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Culture

Bush Initiative A Good Start, Marriage Defenders Say

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(CNSNews.com) - A group that espouses conservative social issues says President Bush's marriage initiative is a "positive piece of welfare reform" - as far as it goes.

But Concerned Women for America says the initiative won't pacify conservatives unless President Bush also defends marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Sandy Rios, CWA president, told her radio listeners Wednesday, "We support the president in any efforts to promote marriage, but if he does not address the legal attacks by homosexual activists, he has squandered his God-given opportunities and responsibility to stand firm and lead us boldly through these dangerous, immoral times."

According to Rios, the Bush administration is "dancing dangerously" around the issue of homosexual marriage.

"Those who would lead the president to believe that an initiative to promote marriage among low-income families will be an adequate defense against the destruction of marriage are political fools who will destroy the nation in an effort to mainstream perversion," said Rios.

On the other hand, Dr. Janice Crouse, director of CWA's Beverly LaHaye Institute, applauded President Bush's "very positive approach to this particular problem -- the decline in marriage."

Crouse noted that divorce, cohabitation and single motherhood have fed poverty and produced disastrous outcomes for women and children.

Concerned Women for America is among the groups that strongly back a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

According to administration officials, President Bush's marriage initiative - which Bush himself has not yet announced - would provide at least \$1.5 billion for training to help couples develop the interpersonal skills necessary for creating "healthy marriages."

"This is a way for the president to address the concerns of conservatives and to solidify his conservative base," said a presidential adviser.

Bush may outline the marriage training proposal in his State of the Union Address. He has not yet endorsed the proposed federal marriage amendment.