



DOMA: Defense or Denial of Marriage?

Denying marriage to committed couples contradicts core New Mexican values.

This bill denies couples the security and societal acceptance that marriage brings, simply because of who they love. A so-called “Defense of Marriage Act” would send a message to the thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender New Mexicans that their love doesn’t count. This contradicts core New Mexican values of diversity and fairness and should be kept out of our state Constitution.

Marriage is about committed couples who want to make a lifelong promise to take care of and be responsible for each other.

Marriage is about love, commitment, and responsibility. Straight and gay couples want to marry for the same reasons. Both straight and gay couples want to build a life with someone. Both want to make a commitment and a lifelong promise. Both straight and gay couples want to take care of and protect the one they love. Both need the security and legal protections of marriage that help make this possible.

Denying the security and legal protections of marriage hurts committed couples.

Marriage confers a set of social and legal protections that help couples fulfill their lifelong promise to each other—emotionally, financially, in sickness and in health, and even in death. Denying committed couples the ability to marry is wrong because it makes it harder for these couples to take care of each other.

Narrowly defining marriage ignores the reality of thousands of New Mexican families.

Marriage says, “We are family” in a way that no other word does. Thousands of gay and lesbian couples in New Mexico are in committed and loving relationships and already do the hard work of marriage in their day to day lives. They plan for the future, raise children together, and take care of each other in good times and in bad. Defining marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution disrespects their commitment and love for one another and makes families in New Mexico less secure.

When it comes to other people’s relationships—remember the Golden Rule.

We shouldn’t treat other couples any differently that we ourselves would want to be treated. We may not all agree on this issue, but that doesn’t mean we should make it hard for committed gay and lesbian couples to take care of each other.