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March 17, 2009

Daniel L. Anderson **Marriage is between one man, one woman**

By Daniel L. Anderson

Most of us have encountered situations where we take precautions. For example, we may get an annual physical to make sure we catch any possible health problems before they become critical issues.

Or we are advised to have regular dental check-ups to prevent serious problems with our teeth. We even maintain systematic maintenance on our cars that we often call "preventive maintenance" as a way of protecting against major mechanical repairs.

All of these precautions are good. In fact, they illustrate the grand old saying: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

Do you know that our beloved state of West Virginia faces the most critical issue of prevention which any of us Mountaineers could ever imagine?

The issue is not our economy, nor our health care. The issue at great risk to our great state is our vulnerability in not clearly and decisively defining marriage in our state.

I believe that we West Virginians as a whole uphold the view that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Various surveys of our state would verify that belief. In fact, because we West Virginians do commonly hold to this view of marriage, it is probably tempting for us to consider our state safe from the consideration of any alteration in defining marriage.

Such a security in assumption is unwise in today's climate of hostility and assault upon the foundational unit of society that is the home. No culture can survive in civility of behavior nor in stability and prosperity of development without the essential building block of design that is the marriage unit defined as a union of one man and one woman.

Our current state laws regarding this matter are not definitive to the extent needed to protect against opponents of marriage. It would be easy for opponents of marriage to launch West Virginia into legal chaos and redefine marriage in West Virginia. All we have to do is observe what has occurred in such states as California and Connecticut to know what can happen.

If we as West Virginians do not shut the door on same-sex "marriage" now, to do so in the future would become much more complicated, expensive, and possibly improbable. I invite you to review the extended information supporting these concerns at wvformarriage.com.

We, the people of West Virginia, should be the ones defining marriage, not the judicial system. Therefore, I would call for our present Legislature to act to adopt legislation that would allow us, the citizens of West Virginia, the

opportunity to add an amendment to our state constitution, which defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Our state deserves such a definition. Our children's future depends upon such a definition. And Almighty God will only bless us as a people when we follow His divinely declared description of what He designed when He originated the institution of marriage.

If we take precautions for our health, for our teeth, or for our car, don't you think we should take precautions for our definition of marriage? Act now. Define marriage - the union of one man and one woman.