395. Thank you.