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Marriage is More than a Word

“MARRIAGE”

Marriage is more than a collection of legal rights; it tells the community that two people love each other and are a **family**. Since everyone understands and respects this, it makes being married something important, something we aspire to, and something that protects us in daily life as well as times of crisis.

Marriage is a personal commitment between two people that is licensed and **recognized** by governments around the world.

No other word has that power and no other word can provide that **protection**.

The Limitations of Civil Unions include:

- No Access to over 1,100 Federal Protections:
There are over 1,138 federal laws that deal with the benefits and protections linked to marriage (including Social Security) that civil unions do not confer. *While federal law must be challenged for same-sex couples to access these rights, with civil unions no challenge is possible.*
- Rights and Protections Stops At The State Line:
Marriages are respected from state to state for all purposes. Same-sex couples in CT who have been in a civil union are not assured that their relationship and family are protected when they travel or if they move.
- Ending a Civil Union is Problematic
If you are married, you can get divorced in any state in which you are a resident. This is not the case with civil unions. Couples who move out of state will have no way to terminate their legal commitment.
- Harmful Impact on Children:
Thousands of Connecticut children are being raised by gay and lesbian parents. These children understand the meaning and importance of marriage. Why should those children be made to feel that their family is not as good or respected as their best friend's family across the street?

Only Marriage Provides Equal Dignity and Respect for All Families