



204 Cannon House Office Building 202 225-2411 Derek Karchner, Press Secretary

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT (FMA)

Background and talking points

WHAT DOES THE FMA SAY?

Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any State, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups.

WHY IS FMA NECESSARY?

- A majority of the American people believe that marriage ought to be defined as the union of a man and woman
- Activist courts are circumventing that sentiment by overturning laws and redefining how our culture views and defines the institution of marriage.

WHAT DOES FMA DO?

- FMA prevents courts from redefining marriage
- It clearly defines marriage in the constitution as the “union of a man and a woman”
- It prevents courts from forcing states to adopt civil unions.

WHO SUPPORTS FMA?

Supporters include:

- African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) – one of the largest African-American denominations in the United States.
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC) – one of the largest African-American denominations in the United States.
- Alianza Ministerial Evangelical Nacional – largest association of Hispanic churches in the United States.
- Ministry of Imam W Deen Mohammed – largest African-American Muslim group in the United States
- Agudath Israel of America – Major National Jewish Organization.
- American Anglican Council.
- National Black Leadership Roundtable.

- The Presbyterian Coalition.
- Good News Organizations (United Methodist).
- Presbyterian Action for Faith and Freedom.
- Institute for Responsible Fatherhood.
- Democratic and Republicans Members of Congress. Originally introduced in the 107th Congress by a Democrat, the sponsor amendment is currently sponsored by freshman Republican Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado

WHAT DO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THINK?

WINSTON GROUP POLL

Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the union of a man and woman?

Favor 61%

Oppose 34%

If gay marriage were made legal and schools were then required to change their curriculum to treat gay marriages in the same manner as traditional marriages, would you favor or oppose gay marriage?

Oppose 69%

Favor 24%

USA TODAY / CNN / GALLUP POLL

Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

	Should not	Should	No opinion
2003 Dec. 15-16	65	31	4
2003 Oct. 24-26	61	35	4
2003 June 27-29	55	39	6

Do you feel strongly or not strongly about this?

Not valid (feel strongly) 52%

Not valid (do not feel strongly) 13%

Valid (feel strongly) 17%

Valid (do not feel strongly) 14%

No opinion 4%

CBS NEWS/ NEW YORK TIMES POLL

Americans opposed to "Gay Marriage"

Now 61%

7/2/03 55%

Americans in favor of "Gay Marriage"

Now 34%

7/2/03 40%

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT THE FMA?

- ✓ "America is a free society, which limits the role of government in the lives of our citizens. This commitment of freedom, however, does not require the redefining of one of our most basic social institutions. Our government should respect every person and respect the institution of marriage. There is no contradiction between these responsibilities." (President George W. Bush, 2/24/04)
- ✓ "Marriage is the classroom where children, in interaction with their male and female parents, learn the most important lessons of civil society...When you lose that glue, the fabric of your society begins to unravel...That is why I am pleased to join American of every color and creed in this Alliance for Marriage, in support of the Federal Marriage Amendment." (Walter Fauntroy, Organizer of the March on Washington for Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- ✓ "The AME is the oldest African-American denomination in the United States with over 1.2 million members. And the Bishops Council of the AME has voted to endorse the Federal Marriage Amendment." (Dr. Patricia DeVeaux, Supervisor of Missions, African Methodist Episcopal Church)
- ✓ "The Bishops Council of the Church of God in Christ has joined with the Bishops of the AME in endorsing the Federal Marriage Amendment. The Church of God in Christ is one of the largest African-American denominations in the United States, with more than eight million members worldwide." (Bishop George McKinney, Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ)
- ✓ The Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales is the largest network of Hispanic churches in America. We represent approximately 7.7 million Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico. And we are pleased to support the Federal Marriage Amendment as part of a national coalition representing the vast majority of Americans who believe in marriage as the union of male and female." (Dr. Jesse Miranda, President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales)

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✓ John Headley, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave: 202 225-4676
- ✓ Matt Daniels, Executive Director, The Alliance for Marriage: 202 302-2045