

The Wanderer

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Bush Backs Constitutional Amendment Banning "Gay" Marriage

By ROBERT L. MAURO

President George W. Bush openly backed a constitutional amendment banning "gay" marriage on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.

Cong. Marilyn Musgrave had stated several days before the Bush announcement that the president supported her constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, known as HJ Res. 56.

The Musgrave Amendment, also known as the Federal Marriage Amendment, was first introduced by another congressman in May 2002. It was not placed before the House for a vote by the powerful House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R., Ill.) and it died.

In May 2003, Musgrave introduced the same amendment. It again was not placed before the House for a vote by Speaker Hastert.

Technically, the president can only recommend passage of a constitutional amendment. He has no authority over the process; he need not sign an amendment and cannot veto an amendment.

As a practical matter, the easiest way for the Federal Marriage Amendment to promptly begin the process of passage by both the House and Senate and ratification by 38 states would be to have House Speaker Hastert place it before the House for a vote.

Under a procedure known as suspension of the House rules, Hastert can schedule a vote on the amendment in a very short period of time.

Urge Speaker Hastert to schedule the Federal Marriage Amendment for a House vote by calling his office at 202-225-2976 or faxing a request to his fax number: 202-225-0697.

League Welcomes Bush Effort To Ban Gay Marriage

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League praised the president for his decision:

"President Bush did the right thing by supporting a constitutional amendment to ban marriage between two men or two women. Just last week, he discussed this issue with 13 Catholics in the Roosevelt Room of the White House; I was privileged to be there. He announced from the same room today that he has reached a decision.

"It was the collapse of the democratic process that finally forced his hand. For example, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court recently defied its mandate to interpret state law, electing instead to issue an edict demanding homosexual marriages. In addition, the

mayor of San Francisco has taken the law into his own hands: His authorization of marriage licenses to lesbians and gay men is not in his purview. Therefore, nothing short of a constitutional amendment can stop the tyrannical stampede toward gay marriage.

"The anti-marriage campaign that gay activists have unleashed is backfiring. For the good of children, it must. Marriage is not only about love, it is about a particular structure and a particular function: The structure is one man and one woman; the function is procreation. Nature, not law, denies this opportunity to homosexuals. If marriage were only about love, incest and polygamy would be permitted.

"It is time we got back to basics. What is needed is a college course called 'Common Sense 101.' But it must be taught by men and women in the community — chosen by lottery — not by professors. Unfortunately, too many of the latter have already proven to be deficient in the property of common sense, thus making them ineligible to teach what they do not possess.

"The Catholic League anxiously awaits what the Catholic candidate for the presidency is going to do. The ball is in John Kerry's court."