

To the Senate Hearing Committee of Legal and Constitutional Affairs

I hereby wish to submit arguments in agreement to the allowance of same sex couples to be afforded the same rights and privileges with regards to marriage as those in the heterosexual community.

Once democratically elected, governments, both federal and state, legislate and rule on behalf of **all** citizens of its country not withstanding that citizen's religion, belief, sexual preference etc. To do otherwise promotes segregation between its citizens in turn allowing and enforcing discrimination and denigrating the status of those citizens within the society created. If this argument is accepted then to not afford same sex couples the act of marriage as a statement of faith and fidelity between two loving couples places the government in jeopardy of breaking the duly constituted laws passed regarding discriminating. Marriage ceased being an act sanctioned by a religious body alone when legal parameters were placed around it by the government of the day.

More importantly what government has the right to deny a segment of its citizens the right to enact one of society's most fundamental displays of love and commitment?

I therefore submit that legislation should be passed that allows same sex couples to marry and have access to the legal rights that accompany this.

Cordially yours

Gaye Oliver

