

SPEECH OF
HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

- Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 106, which would deny basic rights under the Constitution to gays and lesbians. This resolution is a cynical ploy to foster division and diversion for the election campaign. Even its strongest proponents know it has no chance of passing.
- Two short months ago, the House passed unprecedented legislation that would strip the federal courts of the ability to decide the constitutionality of The Defense of Marriage Act. And today the House will vote on whether to use the very document that guarantees our liberties and protections to restrict the rights of one group of Americans.
- Throughout U.S. history, the states have been responsible for marriage and family law. Thirty-eight states have already acted to define marriage as the union of a man and woman and no state has adopted legislation that would define marriage differently. This year alone, voters in eleven states will consider amendments to their state constitutions barring gay marriage.
- The charade on the House floor today is a strategy to change the subject, and I certainly can't blame the Republican Party for wanting to distract voters from their record. That is why the Republican leadership bypassed the committee of jurisdiction and brought H.J. Res. 106 directly to the floor in the middle of the campaign season.