



A Dramatic Assault on Liberty



The "Respect" for Marriage Act, recognizing same-sex marriage, threatens foundational freedoms

By Nathan Winters, President of Wyoming Family Alliance



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An Issue of grave importance has reached a tipping point in our state and nation.

In July, this organization warned against the horribly mis-named "Respect for Marriage Act" (RMA), reporting that outgoing U.S. Representative Liz Cheney voted for it as it passed through the U.S. House of Representatives. As of last week, this bill has now passed the only opportunity to be stopped in the Senate.

The bill grants "full faith and credit" to same-sex marriage which means that the RMA is a declaration by Congress that failure to recognize same-sex marriage is functionally no different than censoring free speech or denying someone their right to free speech.

After passing the House, the RMA went through major revisions in the Senate, rendering instead a substitute bill. Proponents of the bill argue that it is much better because it now has provisions to protect Religious Liberty and conscience.

All of this sounds good on the surface, but there are **GLARING FLAWS**:

- This amended bill claims to protect all churches and houses of worship. The problem is that those were never threatened! This appeal is simple window dressing because robust protections are explicit in the 1st Amendment. This provision is designed to help some feel better about the bill, but it is not enough.
- The bill protects non-profit organizations, including faith-based non-profits, but these organizations are not specifically under threat. Glaringly, no such protections are accorded to for-profit Christian businesses. Imagine a for-profit Christian bookstore holding to historic New Testament beliefs and whose patrons largely believed the same. Now, imagine an individual is hired with a public relationship outside Biblical bounds. That "for-profit" business is now vulnerable to predatory lawyers claiming that it is discriminatory.
- Individuals who still believe, based upon thousands of years of history, that marriage is between males and females are simply not protected. They claim the bill offers protections for individuals, but it clearly doesn't.

The bill is careful to not threaten the "Establishment Clause" in the Constitution. But it can and will be used to threaten the "Free Exercise Clause." The free exercise of one's faith is the basis of all freedom!

Sadly, this bill passed a crucial vote last week and will move forward. An amendment has been proposed by Senator Lee of Utah making the bill a little better. His amendment will address many of the issues we have raised here.

I urge you to email Senator Lummis and Barrasso and ask them to vote YES on the Lee Amendment!

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