

Bill to Prohibit Same-Sex Marriages Needed in WI

This week the Assembly will be voting on Assembly Bill 475, commonly known as the Defense of Marriage Bill, which will ban same sex marriages in the state of Wisconsin.

Fifteen years ago the need for this bill would have been unthinkable. Sadly, times have changed. While homosexual marriage is prohibited in the state of Wisconsin, attorneys tell us there is legitimate fear, that if other states allow homosexual marriage, we would have to recognize the marriages granted in those states.

Vermont already allows these marriages. A homosexual couple could live in Vermont and move to Wisconsin claiming we must recognize their marriage. Perhaps, the residency in Vermont could be as short as a month. In September 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law to allow individual states to ban same-sex marriages. Thirty-seven states already have done so. Wisconsin has not. I will deal today with one issue which clouds this area. Polls show some people are under the mistaken impression that homosexuality is genetic. This is not so.

Some of the confusion came from a study in the early nineties, which held that if a homosexual had an identical twin, there was a fifty-fifty chance his twin was also gay. It was later pointed out that this actually showed just the opposite, since these twins not only had identical genes but presumably almost identical upbringings. If homosexuality were genetic, one hundred percent of the brothers would be gay.

A rare comprehensive study of all twins in Australia showed no difference in the percent of female twins who were both lesbian if the twins were identical or fraternal. If this behavior were genetic, identical twins would be more likely to be both lesbians than fraternal twins. Finally, another study showed daughters of lesbians were five times more likely to be lesbians than sisters of lesbians. People are more genetically similar to their siblings than their parents. If homosexuality were genetically determined, the opposite result would be anticipated.

What the above clearly shows is that one's environment is part of determining the number of people in society who become gay. It also shows an element of choice. Dr. Charles Socarides, a nationally known expert, claims seventy-five percent of the homosexuals who came to him switched and are no longer homosexuals. This also shows the behavior is not fixed at birth.

I would assume the open advocacy for homosexuality in the entertainment media as well as educational materials used in our schools which teach children that many of them will be homosexual are part of the culture which determines how many people become homosexual.

Thirty-seven states already passed legislation similar to the bill before us this week. It's time for Wisconsin to act. A previous bill passed the Assembly 78-20 in 1997, but died in the Senate. I will vote for the bill this week and I hope Governor Doyle signs it.

Please let me know what you think on this issue. Contact me here in Madison---please call 1-888-534-0058.

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