

Statement For Referendum Measure 71

THE DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP LAW PROTECTS ALL WASHINGTON FAMILIES

This law ensures that all Washington families have the same protections, rights, and responsibilities as their neighbors. The law guarantees that all families will be treated fairly, especially in times of crisis. Many gay and lesbian couples, often with children, and many senior couples are domestic partners. Often these seniors can't marry without sacrificing needed health and pension benefits. Domestic partnership laws allow them to protect their loved ones.

"This law provides essential protections to many older couples and to families with children who would otherwise be living without a safety net."

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP LAW?

Death benefits for partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Right to use sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner.

Pension benefits for partners of teachers and other public employees.

Victims' rights.

Right to workers' compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment.

WHO SUPPORTS THE LAW?

More than 150 organizations, including congregations and faith based organizations and their leaders, all across our state – like the Washington State Nurses Association, Washington Association of Churches, AAUW, Childhaven, Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby, Associated Ministries of Pierce County, Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center, Jewish Family Service, Anti -Defamation League, Washington Education Association, Planned Parenthood, Japanese American Citizens League, Lutheran Public Policy Network, SEIU, Latino Political Action Committee, American Federation of Teachers, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Safe Schools Coalition, Mainstream Republicans, Equal Rights Washington, PFLAG, Young Democrats of Washington, Washington State Bar Association.

They, and we, ask you to vote *Approved* on R-71 - for *All* Washington families.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

All families should be treated fairly and equally under the law. Committed couples who want to take care of each other should have the protections they need to keep their families safe. They should be allowed to visit each other in the hospital, take family medical leave, have insurance or receive inheritance. Children should be protected when a parent dies. This law does not affect schools or change the definition of marriage in any way.

Argument Prepared by

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Statement Against Referendum Measure 71

REJECT SENATE BILL 5688 TO PRESERVE MARRIAGE!

SB 5688 is primarily about homosexual *marriage*—not benefits.

Senator Ed Murray told the *SeattleTimes* (Jan. 10, 2007), when announcing the Domestic Partnership Bill, "The goal is *marriage* equality. It's an important statement that our eyes are on the prize, and the prize is *marriage*." Representative Jamie Pedersen told the *Times* (Jan. 28, 2009) that SB 5688 will give homosexuals "a bridge until they can legally marry."

Senator Murray told the *Times* (May 17, 2009) that the domestic partnership expansion (SB 5688) is an "incremental approach...a strategic plan."

SB 5688 is the last incremental step to same-sex *marriage* in Washington State.

REJECT SENATE BILL 5688 TO PROTECT FAMILIES!

Marriage between one man and one woman is the foundation for civilized societies and has been for centuries. *Marriage* does not exist just for the emotional satisfaction of two individuals, but for the greater good of the social order. *Marriage* is about providing the most stable and healthy environment in which to raise children.

REJECT SENATE BILL 5688 TO PROTECT CHILDREN!

SB 5688 redefines terms such as "husband" and "wife" to be construed as "gender neutral." The new law will confuse children and likely result in public schools influencing children to accept a new definition of the "family unit" so that same-sex partners will be a recognized norm.

REJECT SENATE BILL 5688 TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS!

If Senate Bill 5688 is implemented, it will mean another massive expansion of government and Washingtonian taxpayers will be stuck with a multi-million dollar bill. Now is not the time to provide more entitlements to a very small minority of the population.

Rebuttal of Statement For

Statutory benefits are not rights. Those who choose to engage in homosexual relationships already enjoy the exact same constitutional rights and protections all Americans have. Washington has decided to recognize and promote marriage between one man and one woman above other types of relationships. SB 5688 would make our state's Defense of Marriage Act meaningless. Washington State cannot afford to make same-sex partnerships equal to marriage. It's that simple. *Reject SB 5688 to preserve marriage!*

Argument Prepared by

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