



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

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MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 11, 2006

Chairman Robert S. Creedon
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State Senate
State House – Room 413C
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Eugene L. O’Flaherty
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
State House – Room 138
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Creedon and Chairman O’Flaherty:

Our state Constitution, the oldest functioning written constitution in the world, has served the people of Massachusetts well for more than two centuries, and the decision to amend it should never be undertaken lightly.

Nonetheless, in light of the importance of marriage to our basic social fabric and the undemocratic way in which the Supreme Judicial Court has altered it, I continue to believe that we must act at the constitutional level to preserve its traditional definition.

Marriage is the core around which we build families, the essential unit given to us by nature, by religion, and by experience for the nurturing and development of children. Every child has the right to expect a mother and a father, and it would be deeply misguided to become indifferent to what constitutes marriage, as the Court and the activists who support its decision are asking us to do.

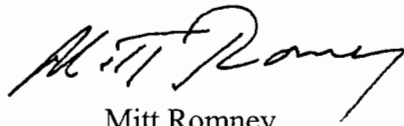
In creating a right to same-sex marriage, the Court imposed a sweeping change on our society, unsupported by history or precedent, without any attempt to consider the views of the citizens of our state. You now have before you an amendment from the people, written by the people, duly presented with the people’s signatures, according to the procedures set forth in the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

As elected officials, we have a duty to consult with voters in Massachusetts to ensure that our most basic laws conform to their beliefs, and the commitment of so many citizens to the passage of this amendment – a record for any petition drive in Massachusetts – is a powerful illustration of how important it is to make the people’s voice heard as we consider marriage law in the Commonwealth.

The decision to amend the constitution is one that can only be made reluctantly, but the importance of marriage between mothers and fathers, wives and husbands is so great that we must take whatever action is needed to preserve it, for the sake of our children and our children's children.

As I know that you are aware of your constitutional responsibility in this matter, I am confident that the General Court will act with due haste to allow the sovereign people, by their own request, to participate and decide this momentous question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitt Romney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitt Romney
Governor

Cc: Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees (ranking minority member)
Rep. Daniel Webster (ranking minority member)