

*E-mail response from (Former) State Senator James S Forrester, MD, 41<sup>st</sup> NC Senate District, 2011, concerning SB8.*

Thank you for your recent emails about Senate Bill 8 (SB8) concerning the NC Constitutional Amendment defending traditional marriage as between one man and one woman.

First of all, I do not hate homosexuals. I love them more. For as a physician, I am frequently saddened by the suffering from the illnesses of my homosexual patients that are directly related to this unhealthy lifestyle. Did you know that the average life span of a homosexual is only 55 years, as opposed to 78 yrs. for a heterosexual? Most often this is because there is no known cure for some of the related illnesses and disease from this aberrant form of coupling.

As for equal rights, you already have them. They are guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence, *that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.* Anyone can pursue happiness with the right to live with anyone they choose and under whatever arrangement and division of property they so decide. What the homosexual activists are seeking is based on *special* rights in order to have their particular lifestyle recognized as normal and socially acceptable. This is a lifestyle that every society, every culture and every religion has

disapproved for over 5000 years. 'Banning gay marriage' is media hype. You cannot ban something that doesn't exist. Redefining the universal definition of marriage for social acceptance of a minority group, which makes up 1% -2% of the population, is the real issue.

In regard to discrimination, these requested special rights are also a form of discrimination. It discriminates against the universal institution of marriage and family structure originated by our Creator for the procreation, nurture and social stability of our species since the beginning of time. And its sanctity should be protected.

And finally, since 70% of Americans and an even higher percentage of North Carolinians, support traditional marriage, SB8 represents their desire to have this amendment added to the NC Constitution. However, you also have the right to disagree and your hateful dissent is duly noted. Medically speaking, may I tell you that harboring hate is like drinking poison and waiting for someone else to die, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Former) State Senator James S Forrester, MD  
41<sup>st</sup> NC Senate District  
2011