

IFO Board of Directors Resolution to Oppose Constitutional Amendment to Recognize Marriage as Only Between One Man And One Woman

Whereas, state-sanctioned civil marriage provides rights, responsibilities and benefits set forth in over 500 Minnesota laws available to opposite sex couples, but not same sex couples; including health coverage for state employees, long term care insurance coverage, automatic spouse designation as beneficiary for pension benefits, unemployment benefits paid to survivors, and laws affecting couples during illness and death,

And,

Whereas, the United States General Accounting Office has documented that over 1,000 federal benefits and protections acquired by civil marriage are not available to same sex couples; including the ability to collect social security benefits, ability to avoid tax consequences in providing health care coverage to partners, ability to receive benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act to care for a sick partner or child,

And,

Whereas, the Inter Faculty Organization believes that equity of benefits for all faculty and their families, without regard to sexual orientation, is a human right, a civil right, and a labor equity issue of the highest priority,

And,

Whereas, the IFO believes that same sex couples deserve and should receive the same rights and legal protections as the state law provides to married couples,

And,

Whereas, the IFO is pledged to support marriage equity that would provide the same rights and legal protections for same sex couples as the state law provides for married couples,

And,

Whereas, the IFO believes that the Minnesota Constitution should not be amended to discriminate against any group of people by denying them civil rights,

Be it resolved,

That the IFO opposes the 2012 general election ballot question recognizing marriage as only between one man and one woman.

Adopted September 22, 2011