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To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to voice my concern about The Evidence Amendment Bill 2008.

Marriage is a wonderful thing and I believe that the Law should continue to recognize its sanctity. It has been well said in regards to spouses giving evidence against each other that the sanctity of marriage is more sacred than the law. Although the law should be respected by those living under it, the law changes frequently, while Marriage is a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Therefore under such a stable and sacred commitment they should be protected by law from giving evidence against each other. I will point out at this time that more casual non-married arrangements don't deserve this privilege. If they have not made a sacred commitment then how can the law possibly recognize a sacred commitment which doesn't exist? Furthermore the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008, opens a huge loophole in people having to give evidence at all, as first the court would have to disprove the claim of anyone who claimed to be in a de facto or same sex relationship with the accused. Not only would such an all encompassing bill be a waist of time and money. But because of its design, the guilty may go free on a grandiose scale. The cure to this problem is to never open the loophole in the first place. The law doesn't have to relax it's stance on this issue. To keep this right confined only to a marriage relationship is the smartest, and most legitimate, decision. It's also important to recognize that marriage has a special place of honour in our society.

Thank you for your consideration to **not pass** this bill.

Mrs Belinda Birch