

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry
Issue #7 | May 14, 2007

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

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm7.html>

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1) The Message

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Get in the Game!

The wind is in our sails so far in 2007 with a record-breaking 11 states introducing legislation to end discrimination in marriage, and with Governor Spitzer, himself, introducing New York State's marriage equality bill.

Now, it's a one on one game between us and our legislators. As Paul Shindler wrote in the Gay City News last week, "They all [State Representatives] need to be battered with phone calls, visits, and e-mails."

Tell your legislators that not only is ending discrimination in marriage the right thing to do, but it is also proven that this stance does not hurt re-election opportunities:

* In Massachusetts, the only state which has statewide marriage equality, EVERY state legislator who has supported marriage equality has been re-elected.

LINK:

*Gay City News:

http://gaycitynews.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18325436&BRD=2729&PAG=461&dept_id=569328&rfi=6

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2) The Report

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Population Report: Gay men & lesbians live in every Congressional district in the US

(Williams Institute)
October 2006

LINK:

*The Report:

<http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute//publications/SameSexCouplesandGLBpopACS.pdf>

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3) The Resource

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why Marriage
(Freedom to Marry)

LINK:

*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/pdfs/WhyMarriage.pdf>

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4) The Number

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12 to 1, number of pro-marriage people testifying versus anti-marriage at last Thursday's Rhode Island Senate hearing.

LINK:

*The Number: <http://marriageequalityri.wordpress.com/2007/05/11/were-done/>

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5) The Map

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2007 Proposed State Bills Ending Marriage Discrimination
(Freedom to Marry)

LINK:

*The Map:

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6) The Spotlight: Rhode Island

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The battle is joined in Rhode Island as legislation that would end discrimination in marriage is heard by both House and Senate Committees. Just last Thursday, marriage equality supporters outnumbered opponents 12 to 1 at a Senate Committee hearing and the House Committee hearing is scheduled for this Wednesday, May 16th.

Jenn Steinfeld, executive director of Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), said, "This year, there is a really different sense, especially in the legislature, that we can't just wait and punt on this issue. Something needs to happen and legislators need to stand up and make it happen." Steinfeld noted the importance of MERI's partners who helped move these bills forward, including Ocean State Action, ACLU Rhode Island, the Rhode Island National Association of Social Workers, and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). Visit MERI's website to learn more about how to participate this week.

LINK:

*Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI): <http://marriageequalityri.org/>

*Ocean State Action: <http://oceanstateaction.org/>

*ACLU Rhode Island: <http://www.riaclu.org/>

*Rhode Island National Association of Social Workers: <http://www.rinasw.info/>

*Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD): <http://www.glad.org/>

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7) The News  
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National

Couples Enter New Terrain in Push for Marriage Equality in Connecticut
New York Times; May 13, 2007

On Monday, lawyers representing eight same-sex couples will give oral arguments before the Connecticut Supreme Court, where they will tell the judges that civil unions essentially create a "separate and unequal" status for gay men and lesbians.

Memo to Leading Democratic Candidates RE: Marriage
The Anonymous Liberal; May 11, 2007

Seeing as the goal during primary season is to differentiate yourself from the field without unduly harming your general election prospects, I've got two words for the leading Democratic candidates: marriage equality.

Regional

Connecticut's Marriage Discrimination Doesn't Stop Families from Forming, but It does Hurt Them

The Day; May 13, 2007

Under federal law, even though Ego and Frost own their home together, if one should die, the other would have to pay federal inheritance tax on that half of the property. It's a cost that would probably mean the family would have to sell the house in order for the survivor to pay the taxes.

Get in the Game, New York!

Gay City News; May 10, 2007

Between now and next Tuesday, everybody who cares about ending discrimination in marriage should contact undecided members of the New York Assembly to support the Spitzer-O'Donnell measure, which is sponsored in the Senate by Chelsea's out gay Democrat Tom Duane.

LINKS:

*Couples Enter New Terrain in Push for Marriage Equality in Connecticut:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/13/nyregion/13gay.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1179115322-EJbAqQlWYbt9EnLICUVftw&oref=slogin

*Memo to Leading Democratic Candidates RE: Marriage:

<http://www.anonymousliberal.com/2007/05/memo-to-leading-democratic-candidates.html>

*Connecticut's Marriage Discrimination Doesn't Stop Families from Forming, but It does Hurt Them:

<http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=20921c26-082c-4010-9ff7-62759f4fca1b>

*Get in the Game, New York!:

http://gaycitynews.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18325436&BRD=2729&PAG=461&dept_id=569328&rfi=6

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:  
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