



Q Notes

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'Marriage amendment' fails again

Republicans continue to use political ploy to divert attention from real issues

by Donald Miller

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House of Representatives on July 18 rejected a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. The measure fell 47 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for passage.

The failure came despite an appeal from the White House.

"When activist judges insist on redefining the fundamental institution of marriage for their states or potentially for the entire country, the only alternative left to make the people's voice heard is an amendment of the Constitution," said a statement issued by the administration.

The proposed amendment said "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither the Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

A similar proposed amendment failed to get enough votes last month in the Senate.

At the opening of the debate, Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA) said that despite the loss holding the vote was important.

"This vote will serve as an opportunity for each and every member of this body to go on record in support or in opposition to protecting the traditional definition of marriage," said Gingrey.

"This bill, to put it simply and bluntly, is about adding discrimination and intolerance to the United States Constitution," said Rep. James McGovern (D-MA).

Conservative Republicans vowed they would return next year and eventually would win. But one conservative group, the Traditional Values Coalition, said it was a "good thing for traditional marriage" that the measure failed because it wasn't clear enough in ruling out civil unions.



"The House joined the Senate in rejecting the use of the Constitution to discriminate against Americans," said Caroline Fredrickson, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office. "Election year politics should not be used to target gay and lesbian families. As they have done before, the House rightly rejected that ploy."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese made the following statement: "More and more Americans are beginning to understand that same-sex couples and their children deserve to be treated equally under our nation's Constitution, nothing more and nothing less. Congress has defeated this discriminatory amendment on four separate occasions now, while the American people's support for equality has continued to grow. The message is clear: get to the work of protecting families, not threatening them with prejudice."

The House vote was 236 to 187, with one member voting present, which was — once again — far short of the two-thirds required to pass a constitutional amendment. The ACLU noted that supporters of the discriminatory amendment gained no ground over their major defeat two years ago:

- The House vote in 2004 was 49 votes short of the two-thirds required for passage; today, the House vote was 47 votes short of the two-thirds required for passage;
- In 2004, 27 Republicans in the House

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New director named to Duke Center for LGBT Life

Former Duke alum to take position
by Jim Baxter . Q-Notes staff

DURHAM, N.C. — Janie Long, currently the director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Antioch New England Graduate School, has been named director of the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life at Duke University.

"I am very happy to be returning to North Carolina after many years living outside my home state," Long told Q-Notes.

"As in every state I have lived, there is still much that needs to be done to empower and



nurture our community. I will be looking for ways for the Center to be reaching outside the bounds of its walls. Service to the greater Duke community, the Durham community, and

'As a Duke alum, I am extremely happy to return to a campus that has always held a special place in my heart.'

— Janie Long

the LGBT community in N.C. will be a focus." Long, who also serves as associate chair

of the Department of Applied Psychology at Antioch, in Keene, N.H., is a member of the American Family Therapy Academy, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and has been a member of the National Council on Family Relations.

Her appointment at Duke begins Aug. 1. She succeeds Karen Kraulik, who is now an associate dean at Brown University.

"On the Duke campus I will work to address the needs of all students who want some affiliation with the Center, including newly questioning students, students who are well established in their identities and students with multiple identities," she said.

"My [efforts] will be solution focused and action oriented. We also have many alums throughout the state, and I look forward to their involvement as well."

Prior to her appointment at Antioch, Long served in administrative capacities as director of the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) graduate programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe; director of clinical training within the MFT program at the University of Georgia; and women's program director at Roanoke Valley Psychiatric Center in Salem, Va.

"We are fortunate to have such an experienced administrator coming to Duke who brings expertise in teaching and family therapy," said Zoila Airall, assistant vice

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A soldier's story

Violence in the Middle East

Editor's Note: These are the thoughts of a gay soldier — a North Carolina native — who has been deployed to Iraq. Because of the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, he must remain anonymous.

The troubles here in the desert keep mounting. Not only here in Iraq and the Baghdad region where I'm located — but in Israel, Lebanon and Palestine. The violence is amazing; the armies of the countries mentioned are fierce and have no tolerance for each other. It's a much different bat-

tle than we are faced with here in Iraq. You could say that's a linear battlefield and you



know where your enemy is. Here in Iraq it's non-linear — you have no idea where the next attack may come from. Israel and

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