

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry
Issue #9 | June 4, 2007

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

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm9.html>

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1) The Message

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Falling Short of Equality

Rather than ending marriage discrimination outright, the only way to provide equality, an increasing number of states are creating a parallel mechanism either with civil unions or domestic partnership.

New Hampshire just joined this group of states last week with Governor Lynch signing a civil unions bill.

* while civil unions do provide same-sex couples with important responsibilities and protections previously withheld, we are constantly witnessing the shortcomings of this separate and unequal institution.

Throughout today's message, you will find information about why civil unions are not equal to marriage and, while they can be a step in the right direction, how they are failing to protect same-sex couples and their families.

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2) The Report

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Civil Unions are Not Equal to Marriage
(Love Makes a Family)

LINK:

*The Report:

<http://www.lmfct.org/site/DocServer/CivilUnionsAreNotEqualToMarriage.pdf?docID=1102>

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3) The Resource

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Key Resources--Marriage vs. Civil Union/Domestic Partnership/Reciprocal Benefits
(Freedom to Marry)

LINK:

*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3731>

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#### 4) The Number

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1 in 8, NJ couples with a civil union license who have been denied benefits by employers, insurers and financial institutions.

LINK:

*The Number: <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=212354>

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#### 5) The Map

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Broad Family Measures Short of Marriage in the United States
June 2007

LINK:

*The Map: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/maps/broadmeasures.jpg>

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#### 6) The Spotlight: New Jersey

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“Civil unions don’t work!” This has been the prevailing reality and message in New Jersey during the first 100 days since their civil union law took effect. Garden State Equality has led the charge, with allies around the state, in particular Blue Jersey and New Jersey for Democracy, in collecting data on the failures of the new law and have received 114 reports of injustice, an over 13% failure rate for civil unions (as of May 29th, 852 civil unions had taken place in New Jersey).

Showing legislators the newly signed law is failing to provide equality has had a huge impact. “This year, we’ve gone from 6 to 40 supporters of marriage equality in the legislature, we expect half (60) by the end of the year, and plan to pass a true marriage equality bill in 2008,” said Steven Goldstein, executive director of Garden State Equality.

LINKS:

*Garden State Equality: <http://www.gardenstateequality.org/>

*Blue Jersey: <http://www.bluejersey.com/frontPage.do>

*New Jersey for Democracy: <http://www.njfordemocracy.org/>

* Not marriage, not fair:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkzOTcmZmdiZww3Zjd2cWVlRUV5eTcxNDMyNjYmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkxNA==>

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#### 7) The News

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National

Opponents of Marriage Equality featured in 'Freedom to Marry' Ad
Miami Herald; June 2, 2007

A coalition of groups that back gay marriage launched an ad campaign featuring Florida's former Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Mel Martinez.

Celebrating Recent LGBT Legislative Advances

Lambda Legal; May 30, 2007

Over the last several weeks, the nation has seen remarkable legislative advances in support of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals, both with regard to protections for those in same-sex relationships and prohibitions against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Regional

Fairer in New Hampshire

Hartford Courant; June 1, 2007

The Hartford Courant editorial staff calls the signing of New Hampshire's civil unions law "progress," but says both New Hampshire and Connecticut should have embraced same-sex marriage.

Not Marriage, Not Fair

The Bergen Record; May 30, 2007

One Hundred days ago, the state's high court ruled that legislators had to give same-sex couples the same rights and benefits as married couples. The Legislature called its solution civil unions. Same-sex couples call it a failure.

LINKS:

*Opponents of Marriage Equality featured in 'Freedom to Marry' Ad:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/884/story/126417.html>

*Celebrating Recent LGBT Legislative Advances:

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/publications/facts-backgrounds/recent-lgbt-advances.html>

*Fairer in New Hampshire:

<http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/editorials/hc-nhunions.artjun01,0,3182989.story>

*Not Marriage, Not Fair:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkzOTcmZmdiZww3Zjd2cWVlRUV5eTcxNDMyNjYmeXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkxNA==>

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### OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

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The Must Sees

View Freedom to Marry's Loving v. Virginia 40th Anniversary webpage to find out more about the current ad campaign and upcoming events.

View a true story presented by Garden State Equality about how civil unions have failed.

LINKS:

*Freedom to Marry's Loving v. Virginia 40th Anniversary :

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Sign our Religious Endorsement:
Endorsements are only accepted from ordained clergy, professional religious educators, theologians, and staff of religious institutions.

To sign, visit: http://www.freedomtomarry.org/religious_institute.asp
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SIGN-UP:
If you received this Monday Marriage Message from a friend or family member and find it a useful resource on marriage equality, sign-up on the Freedom to Marry website to get Monday Marriage Messages, visit:

http://www.freedomtomarry.org/e_update.asp

Pass it on!
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Let us know what's going on in your community to advance the cause. Email the editor at editor1@freedomtomarry.org.