

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry  
Issue #3 | April 16, 2007

To view the online HTML version of the Monday Marriage Message, click here -

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm3.html>

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1) The Message

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As the struggle to end marriage discrimination advances, a few states have created civil unions

and domestic partnerships to give some benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

These new legal terms-no substitute for the universal system and full equality of marriage-cause a lot of confusion during tax time.

\* New legal statuses such as civil unions or domestic partnerships are not honored by the

federal government therefore same-sex couples still do not get any of the 1,138 federal

protections, rights, and responsibilities that come only with marriage, including filing taxes

jointly with the IRS.

LINK:

\*Freedom to Marry's Tax Time Webpage:  
<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3725>

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2) The Report

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What's The Difference?: Marriage Versus Civil Unions  
(GLAD)  
October 17, 2006

LINK:

\*The Report: [http://www.glad.org/rights/Marriage\\_v\\_CU\\_chart.pdf](http://www.glad.org/rights/Marriage_v_CU_chart.pdf)

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3) The Resource

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Same-Sex Couples Pay More, But Get Less at Tax Time  
Press Release by Freedom to Marry  
April 12, 2007

LINK:  
\*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=5614>

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4) The Number

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2 to 1, the number of votes by which a marriage equality bill passed in the Connecticut House  
Judiciary Committee and a civil unions bill passed in the New Hampshire House.

LINK:  
\*The Number: <http://www.lmfct.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6201>  
<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070411/NEWS/704110340>

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5) The Map

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Relationship Recognition in the U.S. (HRC)

LINK:  
\*HRC:  
<http://www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Center&CONTENTID=26860&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>

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6) The Spotlight: New Hampshire

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Equality Illinois

In Illinois this year, both a marriage equality bill and a civil unions bill were introduced

for the first time in the Illinois Legislature. Dispelling fears about introducing both bills

at the same time, the marriage bill both set the frame and the goal for marriage equality and

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helped catapult the civil unions bill out of Committee. The civil unions bill now awaits a vote

in the House.

Rick Garcia of Equality Illinois promoted the introduction of both bills and said, "It wasn't

an either/or, it was a both/and. The people of Illinois deserve to be treated fairly and

equally with marriage, but civil unions can be a step in the right direction." This coming

wednesday, Equality Illinois will host a civil union lobby day at the Illinois state capitol in

Springfield.

LINK:

\*Equality Illinois: <http://www.equalityillinois.org/>

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7) The News

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National

A Stepping Stone to Marriage

National Public Radio; April 12, 2007

"We actually have seen a record number of states this year in which bills were introduced to

end gay couples' exclusion from marriage," says Evan Wolfson.

Federal Tax Law Hits Same-Sex Couples and their Families Harder

365Gay.com; April 9, 2007

Gay and lesbian families pay higher federal income tax than their opposite-sex married

counterparts.

Regional

2 Months After New Jersey's Civil Union Law, Problems Finding True Equality

New York Times; April 13, 2007

New Jersey same-sex couples who have entered into civil unions are encountering problems

receiving the basic benefits that married couples enjoy.

Marriage Equality Moves a Step Closer

Stamford Advocate; April 13, 2007

Connecticut's state Judiciary Committee voted 27-15 in favor of marriage equality; the bill now

moves to the House and Senate and it is said to have "a solid chance of passing."

LINKS:

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\*A Stepping Stone to Marriage:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9529479>

\*Federal Tax Law Hits Same-Sex Couples and their Families Harder:

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon07/04/040907tax.htm>

\*2 Months After New Jersey's Civil Union Law, Problems Finding True Equality:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/nyregion/13civil.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/nyregion/13civil.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

\*Marriage Equality Moves a Step Closer:

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/scn-sa-nor.gaymarriage2apr13,0,7668076.st>  
ory?coll=st

am-news-local-headlines

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

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The Must Sees

For those in the NYC area, join Evan Wolfson and filmmaker Drew Emery in attending a Benefit

Preview of "Inlaws & Outlaws" this Wednesday, April 18, 7 pm, Tribeca Cinemas. To RSVP, visit

the film website. Seating is limited.

View Think Equal's marriage equality ad series.

LINKS:

\*Inlaws & Outlaws: <http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com/>

\*Think Equal: <http://www.bluejersey.com/thinkequal/ads.html>

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The Opposition

"I don't think it's going to be the end of the world if this [marriage equality bill] does

pass." -CT Sen. David Cappiello, R-Danbury, who doesn't support marriage equality

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The Quote

"The broader world doesn't see me as married...I'm the only one sitting here who's living it

every day, and I tell you, it's not trivial . . . I don't want to be 'other' anymore. I want to

be married." -State Rep. Beth Bye, D-West Hartford, during debate on marriage equality



