

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600**

**Re. The Evidence Amendment Bill 2008.**

Dear Senators,

This Bill aims to give same-sex partners the same rights presently afforded to husbands and wives in a criminal trial, namely the right to object to testifying against each other.

I strongly oppose this Bill for the following reasons.

Marriage is a covenant between a man and woman, a legal union with sworn obligations and commitments. That is the rationale for spouses not being compelled to give evidence against each other. It is equitable and appropriate for the law to protect honourable covenants. It is not equitable or appropriate for same-sex relationships to have this privilege.

This Bill leaves an open door for criminals to be exploited. In an attempt to avoid a criminal associate from giving evidence against them, criminals could claim to have a de facto or same-sex relationship with prosecution witnesses.

This Bill is yet another attack by stealth on the sanctity of marriage.

I respectfully ask you to consider my comments on this Bill.

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