

March 25, 2004

Union Of Orthodox Jewish Congregations Opposes Legal Recognition Of Same Sex Marriage; Supports Constitutional Amendment As Recourse

Today, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America ♦ the nation ♦s largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization representing nearly 1,000 congregations expressed its opposition to the legal recognition of same sex marriage and its support for a federal constitutional amendment as a recourse for addressing this issue.

The UOJCA issued the following statement:

The Jewish tradition has always recognized the sanctity and special nature of the institution of marriage, and that only the relationship between a man and a woman can be considered marriage. Moreover, Judaism teaches that the institution of marriage is central to the formation of a healthy society and the raising of children.

The recent decision by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts and the declared intentions of certain activist organizations clearly indicate that the definition of marriage will be increasingly subjected to court challenges in the coming months.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America supports a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to the union of a man and a woman. We believe that this proposal is an appropriate response to recent decisions by America ♦s courts and unauthorized actions by elected officials in a critical arena of social policy.

The current amendment pending in Congress does not sanction discrimination against homosexuals and it will not deprive them of certain civil benefits that state or local legislatures might afford to homosexuals. It will, however, enshrine in law the traditional and normative definition of the institution of marriage.

###

For a detailed statement of the moral perspective of Orthodox Judaism on same-sex marriage, please see the opinion essay of UOJCA Executive Vice President, Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, at <http://www.thejewishweek.com/top/editletcontent.php3?artid=3346>

MORE...

- [IPA Front Page](#)
- [OU.ORG Front Page](#)

More From The OU/IPA

