



February 22, 2010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: DC Marriage Referendum

Dear Leader McConnell:

As you know, Senator Bennett recently introduced legislation that would prevent the government of the District of Columbia from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples until the residents of the District have had the opportunity to vote “to establish that ‘only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in the District of Columbia’.”

Understanding that the District is scheduled to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses in March if Senator Bennett’s bill is not passed, it is important for the Republican establishment to work quickly and deliberately to get this measure to the floor for a vote. As we understand the rules of the senate, though it would not be customary, the Minority Leader may be recognized to make a motion to proceed to Senator Bennett’s bill. Because Senator Reid is unlikely to make the motion himself, it is important for the Minority Leader to consider doing so.

The people of the District of Columbia have long been proclaiming they have no representation on the Hill. However, Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 states it is your duty and the duty of your colleagues to represent them. Now is the time for you to show them that you understand the Constitution and that you will vigorously represent them by providing the citizens in the District the same opportunity that the citizens of thirty-one states have had – the opportunity to affirm the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

We not only implore you to act on behalf of the people in the District, but we also urge you to act on behalf of those we represent in all fifty states. The undersigned comprise some of the largest multiracial, multiethnic, and multigenerational faith-based and policy organizations in the country, representing more than 30 million people. The people of the states will be directly affected by the District of Columbia with respect to same-sex marriage. The people whom we represent expect you and every other member of the Senate to take action to permit the people in the District of Columbia the opportunity to vote by referendum on this most important issue of marriage.

We appreciate you doing all that you can to ensure that Senator Bennett's bill receives proper consideration, and we, on behalf of the residents of the District, thank you in advance for your vocal support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mathew D. Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Tim Wildmon
President
American Family Association

Gary Bauer
President
American Values

Jesse Lee Peterson
Founder and President
BOND Action

Deacon Keith Fournier
Editor in Chief
Catholic Online

The Honorable Kenneth Blackwell
Conservative Action Project

Phyllis Schlafly
Founder and President
Eagle Forum

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Dr. Cindy Jacobs
President
Generals International

Bishop Harry Jackson
Senior Pastor
Hope Christian Church

Matt Lockett
Executive Director
Justice House of Prayer DC

Mandi Campbell
Legal Director
Liberty Center for Law and Policy

Deryl Edwards
President
Liberty Counsel Action

Johnnie Moore
Vice President of Executive Projects and Media Relations
Liberty University

Rick Joyner
Founder
Morningstar Ministries

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
President
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Hispanic National Association of Evangelicals

Tim G. Echols
President
TeenPact

Lou Engle
Founder and Director
The Call to Conscience

Thomas Hall
Associate Director
The Call to Conscience

Dr. Richard Land
President
The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Southern Baptist Convention

Rev. Louis P. Sheldon
Chairman
Traditional Values Coalition

Andrea Lafferty
Executive Director
Traditional Values Coalition

Dr. Rick Scarborough
President
Vision America

David Barton
Founder and President
WallBuilders