

Family

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Research Council

Gary L. Bauer, President

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Dear Friend:

June is fittingly called “the month of weddings.” As the first real warm days of summer finally arrive, skies are blue, flowers are blooming, and brides and grooms are seemingly everywhere. Marriage is never out of season, but I can think of no better time than the month of June for our nation to reaffirm the value and meaning of marriage.

As this letter is written, a reaffirmation of marriage is taking place all across our land. You can hear it in the peal of church bells and read about it in wedding announcements and church bulletins. You can even see it in brightly decorated cars parading by on dazzling June days. But this reaffirmation is taking place in another way, too.

In Washington, DC, and in over 30 states, legislators are stepping forward to make sure that marriage is protected in American law. My letter is brief this month because the Family Research Council is in the thick of this essential effort. The reaffirmation of traditional marriage is coming **just in time**. Even as I write this, an organized assault is in progress to redefine marriage to allow men to marry men and women to marry women.

Let me recap quickly what has happened. In 1993, the highest court in Hawaii handed down a shocking decision. Liberal judges there said that Hawaii’s law limiting marriage to one man and one woman (similar to laws in every other state) was a form of sex discrimination—unless the state could somehow show that it had a “compelling interest” in reserving marriage to couples of the opposite sex! Hawaii is a very liberal state politically, but this ruling sparked immediate outrage even there.

Nearly three quarters of Hawaii’s citizens told pollsters they *reject* making Hawaii a haven for homosexual couples to “marry.” In 1994 the Hawaii legislature responded and passed a law reaffirming that marriage is intended for “man-woman units”—not two men or two women.

Despite the findings of this poll, and subsequent efforts to convince the courts that Hawaii does have a “compelling interest” here, most experts believe that traditional marriage in Hawaii will be struck down—perhaps as soon as this August. If that happens, homosexual