

EXHIBIT 23
DATE 1/17/05
HB 259

Dear Chairwoman Rice and members of the committee,

My name is Rebecca Stockton and I reside at 1430 Boston Road; Helena, Montana. I am heterosexual citizen of the State of Montana who has been happily married for 22 years to one great man and have two great children.

I am here today in opposition to House Bill 259.

The citizens of the State of Montana just recently overwhelmingly passed a constitutional amendment to define "Marriage" in the State of Montana to be between one man and one woman. A very small and vocal minority of homosexuals in Montana are not pleased with the will of the majority and are trying to overturn what the majority of the Montana's desire. After reading this bill, it is exactly what a heterosexual married couple abides to. How can the homosexual community think that a "Civil Union" is different from a "Marriage"? IT IS NOT DIFFERENT! A "Civil Union" is just another method the small homosexual community in Montana are trying to circumvent the law. The terms "Civil Unions" is just another way to define "Marriage", but this time it is for a man and man or a woman and woman to be married and have all the same rights and responsibility a heterosexual couple has in the State of Montana. What the homosexuals in Montana are attempting is to change the laws so that we all must accept their lifestyles, which is a behavior they can change at anytime. Homosexuals go in and out of this lifestyle many times in their lifetime. It is just like being an alcoholic. First you want to quit and rehabilitate yourself, because they know it is wrong and then, they slide back into the sinful lifestyle. It is hard to change a behavioral habit, but we know it can be done.

If this is passed, have you considered the cost of health benefits to these individuals and heterosexuals? Take for example AIDS. With the passage of this bill we are encouraging more AIDS to develop and to spread throughout our state and beyond. AIDS not only affects homosexuals, it also affects heterosexuals and their children when you have to take care of them in a hospital because the disease can spread through an open wound or having sexual intercourse with a heterosexual and getting pregnant which then gives the disease to the child.

This bill encourages a lifestyle that is not healthy to our state and not fair to the heterosexual people who believe that one man and one woman should be married.

Please, lets not be another California, were laws are passed by the will of the people and then the legislature supersedes that decision like the majority did not know what they were voting on and that they did not know what is best for all the people.

Thank you for letting me have the time to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Becky Stockton
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