

Commissioner Sanderson introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Resolution 12-01
City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission

Whereas, states have an interest in promoting family units as a means towards achieving social stability, private economic interdependence, and healthier environments in which both children and adults may prosper, and

Whereas, the U. S. Census for 2010 indicated that families headed by or consisting of same-sex couples reside in every county in Minnesota, including Itasca County, and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court and others have noted that the dimensions of "family" have expanded considerably in recent years, and

Whereas, an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution has been proposed that would ban the legal recognition of same-sex relationships within the state of Minnesota, and

Whereas, such an amendment would frustrate the State's goal of promoting families, by withholding from some families important legal rights and obligations, and

Whereas, constitutions historically have been designed to protect minorities from the arbitrary imposition of unjust barriers by the majority, and

Whereas, this legislation, if approved, would have a direct, negative impact on Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community in particular, by denying equal protection of the law and relegating families headed by or consisting of same-sex couples to a permanent second-class citizenship status, and

Whereas, the City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission recognizes that our society benefits in proportion to its efforts to ensure cultural diversity and maintain an environment in which all feel welcome and safe, and

Whereas such discriminatory legislation effectively devalues cultural diversity and promotes an environment in which discrimination against GLBT citizens is not only encouraged but mandated, resulting in a community that is neither welcome nor safe,

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission hereby states publicly its opposition to changing the Minnesota constitution in order to ban the legal recognition of same-sex relationships and unions, and

Be it furthermore resolved that this document will be presented to members of the press and community.

Adopted this 25th day of January, 2012.

Jeff Wartchow, Chair

Attest:

Kimberly Johnson-Gibeau, City Clerk

Commissioner Hall seconded the foregoing resolution and the following voted in favor thereof: Sanderson, Hall, Wartchow, Dowell, Freeman, Mundt; and the following voted against same: None; Abstain: Learmont, whereby the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

What you can do to support Minnesotans United for All Families and the effort against the same-sex marriage ban:

Pledge to vote NO!

In order for the campaign to best direct its resources, it's great to know those who already plan to vote No on the amendment.

Volunteer!

The campaign is always looking for people willing to help spread the word about the amendment and what is needed to defeat this discrimination. Let MN United know that you're willing to volunteer time to help!

Donate!

Those fighting against are against the resources of the Catholic church and other financial giants. The need for financial support is critical. No amount is too great or too small. Please donate an amount that is significant to you. Maybe it's \$5 .. maybe it's \$500.

Spread the word!

Talk to your friends, families and neighbors. Let people know that Minnesotans will be voting on this discrimination. Share with people why it is important to you to defeat this amendment. Share with people what marriage means to you, and why such measures should not be taken to prevent some Minnesotans from marrying.

This could be done by hosting a small gathering of people that you feeling comfortable sharing this message to. You can bring it up in casual conversations with people. Invite someone out for coffee. Don't be afraid to talk about this important issue with people.

Find Resources!

The first place you should turn to for information and resources is Minnesotans United for All Families. Contact info:

Minnesotans United for All Families
1821 University Ave West, Suite S-137
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-330-6852
info@mnunited.org
www.mnunited.org