

“We the People”

By Becky Vandenberghe



“We, the people of the State of Wyoming, grateful to God for our civil, political and religious liberties, and desiring to secure them to ourselves and perpetuate them to our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution.” Wyoming Constitution

I understand the desire for legislators to...well, legislate. But there are times during the legislative session when the people have spoken and they need to act on the will of the people.

Throughout our nation’s history, marriage has been defined as a union between one man and one woman. Only recently have the majority of states recognized a very clear and present threat to the institution of marriage due to the actions of a few “unelected” judges. Wyoming’s marriage law is in grave danger of being redefined due to the little known fact that the state is bound to legally recognize marriage contracts from other states. The question is not if, but when. When a challenge comes, will the people be protected by law reflecting the will of the people, or will it have marriage redefined from the judge’s bench.

Thirty states across the country have taken measures to amend their constitutions to protect the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. Every state who has attempted to put this before the people has passed an amendment. If the legislators vote “NO” on the constitutional amendment in the state legislature next week, they are denying the people of Wyoming their Constitutional; not to mention God given right to vote on the very definition of this timeless institution. Conversely, by voting “Yes” on HJ17, the legislature would be signaling to the people of Wyoming they understand the gravity of this issue and the fundamental right of the people to exercise their constitutional voice as “We the people of the State of Wyoming ...”. By acting with good faith and in sync with the wishes of those who have extended such great trust, our legislature will be reaffirming their commitment as servants to the people to whom they are responsible.

Unfortunately, many Wyoming Legislators want to ignore the very recent polling data from Advantage, Inc. (a professional polling company from Virginia), which states that 78% of the registered voters want this amendment on the ballot in November 2010. Even if these legislators ignore this very recent poll, in 2004, seven out of 10 citizens supported marriage between one man and one woman according to a general election statewide survey conducted by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center located at the University of Wyoming: <http://www.uwyo.edu/news/showrelease.asp?id=3223>

The threat is real, the people have spoken. One thing is for sure, more and more of our states’ citizens are standing up and saying, “Enough is enough!” I echo their sentiments by respectfully imploring this Wyoming Legislature to allow us the opportunity to vote on amending our constitution and protect our precious state from threats from those unelected judges from other states. Only then will we have confidence that the spirit reflected in, “We the people of Wyoming...” is still alive and well and our representative form of government is committed to just that, representation.

Becky Vandenberghe is a champion of family values and American freedoms. She has been involved with Wyoming politics at the grass-roots level for many years and is the founder and Chairwoman of WyWatch Family Institute (www.wywatch.org) a 501(c)4 Family Advocacy Organization.