



Washington Watch

SPECIAL MARRIAGE ISSUE

Into the Heart of the Battle

Family Research Council Invests Heavily to Fight Same-Sex "Marriage" in Massachusetts

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When four justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled last year that same-sex "marriage" must be legalized in the Bay State, we knew the Family Research Council couldn't sit on the sidelines.

The battle for marriage in Massachusetts is too important. This is the biggest crisis for families and the institution of marriage in U.S. history.

And if same-sex "marriage" is ultimately legalized in Massachusetts, the impact will be felt across the entire country, affecting marriage laws, the institution of marriage, and the welfare of children in every state.

That is why FRC ACTION, FRC's legislative action arm, has stepped into the heart of the battle in Massachusetts.

In fact, we were already involved months ago making the case for traditional one man-one woman marriage. With our ally the Alliance Defense Fund, we filed an *amicus* (friend of the court) brief with the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts to make the case for traditional marriage.

But the decision to hold a state constitutional convention at which the Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment (MA & PA) would come to a vote on February 11, as one countermove to the court's ruling, meant we had to make a much more significant investment in the state—and quickly.

So we immediately began discussions with



Following the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts's same-sex "marriage" ruling, President Tony Perkins clearly articulated FRC's unequivocal support for traditional one man-one woman marriage in a November 18, 2003, appearance on ABC World News Tonight.

pro-family allies in Massachusetts and from around the country to plan our strategy.

One of the first outcomes was the formation of The Coalition for Marriage, which the Family Research Council joined to help rally public opinion and persuade elected officials to approve the MA & PA.

The Coalition for Marriage was formed to bring together individuals and organizations committed to affirming marriage between one man and one woman and to guide grassroots advocacy efforts in the Commonwealth.

Coalition members include the Massachusetts Family Institute, our state-level sister organization; Focus on the Family, whose President and Founder Dr. James Dobson is a co-founder and current board member of

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Into the Heart of the Battle

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The Coalition for Marriage was formed to bring together individuals and organizations committed to affirming marriage between one man and one woman.



A rally and press conference at the Massachusetts State House on January 7, 2004, drew more than 500 individuals from across Massachusetts to rally support for the Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment. FRC joined other pro-family groups to form The Coalition for Marriage.

FRC; the Alliance Defense Fund, a ministry also co-founded by Dr. Dobson; and more than 20 other pro-family organizations.

An immediate second step after helping form The Coalition for Marriage was to hire a staff member who moved to Massachusetts to work full time to assist Ron Crews, President of the Massachusetts Family Institute.

Other staff members, including Vice President for Government Affairs Connie Mackey, Vice President for Communications Genevieve Wood, and State and Local Director Kristie Rutherford, have been spending many days in Massachusetts to provide additional logistical, consulting, and lobbying support as needed on this issue until the February 11 vote.

IN ADDITION, FRC'S ONGOING EFFORTS INCLUDE:

■ **Press and media relations support for the Coalition.** This includes sponsoring radio spots in major media markets to rally support for passage of the MA & PA; handling the distribution of press releases both in Massachusetts and nationwide; producing flyers, church bulletin inserts, and print ads for various Massachusetts outlets; media training for the Coalition's spokespersons; and developing and distributing a daily media message and talking points for members of the Coalition.

■ **Conducting a weeklong bus tour** during February 7–11, the week leading up to the vote on the constitutional amendment, to bring maximum attention to the issue. In addition to gaining coverage through press conferences, town hall meetings, and church events along

the tour, members of the media were invited to ride on the bus.

■ **Conducting a direct-mail campaign** to all FRC constituents and other identifiable pro-family individuals in Massachusetts with a request to attend a rally or call their legislator.

■ **Engaging in legislative action** through personal visits with lawmakers and the governor, urging support of the MA & PA.

We are encouraged by the impact of these and other grassroots organization and opinion-shaping efforts.

According to a new Zogby International poll, 69% of likely voters in Massachusetts want to vote on a constitutional amendment to keep Massachusetts a traditional marriage state.

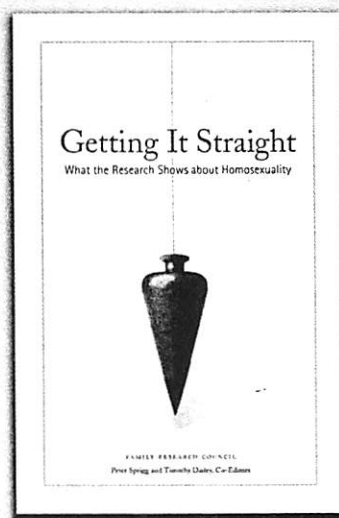
These findings indicate a trend in favor of one man-one woman marriage since the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2003 decision legalizing sodomy and since the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision on November 18 redefining marriage.

Two other recent noteworthy national polls show that an increasing number of Americans oppose same-sex "marriage":

- **December 10–13: A New York Times/CBS News national poll** indicated that 61% of Americans opposed legalizing homosexual "marriage" and 55% favored an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriage only between a man and a woman.
- **December 15–16: A USA Today/CNN poll** showed 65% of Americans think "marriages" between homosexuals should not be recognized by the law as valid.

None of FRC's efforts in defense of traditional marriage in Massachusetts or across the nation would be possible without the support of friends like you. We appreciate your generosity and your commitment to the preservation of the family and the institution of marriage.

It's a battle we must continue to fight no matter what the cost. Please keep standing with us. ■



Do you know about homosexuality's causes? Its health effects? Its risk to children? FRC's new book **Getting It Straight**, co-authored by Peter Sprigg and Tim Daily, answers all these questions and more.

**Order your copy today—
for just \$5—at www.frc.org
or by calling toll free
1-800-225-4008.**

You Speak, We Listen

Results Are In from Our Family Values Survey!

This past October, we conducted a Family Values Survey of our donors, asking you to express your views on a range of issues related to the Family Research Council's mission of preserving family values. We appreciate your responses and are taking them into account as we plan FRC's programs and strategies.

Here's a summary of what you and other friends told us:

- 1. What is the #1 threat to traditional family values?**
 - The homosexual agenda 80%
 - Pro-abortion movement 10%
 - High taxes 2%
 - Other 8%
- 2. Have the government's policies become**
 - More family friendly 16%
 - Less family friendly 67%
 - Not sure 14%
 - Other 3%

- 3. Is President Bush committed to advancing family values?**
 - Very strongly committed 18%
 - Strongly committed 48%
 - Somewhat committed 32%
 - Not committed 1%
 - Other 1%

- 4. Should more be done to reduce the tax burden?**
 - Yes 85%
 - No 4%
 - Not sure 11%

- 5. In order of priority, where would you like to see the Family Research Council focus the majority of its efforts in the months ahead: (pick the three most important issues)**
 - #1—Stopping the homosexual agenda
 - #2—Taking a stronger stand on sanctity of human life issues, including abortion, cloning, and stem cell research
 - #3—Fighting judicial activism

Your Support at Work



"The Family Research Council recognized early on the importance of the outcome of the marriage debate here in Massachusetts. As the sponsor of the Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment, I greatly appreciate their support here in the Bay State."

Rep. Phil Travis (D-MA)

FRC in the News

RADIO:

- **TONY PERKINS Nov. 20:** NPR's *Diane Rehm Show* re: Massachusetts court ruling and same-sex "marriage"
- **TONY PERKINS Jan. 7:** *Family Life Radio Network* re: Zogby poll on marriage in Massachusetts
- **TONY PERKINS Jan. 14:** *CBS Radio* re: Bush's Marriage Initiative
- **GENEVIEVE WOOD Dec. 23:** *NPR's All Things Considered* re: Mass. court ruling and judicial tyranny
- **PETER SPRIGG Nov. 18:** *American Family Radio* re: Massachusetts court ruling

- **PETER SPRIGG Nov. 19:** *Point of View* re: Massachusetts court ruling
- **PETER SPRIGG Dec. 8:** *Faith2Action Janet Folger* re: Massachusetts court ruling

PRINT:

- **FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL Nov. 19:** *Wall Street Journal* re: Gay-marriage issue is lifted to new plane
- **TONY PERKINS Nov. 19:** *USA Today* re: Op-ed to "protect traditional marriage"
- **TONY PERKINS Nov. 19:** *New York Times* re: Marriage by gays gain victory in Massachusetts

- **TONY PERKINS Dec. 17:** *Washington Post* re: Bush may support gay marriage ban
- **GENEVIEVE WOOD Dec. 22:** *Washington Times* re: Majority in U.S. oppose "marriage" for homosexuals

TELEVISION:

- **TONY PERKINS Nov. 18:** MSNBC's *Hardball* re: Massachusetts court ruling
- **TONY PERKINS Nov. 18:** *ABC World News Tonight* re: Massachusetts court ruling



- **CONNIE MACKAY Nov. 18:** CNN re: Massachusetts court ruling
- **PETER SPRIGG Nov. 18:** MSNBC's *Keith Oberman Show* re: Massachusetts court ruling



- **GENEVIEVE WOOD Jan. 9:** Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* re: Zogby poll on marriage

Why Massachusetts?

In this issue of the *Washington Watch*, you're seeing a slightly different side of the Family Research Council.

On most days, our prime focus is on defending family values here in Washington, D.C. Needless to say, there's enough happening in our federal government that impacts families that we have more than enough to keep us busy right here without looking elsewhere for battles to fight!

But from time to time an issue arises outside of Washington that will have as great or greater impact on families than anything even the most fevered inside-the-Beltway politician can dream up.

What's happening in Massachusetts right now is one of those times.

If same-sex "marriage" is ultimately legalized there—as the state's highest court has demanded—the impact will be felt across the nation. No state's marriage laws will go untouched or ultimately unchallenged.

Therefore, because this will have a national impact and because the Family Research Council is a national organization, we have jumped in with both feet to try to help fix the Massachusetts marriage mess.

We have joined The Coalition for Marriage, an alliance of state and national pro-family organizations. We have sent staff to Massachusetts to help our allies there. And we have used our considerable resources (when compared to the shoestring operations of our valued state-level allies) to strengthen the overall effort to protect one man-one woman marriage in Massachusetts.

One of the ways we have helped is by using our experience in dealing with the media and elected officials here in D.C. to train and help guide pro-family leaders in Massachusetts to be more effective in making the case for the preservation of marriage.

I'm deeply grateful that you and other friends have provided the resources needed to wage this critically important battle for the future of our nation and Western civilization itself.



If same-sex "marriage" is ultimately legalized there—as the state's highest court has demanded—the impact will be felt across the nation. No state's marriage laws will go untouched or ultimately unchallenged.

When I say that, I'm sure some folks wince a bit, like, "Hey, Tony, lighten up! It can't be that bad. The future of Western civilization?"

Yes, I firmly believe the stakes are that high. Same-sex "marriage" advocates have embarked on an experiment unparalleled in human history, and the consequences will be dramatic, culture-shaping—and, most ominously, unpredictable.

Although we have hard empirical data about the superiority of one man-one woman marriage and the devastation caused by same-sex behavior, the data only measure what we know. What can't be measured are the unknowns that surely lurk around the corner if same-sex "marriage" is ultimately legalized not just in Massachusetts, but across the nation.

The laws of unintended and unknown consequences will kick in at some point. An entire host of dangers and dysfunctions are guaranteed to arise that no one envisioned. Families and, by extension, society will be damaged in ways no one foresaw.

But by then it will be too late:

The unraveling of the institution of marriage and family will have been accomplished. Knitting the threads back into some semblance of wholeness as God designed will be a tough, if not impossible, task—one that our children or grandchildren will have to face.

That's not the kind of legacy I want to leave my children. So that is why I have committed so many of FRC's resources to the effort to preserve the institution of marriage in Massachusetts.

It's why we are also working hard to promote and secure passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment, which a recent New York Times/CBS News national poll says 55% of Americans support.

And it's why I ask you to continue your support of the Family Research Council. We've got a lot of work ahead of us, and it's a fight that America—and its families—can't afford to lose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Perkins".