



Eight Reasons for Opposing Domestic Partners Benefits

- 1) **Attacks marriage by giving legal recognition to homosexual couples.** It extends marital status and marital benefits to same sex/homosexual partners under the label of “domestic partners”. **The only difference between marriage and domestic partnership statuses are the words.**

Why is marriage between a man and a woman legally recognized by the state? Because its well-being is essential to the well-being of the state and society. Marriage between a man and a woman is the best environment for raising children, the next generation and caring for the basic needs of the children, parents and even extended family members and friends of the family.

When marriages and families breakdown, the state is often called in to deal with the consequences of the resulting social pathologies, e.g. crime, poverty, drug abuse, education problems and so forth. **Homosexual unions can’t replicate the benefits provided to society by the marriage union of a man and a woman.**

- 2) **Attacks marriage by giving recognition to cohabiting couples** who receive recognition and status without embracing the legal responsibilities of marriage. Why get married if you can receive legal recognition without formally marrying?
- 3) **Unfair to married couples and constitutes special benefits to homosexual partners.** Married couples have a legal duty to care for one another. They can’t simply walk away from their marriage. In the case of domestic partners, there is no legal duty to care for their partner. **Yet they would receive all the benefits of being married without the responsibilities.** That’s why domestic partner benefits are special benefits and are unfair to married couples.
- 4) The impetus for this initiative are homosexual groups which are seeking to legalize homosexual marriage. They are taking an **incremental approach towards homosexual marriage** by establishing marriage-like statuses for homosexual couples and granting homosexual couples legal recognition currently afforded to married couples in city governments.

(Over)

- 5) **Means city endorsement and affirmation of unhealthy behaviors.** Homosexual unions include inherently unhealthy behaviors, e.g. oral and anal sex. Granting special recognition to such relationships would mean affirming the behaviors invariably involved in these relationships. Cohabiting relationships are also unhealthy. They experience more domestic abuse and are inherently more unstable which particularly harms children.
- 6) The **proposed domestic partner language opens the door to abuse.** What does “responsible to each other for the necessities of life” mean? Or “committed to one another to the same extent as married persons are”? These are very vague criteria.
- 7) **Makes Minnesota’s marriage law more vulnerable to eventual legal challenge.** The high courts in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Jersey used as part of their legal basis for striking down their state’s marriage laws the existence in law of marriage-like status - domestic partnerships - for homosexual couples. They ruled, in part, that the presence of domestic partner status and denial of homosexual marriage was unconstitutional discrimination.
- 8) **Proposal would in fact be illegal under state law if it seeks to legally redefine family relationships.** State law does not allow local units of government to redefine family relationships.