

# Federal Marriage Amendment To The United States Constitution

Adopted by the Executive Board of the  
Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism  
March, 2004

## RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

The Reform Jewish Movement has deep respect for the United States Constitution. The lofty vision it articulates for our nation has much in common with the prophetic teachings of Judaism, and its wise principles of governance have allowed our communities to flourish. In the 1960's, in the 1970's and again in the 1980's, the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis spoke about the importance of this foundational text of our nation and warned of the dangers of tampering with it. We are particularly concerned about changes which would codify discrimination or limit the protection of religious liberties.

Just as strongly, our Movement has long worked to ensure that the promise of equality put forward by the Constitution, and commanded by Jewish tradition, is extended to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. The Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis have clear policy supporting full civil marriage equality for gay men and lesbians. We applaud the Canadian provinces of Ontario and British Columbia for removing the barriers to gay and lesbian civil marriage there, and we hope that Canada's policies can serve as a model for the United States.

**THEREFORE**, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism resolves to:

1. Reaffirm our commitment to upholding the integrity of the United States Constitution, particularly concerning its prohibitions against discrimination and its safeguarding of religious liberties;
2. Reaffirm our commitment to pursuing full civil marriage rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals; and
3. Oppose any proposal to amend the United States Constitution to limit these rights.