

**R016-0304**

10  
20

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT  
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

30  
40

**WHEREAS:** Marriage has traditionally been between one-man and one-woman;  
and,

50  
60

**WHEREAS:** Marriage is a legal arrangement which grants legal benefits,  
not given to any other legal relationship; and,

70  
80

**WHEREAS:** Maryland recognizes the legal arrangement of marriage and  
has many laws on the books regarding this legal relationship; and,

90

**WHEREAS:** These laws exist to promote the procreation of children; and,

100  
110  
120

**WHEREAS:** The Defense of Marriage Act passed the US Congress and was  
signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton in 1996;  
and,

130  
140

**WHEREAS:** The Defense of Marriage Act attempted to solidify the existence of  
the one-man, one-woman legal relationship of marriage; and,

150  
160  
170

**WHEREAS:** Groups have undermined this Act, the rights of states, and the laws  
of the land by using state courts to expand the meaning of the  
legal relationship of marriage; and,

180  
190

**WHEREAS:** The constitution is the only document of Maryland which trumps  
any decision by state courts; and,

200  
210  
220

**WHEREAS:** The only way for Maryland to stop this usurping of our courts  
is to solidify in our constitution the legal arrangement of the  
one-man, one-woman marriages; and.

230  
240  
250  
260

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges  
the Maryland General Assembly to pass an amendment to the Maryland State  
Constitution which would solidify civil unions as a legal arrangement between  
one-man and one-woman and would ban all other forms of civil unions.

270  
280  
290  
300

**MANDATES:** Speaker of the House Delegate Busch  
Speaker of the Senate Senator Miller  
Governor Ehrlich  
Lt. Governor Steele

**Sponsor:**

Matthew Penick  
DCP at University of Maryland Baltimore County  
1612 Woodview Court  
Crofton, Maryland 21114  
(410)-299-4984  
penick1@umbc.edu

**Co-Sponsors:**

Rose Capozzi  
Co-DCP at University of Maryland Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle WH\_621 A  
Baltimore, Md 21250  
rose1capozzi@excite.com

Patrick Abbondandolo  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
Lieutenant Governor of MSL  
215 Preston Court Apt A  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
443-641-1627  
pabbon1@umbc.edu

Craig Reynolds  
DCP of AACC  
272 Mackintosh Drive  
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061  
410-207-3258  
Craig0018@cablespeed.com

Daniel E. Bowen  
University of Maryland College Park  
1823 Norfolk Road  
Glen Burnie, MD. 21061  
443-995-0155  
bowenformd@yahoo.com

## ADDENDUM

Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the 104th Congress, Second Session

*Vol. 142* WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 *No. 123*

Senator Robert Byrd

It is incomprehensible to me that federal legislation would be needed to provide a definition of two terms that for thousands of years have been perfectly clear and unquestioned. That we have arrived at a point where the Congress of the United States must actually reaffirm in the statute books something as simple as the definition of "marriage" and "spouse," is almost beyond my grasp. But as the current state of legal affairs has shown, this bill is a necessary endeavor.

...In very simple and easy to read language, this bill says that a marriage is the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and that a spouse is a husband or wife of the opposite sex.... Mr. President, throughout the annals of human experience, in dozens of civilizations and cultures of varying value systems, humanity has discovered that the permanent relationship between men and women is a keystone to the stability, strength, and health of human society—a relationship worthy of legal recognition and judicial protection. The purpose of this kind of union between human beings of opposite gender is primarily for the establishment of a home atmosphere in which a man and a woman pledge themselves exclusively to one another and who bring into being children for the fulfillment of their love for one another and for the greater good of the human community at large.

Obviously human beings enter into a variety of relationships. Business partnerships, friendships, alliances for mutual benefits, and team memberships all depend upon emotional unions of one degree or another. For that reason, a number of these relationships have found standing under the laws of innumerable nations.

However, in no case, has anyone suggested that these relationships deserve the special recognition or the designation commonly understood as "marriage." The suggestion that relationships between members of the same gender should ever be accorded the status or the designation of marriage flies in the face of the thousands of years of experience about the societal stability that traditional marriage has afforded human civilization. To insist that male-male or female-female relationships must have the same status as the marriage relationship is more than unwise, it is patently absurd....Out of same-sex relationships, no children can result. ...

...This [case for same-sex marriage] reflects a demand for political correctness that has gone berserk. We live in an era in which tolerance has progressed beyond a mere call for acceptance and crossed over to become a demand for the rest of us to give up beliefs that we revere and hold most dear in order to prove our collective purity. At some point, a line must be drawn by rational men and women who are willing to say, "Enough!"

Certainly in today's far too permissive world, traditional marriage as an institution is struggling. Divorce is far too frequent, as are male and female relationships which do not end in marriage. Certainly we do not want to launch a further assault on the institution of marriage by blurring its definition in this unwise way. This would be a catastrophe. Much of America has lost its moorings. Norms no longer exist. We have lost our way with a speed that is awesome. What took thousands of years to build is being dismantled in a generation. I say to my colleagues, let us take our stand. The time is now. The subject is relevant. Let us defend the oldest institution, the institution of marriage between male and female...