



THE FAMILY  
POLICY COUNCIL  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

P.O. Box 566 ♦ Charleston, WV 25322 ♦ [www.familypolicywv.com](http://www.familypolicywv.com)

## **NEWS** *Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 10, 2009

### **FPCWV to testify before WV Legislature on need for Marriage Protection Amendment**

*Legislators to take up study resolution during July interim meetings*

**WHAT:** Hearing on possible constitutional amendment protecting marriage

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT

**WHERE:** West wing of the State Capitol building, Room 208W, Senate Judiciary Committee Room

**CHARLESTON, W.V.** — A joint committee of the West Virginia Legislature will hear testimony Tuesday on the need for an amendment to the West Virginia Constitution defining marriage as one man and one woman. The Family Policy Council of West Virginia, the group that has led efforts to give West Virginians the opportunity to vote on the definition of marriage, says the committee will help legislators to better understand the need to defend marriage in the state.

“Voters--not judges or legislators--should decide the legal definition of marriage in West Virginia, and we are honored to speak for the 94% of West Virginians who believe that,” said FPCWV President Jeremy Dys. “This is a great opportunity for the legislature to understand that the state’s Defense of Marriage Act will not prevent the redefinition of marriage in West Virginia and to realize that this is too big of an issue not to let the people decide.”

HCR 88, the resolution sponsored by 70 members in the House of Delegates and passed unanimously at the end of the regular session, is to be heard by Subcommittee A of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. The committee has asked to hear from The Family Policy Council of West Virginia, as well as the Alliance Defense Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union, and FairnessWV.

ADF is a legal alliance that employs a unique combination of strategy, training, funding, and litigation to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family. ADF has been intimately involved in nearly every legal case involving challenges to state marriage laws, state defense of marriage acts, state constitutional amendments, and the federal Defense of Marriage Act, including recent and/or pending cases in numerous states.

While West Virginia has its own Defense of Marriage Act, courts in eight states have invalidated similar laws. However, no court has overturned a constitutional amendment that was voted on by the people that defines marriage as one man and one woman. In all, 30 states have passed such amendments.

*The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is a servant organization that advocates for policies that embrace the sanctity of human life, enrich marriage, and safeguard religious freedom.*

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