

IT IS TIME FOR US TO ACT JOIN IN THE PETITION DRIVE

The Maryland legislative session that just ended passed four bills that support the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transsexual (GLBT) agenda of mainstreaming their lifestyle. It appears, at this time, that **the governor will neither sign nor veto these bills** and if so, these bills will become Maryland law within the next few months. The bills include:

Senate Bill 796, Medical Decision Making Act of 2005, which allows persons over eighteen to enter into a “life partnership” whereby each can make medical decisions normally reserved to the next of kin.

House Bill 1298. Allows “Domestic Partners” certain financial and tax considerations. Essentially, it grants unmarried, unrelated persons many of the rights afforded married couples. For instance, when a couple marry they become co-dependent and co-responsible for property and finances. This bill provides “domestic partners” many of the legal attributes of marriage.

House Bill 692 broadens anti harassment or “bullying” laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity, while House Bill 407, the Safe School Reporting Act of 2005, requires Schools to report all “harassment or intimidation” to include that directed at sexual orientation and gender identity. Taken together, these bills make certain behavior a felony with penalties of up to 20 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine, while at the same time mandating new and intensified the reporting of such behavior

The legislators and their “agendized” GLBT lobbyist have had their say. Our governor remains silent and by doing so will allow these bills to become law. It is now time for “we the people” to speak. The only way we can have a say on these bills is through petitioning for a referendum in the fall election. **We’re asking you to get involved and take action to get these bills on the November ballot.**

To get a referendum we must have the following:

17,000 authenticated signatures by May 31, 2005
51,189 authenticated signatures by June 30, 2005

You are needed to sign the petition and to take action and have your family, friends, church members, and fellow workers to also sign the petition. The time is short and the need is great. To get details on how to help go to the following:

E-mail: director@maryland.cwfa.org, or visit these Web sites: www.votemarriage.org, www.defendmarylandmarriage.com or www.ccmaryland.org.

