

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

2 April 2012

Dear Members of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,

Marriage has existed since before the beginning of recorded history. It has always involved the union of male and female for the mutual benefit of each partner and for the generation of new human life. Marriage and the concept of family that is the fruit of a marriage and involves the begetting of and then raising of children is the basis of a civilized society and always has been. When this has been disrupted in the past, civilizations have fallen from great heights into the dust of permanent decay. For example, in ancient Greece and Rome.

Marriage involves the ideal of lifelong commitment. Even though this ideal may not be always realized, no-one gets married intending for it not to be lifelong. Marriage has been so successful through the ages as the basis of society because of the reciprocal nature of the sexes which sustains heterosexual relationships. In homosexual relationships this reciprocity does not exist and relationships do not tend to be sustained.

The most essential aspect of marriage to society is the generation of children. Without children, society would not survive. Children need the protection of the family and deserve the right to have a Mum and a Dad. It is impossible for parents of the same sex to beget children. Each child has the right to have a father figure and a mother figure. It is true that families exist with the loss of a parent or of both parents, but this far from the ideal situation. Literature throughout the centuries portrays a family without a parent as a situation of adversity. So putting a child into a homosexual relationship denies that child basic rights to a Mother and Father and is against nature.

For the sake of the rights of children, for the sake of our society, please think again about the concept of homosexual marriage: marriage is between one man and one woman, for life.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Terrence Kent
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