

COALITION TO SAVE MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK

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* All organizations listed for
identification purposes only.

May 29, 2008

For Immediate Release: Comment on Governor Paterson's Directive Regarding Foreign Same-Sex Marriage Licenses

Governor Paterson's recent directive requiring state agencies to recognize foreign same-sex marriage licenses is an ill-advised encroachment upon the authority of the New York State Legislature.

"Governor Paterson has taken a huge step backward," said Stephen P. Hayford, a spokesman for the Coalition to Save Marriage in New York. "When elected officials take actions that exceed the scope of their authority, they erode our trust in government. New Yorkers know this all too well, given our experience with Eliot Spitzer's heavy-handed attempts to impose his will on our state without regard for other branches of government. Unfortunately, it does not appear that Governor Paterson has learned this lesson. At a time when he ought to be building consensus and restoring the confidence of the public, he has chosen to take a divisive position and to override our State Legislature, which has not legalized same-sex marriage. The flawed decision recently issued by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department – which may yet be reversed on appeal – is a flimsy justification for the governor's action."

Michael R. Long, Chairman of The Conservative Party of New York State, added that "marriage in New York State is between a man and a woman. The California Judges overturned the will of the California people and Governor Paterson is apparently trying to do the same thing in New York."

Rev. Jason J. McGuire of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms agreed. "This directive is an attack on marriage and the family. By taking this action, Governor Paterson has usurped the function of our Legislature and has forced his radical social views upon our state."

Anne F. Downey, Esq. of Concerned Women for America of New York stated that "just as the California Supreme Court recently forced its views of same-sex marriage upon the voters of that state, now New York's governor has forced his very liberal views about same-sex marriage on New Yorkers. One man's extreme views have now trumped the will of the people. We urge the Legislature to rein in the governor's efforts to make an end run around the legislative process. Marriage is a fundamental institution and should not be redefined at the whim of one person."

Legal action to block the governor's directive is being considered.

Contact: Stephen P. Hayford (518-364-5324)

The following organizations and individuals have endorsed the Statement of Position issued by the Coalition to Save Marriage in New York: The Rt. Rev. William H. Love, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Albany; The Conservative Party of New York State; New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms; Association of Hispanic Ministers; The American Family Association of New York; Caucus for America; Concerned Women for America of New York; New York Christian Coalition; United Chaplains of New York/Brooklyn Chapter; New York Family Policy Council; Marriage & Family Savers Institute; Nassau County Civic Association; National Traditionalist Caucus; The Association of Politically Active Christians.