



Respect for Marriage Act Talking points

- Despite its deliberately deceptive name, the “Respect for Marriage Act” insidiously seeks to destroy the historical, traditional definition of marriage.
 - It seeks to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).
- DOMA does not prohibit states from recognizing same-sex “marriages.”
 - It defines marriage as we have always known it, the union between one man and one woman, for federal purposes.
 - DOMA also protects states from being forced to recognize same-sex “marriages” from other states, if a state chooses to do so.
- The Respect for Marriage Act runs contrary to the will of the majority of Americans who support marriage as the union between one man and one woman.
 - The most comprehensive scientific national survey to date, completed by Public Opinion Strategies (May 16-19, 2011), reveals that 62 percent of Americans believe “marriage should be defined only as a union between one man and one woman.” Fifty-three percent *strongly agreed*.
- The Respect for Marriage Act circumvents the will of the 30 states that have already voted to protect marriage as the union between one man and one woman in their state constitutions, forcing the states to go against their own public policy goals to recognize same-sex “marriages” from other states.
 - More than *63 million* Americans in 30 state elections have voted on constitutional marriage amendments. Around *forty million* in all (63 percent) voted to affirm marriage as a union between a man and a woman.
- The Respect for Marriage Act forces states to recognize *any* kind of marriage that another state decides to sanction. It is by no means limited to same-sex “marriages.”
- It was introduced by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) in the House (H.R. 1116) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) in the Senate (S.598).