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CHRISTIANS TO VOTE

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AMERICA

*Commentary*

## Senate Bill 1000 – Civil Unions

April 28, 2005

With the introduction of **Senate Bill (SB) 1000** to the Oregon Legislature on April 13th by the Governor of Oregon and a handful of legislators, now aided by a statewide effort by sympathetic media, primarily **The Oregonian and Eugene Register Guard**, it is important that all Oregonians recognize **the strategy to nullify** the will of the people expressed in the November General Election by the overwhelming passage of **Measure 36**.

**The below information is vital to understand what is going on in the Oregon Legislature:**

Lawyers' Group Warns Civil Unions is Capitulation, not Compromise on Gay "Marriage"

"HARTFORD, Conn., April 25, 2005, (LifeSiteNews.com) Connecticut's decision to create civil unions for same-sex couples has been called a "naive move that further erodes marriage" by attorneys associated with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), an organization active in numerous cases involving marriage, domestic partnerships and civil unions in the United States. ADF argues that the "**civil unions**" approach is a **Trojan Horse** designed to infiltrate and **conquer marriage**. (Emphasis added)

The strategy is fairly simple.

Citing **Lawrence v. Texas**, the ACLU has argued, and several state and federal courts have held, that **a law justified by moral disapproval alone cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny**. A recent California Superior Court decision further demonstrates how civil unions undermine the state's interest in preserving marriage: "[T]hat California has granted marriage-like rights to same-sex couples points to the conclusion that there is no rational state interest in denying them the **rites** of marriage as well."

Litigation Scenario:

1. State X passes a state constitutional marriage amendment which is upheld by state courts. The amendment does not prohibit civil unions. **(This describes Oregon's recent passage of Measure 36 and the recent ruling of the Oregon Supreme Court.)**

2. The **legislature** in State X **then passes a civil unions law** which grants all the rights of marriage to same sex couples. (This gives the ACLU grounds in federal litigation)

3. The ACLU files a federal lawsuit alleging that the state constitutional marriage amendment violates the U.S. Constitution. The ACLU argues that the only distinction between civil unions and marriage under state law is in **name only**. Therefore, the failure to grant same sex marriage must be based on mere moral disapproval which is unconstitutional per Lawrence v. Texas. **By allowing civil unions the state legislature has effectively undermined its legal interest in preserving marriage as a unique institution.**

**THIS STRATEGY IS CURRENTLY BEING EMPLOYED IN OREGON AND SENATE BILL 1000 IS THE "TROJAN HORSE!"**

## ***Here is what must be done and what you can do***

**Take action now**, before powerful minority voices, with a sympathetic media, persuade our legislators that SB 1000 is unopposed by Oregonians and best for the state! And the sooner the better! **Don't wait!**

- **Call the Capitol Switchboard in Salem and ask for your Representative or Senator.**
- **If your legislator is unavailable, talk to his/her aide.**
- **Politely, kindly, and respectfully convey to that person that...**

***You do not want 'civil unions' added anywhere into Oregon's laws on marriage! And...you do not want him or her to support Senate Bill 1000!***

- **The number to call is **1-800-332-2313.****

If you wish to send **emails**, **postcards** and **letters**, or **'visit'** your elected representatives in both the Oregon House and Senate, you can go to [http://www.leg.state.or.us/site\\_index/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/site_index/) and click on "Senate Member Information" for address, phone number and email access or go directly to:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/servlet/XSLT?URL=members.xml&xslURL=members.xsl&member-type=senator>

**The House of Representatives—who will be called upon to oppose SB 1000 if passed by the Senate— must also be contacted.** While they may say they do not have that bill yet, it is important that you tell them the same thing as stated above. An additional call to the office of Karen Minnis, Speaker of the House—supplying the same message—would go a long way to stop the Bill from being heard in the House.

You can go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/> and click on “Representative Information” for address, phone number and email access or go directly to:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/>

In 2004 in Oregon, Christians sent a strong message to the courts and our elected officials through our initiative efforts and votes in November. Our message was clear. We wanted marriage between a man and a woman **preserved; not changed, redefined, denigrated compromised or copied. It is time to send that message again.**

**Pray, and take this message to your pastor and elders.** Encourage them to again, defend marriage and God’s authority; to make **announcements** in church and to encourage their congregations to **call, email and write** their Senators and Representatives in the Oregon legislature, **asking them to just say “No” to SB 1000.**

**A simple, home or church made petition with the names of your family and church members sent to your representative in Salem would do more than you can imagine to persuade them not to support this bill.**

Do the same with your Bible Study and Prayer/Fellowship Groups. And...

**Please forward this email message to your personal list of friends and family, and ask them to do the same.**

If we do this in the coming weeks, the message will be reinforced to our legislators, and marriage as we set out to protect and preserve, will be protected and preserved.

**Alan Sears, President of the Alliance Defense Fund said, “These battles are truly about what America will look like tomorrow. What we do now is absolutely critical to winning the war for America’s future.”**

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RESTORE AMERICA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its purpose is to restore and preserve the godly heritage passed on to us by our Founding Fathers and all who have given their lives to protect it. It is founded on the belief that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself; that our Founders understood the Gospel and the Great Commission, and established a Republic to preserve and advance the Kingdom of God through biblically enlightened self government.