



# ACTION

## 3/17/08 Testimony of Peter Wolfgang, President of FIC Action, on H.B. 5925

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Good afternoon Chairman Lawlor, Chairman McDonald and members of the committee. My name is Peter Wolfgang and I am the President of the Family Institute of Connecticut Action, an organization whose mission is "to encourage and strengthen the family as the foundation of society and to promote sound, ethical and moral values in our culture and government." I am here today to oppose H.B. 5925, An Act Concerning Civil Unions.

H.B. 5925 would for the first time ever give legal significance to same-sex marriage for the purposes of Connecticut law. The last section of this bill converts an out-of-state same-sex marriage to a civil union. This type of legislation is contrary to Connecticut law, which explicitly defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

Just three years ago this legislature went through the painstaking effort of codifying the one man-one woman definition of marriage that has always existed in Connecticut. H.B. 5925 does not respect the state policy defining marriage and seeks to overturn that hard-won accomplishment. For that reason the bill should be defeated.

H.B. 5925 would permit an out-of-state same-sex marriage to trigger legal incidents in Connecticut. By declaring these unions valid the bill undermines the state law defining marriage as between a man and a woman. That is the main reason—but not the only reason—for our opposition to this bill.

H.B. 5925 would also being a process that could lead to a state tax credit that would go only to same-sex couples in civil unions. This could be a very expensive subsidy that would be borne by other taxpayers. Pro same-sex "marriage" activists should not force other state taxpayers to subsidize the cost of their disagreement with federal tax policy.

The small inconvenience a couple may face in registering their out-of-state same-sex marriage as a civil union in Connecticut is not a good enough reason to undermine the law defining marriage between a man and a woman. The real purpose of H.B. 5925 appears to be the continuation of the incremental, piecemeal strategy of redefining marriage in Connecticut.

But marriage in the state of Connecticut is and always has been between a man and a woman. Just three years ago the legislature codified this fact of life. We ask the Committee to respect the law protecting the traditional one man-one woman definition of marriage by voting NO on H.B. 5925. Thank you.