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Is It Needed?

MetroNews Talkline

Charleston, Kanawha County

State law in West Virginia already defines marriage as between one man and one woman, part of the Defense of Marriage Act the Legislature approved nine years ago.

But Jeremy Dys with the Family Policy Council of West Virginia says that is *not* enough.

His group is supporting a proposal for a Constitutional Amendment the Legislature is now considering, a potential Amendment that would keep that definition from being overturned at any time in the future.

"We're burying our head in the sand if we think that it's not going to come to West Virginia," Dys says of the debate about what is and what is not marriage that is happening in other states.

"First and foremost, this is an issue that is about democracy and so we should allow West Virginians to have the right to vote on this and every legislator should protect that right."

Dys debated the issue with Steven Skinner with Fairness West Virginia, a civil rights advocacy group, on Tuesday's MetroNews Talkline.

Skinner says the existing state law is enough. He says no additional Constitutional Amendment is needed. "What this is about is a cheap, political stunt to try and rile up some folks for political reasons," Skinner says.

He says there is no push from the gay community for any kind of recognition of gay marriage in West Virginia. "There is no threat to marriage in West Virginia from gay people. The threat to marriage in West Virginia comes from the people who are already married. We have one of the highest divorce rates in the country."

You can hear part of Tuesday's debate by clicking the above link.

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