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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Inquiry into the Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008
[Provisions]

This is my submission. There are no attachments.

I understand the primary objective of the Bill is to extend the financial settlement regime under the Act to parties to a de facto relationship.

I also understand the Bill amends the Family Law Act 1975 (the Act) to provide for opposite-sex and same-sex de facto couples to access the federal family law courts on property and maintenance matters. In particular, I understand and fully support those provisions in the Bill which ensure that same-sex couples are treated in the same manner as opposite-sex de facto couples.

I cannot see how this diminishes the rights of any other groups in our society or devalues marriage.

Yours sincerely,
John Goldbaum