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DEFINING MARRIAGE

Fleischauer should

respond to constituents

As a citizen of Morgantown, I am deeply frustrated that over the course of three weeks, Delegate Barbara Fleischauer has disregarded my calls and e-mail requesting a clarification of her position on an issue that should be presented to her committee. [Fleischauer chairs the Constitution Revision Committee.]

I have called her office only to be forwarded to voice mail. Each time, I have left three phone numbers and an e-mail address for a reply. What is her position on this issue and why is she blocking it from being on the panel's agenda?

Fleischauer is blatantly ignoring the views of her constituents. I am utterly disappointed that she has insulated herself from those of us living in the [House] District 44 without even the courtesy of a reply.

Rev. Kevin Dennis

Morgantown

Voter will remember decision on marriage

I was deeply disappointed to read that the state House of Delegates voted against the majority of the people of West Virginia by not allowing us to vote on the Defense of Marriage Act.

Our delegates are elected by the people and are responsible to the people of West Virginia. I believe that our elected officials have failed us in this matter.

We have a right to vote on a matter as important as this amendment proposal. At the next election, I will remember this decision made by our delegates.

It will determine how I vote.

Marlene Wadhams Princeton

Allow state's citizens to vote on marriage

We join the thousands of concerned citizens of West Virginia in the disappointment that our elected officials continue to follow self-interest over democracy. While the House of Delegates has "closed the door" on letting the people vote on the definition of marriage, we can only hope the state Senate will still yet give consideration to this issue.

According to a recent survey, 94 percent of West Virginians believe that the voters, not judges or legislators, should decide the definition of marriage.

We beg our legislators to listen to the voters and let us vote on an amendment to the state Constitution defining marriage in a special election in 2009.

Some may feel that the present West Virginia law, plus the marriage application form statement, adequately addresses this issue. However, the people do not want the potential of having some judge determine the outcome. This needs to be solidly reinforced constitutionally like 30 other states have responsibly done.

God created marriage as the unity of one man and one woman. Historically, this has been both the traditional and legal understanding of a marriage.

The family, involving a mother and a father, is the most basic unit of any society or nation. Without healthy, functioning families, our culture cannot survive.

Jon and Jill Loker

St. Albans

Politicians telling us what's good for us

I am quite upset that we have two House of Delegates members, Barbara Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, and Carrie Webster, D-Kanawha, who feel they know more than the citizens of the state of West Virginia. We have written and asked of these two [delegates] to please let us, the citizens, vote on the marriage issue of one man and one woman, which constitutes a marriage according to the Holy Bible.

I, for one, would like to know what their problem is? Has some faction contributed to their political ambitions and power and this is the payback — on the backs of each citizen of the state?

Do these two think we are so stupid that we shouldn't be allowed to vote because we aren't smart enough?

It seems to me that our politicians of today are so arrogant they decide everything for us because we are not smart enough.

I believe it is time we voters wake up and look at what is going on with our state and national politicians. They are telling us what's good for us. Communism?

It sure looks that way to me.

Ruth A. Harvey

Sissonville

Lawmakers' no-show speaks volumes

I am sending this e-mail to you to express my thoughts and concerns on the issue facing this great state of West Virginia concerning the Marriage Protection Amendment.

That delegates — specifically Delegates Carries Webster, D-Kanawha, and Barbara Fleischauer, D-Monongalia — did not even show up [for a recent forum on this subject in Morgantown] speaks volumes to the people of this state.

When people are elected to an office to serve the interests of the people and do not even think it necessary to know what our feelings and concerns are, it shows that they are not servants of the people but servants of their own agendas.

This [response] has spoken loud and clear that they care nothing about our feelings and concerns on the issues of running the government of this state. Whatever happened to the thought: "Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

I expressly believe and think that this matter needs to be put to the people of this state to vote on and decide what is best for West Virginia, not a handful of judges or even delegates. Especially when it is obvious they do not know the heart of the voting people of this state.

Pastor C. Larry Downing Fellowsville Assembly of God

Fellowsville

Marriage law a moral issue, not political one

I am astounded at Delegate Barbara Fleischauer's statement last Friday in The Dominion Post saying, "Not a single state DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] law has ever been overturned by a state court ..."

The fact of the matter is that seven states have overturned the Defense of Marriage Act — Hawaii, Alaska, Vermont, Massachusetts, Iowa, California and Connecticut.

How can we have confidence in such uninformed leadership, much less trust the judgment of an elected delegate who denies the people she represents the democratic right to vote on one man one woman as the law for marriage in West Virginia? This isn't a political issue, it's a moral one! Indeed the time has come for change! Let's remember this the next time Fleischauer's name appears on the ballot!

Douglas Miller Assistant pastor Christian and Missionary Alliance Church Morgantown



