

# THE WEST VIRGINIA MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

A Special Project of the West Virginia Family Foundation, an Affiliate of American Family Association



## URGENT CALL TO ACTION! PROTECT WEST VIRGINIA MARRIAGE!

West Virginia's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was enacted on April 4, 2000 to protect "one man-one woman" marriage policy. On March 6, 2004, the ACLU challenged the DOMA law before the WV Supreme Court of Appeals and came within one vote of overturning it.

Because **HJR-106 "The Marriage Protection Amendment"** died in the House on February 15, 2006, WVFF successfully found sponsors in the WV State Senate who introduced **SJR-12 "The Marriage Protection Amendment"**. This constitutional amendment clearly defines marriage as "one man-one woman" and would insulate the institution of marriage from the reach of activist courts. The amendment would be placed on the November 2006 ballot for voter approval to strengthen West Virginia's "one man-one woman" marriage policy.

The key for passage of **SJR-12** is twofold: First, it is absolutely critical that Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin (D-Logan) be contacted and asked to sponsor and support the **SJR-12 "The Marriage Protection Amendment"**. Second, and equally as important, is to contact Senate Judiciary Chairman Jeffrey V. Kessler (D-Marshall) and ask him to put **SJR-12** on the agenda in Judiciary Committee and allow a fair hearing and vote on this legislation. Tell Kessler that on an issue so vital and important as protecting traditional marriage, the only decent and moral course of action is to allow the voters to decide in November if they want to strengthen West Virginia's "one man-one woman" policy by adding it to West Virginia's state constitution.

We have already secured the necessary votes in the Senate for passage but this won't happen if Senator Kessler refuses to allow **SJR-12** to be considered in Judiciary Committee and denies the full senate an opportunity to vote on this legislation.

### Take Action Now!

1. Contact Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin immediately and request him to sponsor and support **SJR-12**. Ask him to help us get a fair hearing on this legislation in Senate Judiciary Committee and to get it to the floor for a full vote by the Senate. Tell him marriage is the basic building block of every civilization and you want the ultimate protection of this sacred institution by allowing voters to decide on this amendment in November.
2. Contact Senate Judiciary Chairman Jeffrey Kessler and request him to place **SJR-12 "The Marriage Protection Amendment"** on the agenda in his committee and allow this legislation to be voted on. Tell him not to hold hostage such an important piece of legislation.
3. Contact your senators & delegates on the list below and urge them to support **SJR-12 "The Marriage Protection Amendment"**.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!

## Harrison County

### Senator Joseph M. Minard (District 12)

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### Delegate Richard J. Iaquinta (District 41)

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### Senator William R. Sharpe, Jr. (District 12)

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### Delegate Tim Miley (District 41)

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### Delegate Samuel J. Cann (District 41)

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### Senator Earl Ray Tomblin (District 7)

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### Senator Jeffrey V. Kessler (District 2)

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### Delegate Ron Fragale (District 41)

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