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Gay rights vs. religious rights

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This month, openly gay state Rep.Greg Harris
(D-Chicago) introduced a bill to legalize same-sex
"marriage" (HB 0178). Adding to this outrage is
Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's
(D-Chicago) creation of a new committee where this
bill will be heard--the "Youth and Family
Committee"--to be chaired by Harris.

In appointing Harris, an outspoken and proud gay
activist, to the "Youth and Family Committee,"
Madigan has demonstrated his utter contempt for
traditional values. No one who publicly affirms
homosexuality as an immutable, morally defensible
identity is qualified to preside over a committee that
considers legislation pertaining to children and families.

To make matters worse, the bill is misleadingly titled the "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness
Act." This bill will not protect our individual religious freedom to object to homosexuality as public
policy. In fact, Georgetown University law professor, Chai Feldblum, states that when same-sex
marriage is legalized, conservative people of faith will lose religious rights.

If the General Assembly yields to homosexual activists and passes this sham "marriage" bill, parental
rights, religious rights and fundamental First Amendment speech will be drastically affected.

There are numerous civil rights violations in Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, Sweden, and
Canada ranging from the denial of parents' rights to remove their children from explicit homosexual
instruction in schools to the denial of a pastor's speech rights to the denial of private business owners'
rights to run their businesses without moral compromise.

Special gay "rights" legislation like this will ultimately result in a showdown: Gay Rights vs.
Religious Freedom. We will not be able to have both.

Call your state representative and tell them NO.

--David E. Smith

Tinley Park, Ill.

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