

"Let the People Vote in 2006!"

Talking Points to... "Ask your senator."

- 1. Remind your senator that marriage is under assault.**
 - Marriage laws have been challenged in **over half** the states in our country.
 - Activist judges have overturned marriage laws in **9 states**, including states with Defense of Marriage Acts (DOMA) similar to that of Minnesota.
 - **"Senator, are you aware that marriage laws have recently been overturned in Maryland, and Washington State may fall any day?"**
- 2. Emphasize that marriage laws will be challenged in Minnesota.**
 - Like Minnesota, the Iowa marriage amendment is bottled up in senate committee.
 - In December, New York based Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit challenging Iowa marriage laws; attempting to circumvent the will of the people and score a quick victory in the courts.
 - **"Senator, what guarantee do you have that this won't happen in Minnesota?"**
- 3. Be adamant that Minnesota marriage laws are vulnerable to attack.**
 - A lawsuit or activist judge could easily strike down the Defense of Marriage Act of 1997 and the Minnesota Supreme Court decision of 1971. (Baker v. Nelson)
 - **"Senator, what proof do you have that our marriage laws will stand up to a lawsuit?"**
- 4. Make clear that a constitutional amendment is the best protection for marriage.**
 - An amendment protecting marriage as between one man and one woman keeps marriage safe from lawsuits and activist judges.
 - **"Senator, how would you feel if traditional marriage was struck down because you failed to pass a marriage amendment?"**
- 5. Ask your senator "Who decides?"**
 - In 2004 a handful of state senators decided that the people of Minnesota did not have the right to define marriage – and blocked the amendment.
 - If they block it in 2006, Minnesotans will be silenced until 2008.
 - This gives same-sex marriage activists two years to decide the definition of marriage in the courts before the people of Minnesota get another chance to vote.
 - **"Senator, are you aware that if the amendment is not passed this session, opponents will have two years to redefine marriage before we can vote again?"**
 - **"Senator, who decides? The people or activists?"**
- 6. Tell your senator to "Let the people vote in 2006!"**
 - Polls show 63% of Minnesota voters agree that the people should be allowed to vote.
 - 19 other states have approved marriage amendments by an average margin of 70% -- most already had DOMA laws.
 - At least 6 additional states will allow their citizens to vote on an amendment in 2006.
 - **"Senator, will you vote to pass the marriage amendment if it comes to the senate floor?"**
 - **"Senator, will you vote to bring the marriage amendment out of committee?"**