

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MARRIAGE DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT

In 2012, North Carolinians will vote on an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that says the following: *Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state.* Here are some facts you need to know about the amendment.

Truth: The amendment will affect ALL unmarried couples—gay and straight.

Many people think the amendment will affect only gay people. In fact, the amendment is so broad that it will also affect unmarried heterosexual couples, who could face trouble with hospital visitations or child custody issues.

Truth: Many adults and their children will lose health insurance.

This amendment would stop local governments from offering benefits, including health insurance, to the partners and families of their unmarried employees. It may also keep private companies from offering those same benefits.

Truth: The amendment could jeopardize domestic violence protections for unmarried couples.

Under the amendment, only married people would be considered a “domestic legal union.” This means that if a woman gets beaten up by her boyfriend, she may lose the extra protection that comes from domestic violence laws.

Truth: The amendment will NOT change North Carolina’s definition of marriage.

Some people think that this amendment is necessary to keep gay people from getting married. This is not true. North Carolina already has a law that prohibits gay people from getting married.

Truth: The amendment will keep North Carolina from ever granting civil unions.

Even people who think gay couples should not be married often believe that gay couples deserve legal protections and rights. For example, Nevada bans gay marriage but they authorize civil unions, an option this amendment would block.

Truth: North Carolina’s economy will be hurt.

Businesses have said that this amendment will hurt their ability to recruit high quality employees. New businesses will think twice before choosing North Carolina as their home. In today’s economy, we do not need any unnecessary government regulation that makes it more difficult for hardworking North Carolinians to get jobs.

Truth: The amendment will use North Carolina’s Constitution to restrict people’s rights.

North Carolina’s Constitution exists to protect the rights of its citizens. This amendment will take away rights for all unmarried couples in North Carolina—both gay and straight.

Truth: ALL registered voters can vote AGAINST the amendment.

The amendment will be on the ballot on May 8, which is also the Republican primary. **EVERYONE**—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Libertarians—can vote against the amendment during that election. During early voting, you can also register and cast your ballot on the same day.

BE AGAINST THE MARRIAGE DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT

Volunteer in Durham at www.durhampa.org/action-center

For more information, visit protectncfamilies.org