

## The Truth About.... MARRIAGE AMENDMENTS AND CONSERVATIVES

- Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, a conservative icon, wrote “Government governs best when it governs least — and stays out of the impossible task of legislating morality. But legislating someone’s version of morality is exactly what we do by perpetuating discrimination against gays.”<sup>1</sup>
- There is already a law against gay marriage in North Carolina.
- Amending our constitution is not a conservative action.
- The wording of the amendment is broad, ambiguous, and untested in North Carolina courts. In other states, marriage amendments have created uproar in the courts. Do conservatives really want to open this judicial can of worms?
- The amendment would have consequences for unmarried couples of opposite sex or the same sex, including loss of benefits, and challenges to child custody, hospital visitation, end-of-life directives, wills and estates. Usually, conservatives call this “The law of unintended consequences.”
- In other states with marriage amendments, domestic violence statutes (including restraining orders) have been challenged in court when applied to unmarried couples, whether of opposite or same sex.
- Why would a conservative want the government involved in the most intimate decisions of life?
- Conservatives hold up the private sector as a model. 89% of Fortune 500 companies (including the 5 largest in NC) prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Would religious proponents of the amendment support the beliefs of other religion being written into our constitution?
- Congresswoman Renee Ellmers, (NC 2<sup>nd</sup> district), a conservative Republican and Tea Party favorite, was asked her opinion of the NC Marriage Amendment. She opposes it. “Her spokesman, Tom Doheny, confirmed that she planned to vote against the constitutional ban that was adopted by the legislature in September because it is too broadly drawn.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Ban On Gays Is Senseless Attempt To Stall The Inevitable" *Los Angeles Times, Washington Post*. Online at <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/user/scotts/bulgarians/barry-goldwater.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/10/02/1532832/amendment-is-too-broad-to-get.html>