

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS DYSON, Wilken, Seekins, Wagoner, Huggins, Green, Therriault, Gary Stevens, Stedman

REPRESENTATIVE Lynn

Introduced: 2/28/05

Referred: Judiciary

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the federal marriage amendment.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** traditional marriage is a fundamental social institution, deeply rooted in  
4 all societies, that has been tested, reaffirmed, and celebrated as the cornerstone of society for  
5 thousands of years; and

6 **WHEREAS** the strength and success of a culture and its individuals directly depends  
7 on the stability and permanence of its foundations; and

8 **WHEREAS** courts across the country have recently issued inconsistent decisions  
9 about marriage that are in violation of established legal procedures, unmindful of long-  
10 standing traditions, and contrary to the will of the vast majority of the public; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has begun allowing same-sex  
12 marriages, thus creating tremendous confusion and legal uncertainty in the remaining states  
13 regarding the full faith and credit of those unions in other jurisdictions; and

14 **WHEREAS** federal law has been understood for more than 200 years to decree that a  
15 marriage is the legal union of a man and a woman as husband and wife and that a spouse is a  
16 husband or wife of the opposite sex; and

1           **WHEREAS**, more than a century ago, the United States Supreme Court wrote of the  
2 "union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony" in *Murphy v.*  
3 *Ramsey*, 114 U.S. 15, 45 (1885); and

4           **WHEREAS**, in 1996, the United States Congress passed and President Clinton signed  
5 into the law the Defense Of Marriage Act, defining marriage in federal law as a "legal union  
6 between one man and one woman as husband and wife"; and

7           **WHEREAS** there are currently 43 states with statutory definitions of marriage as the  
8 union between one man and one woman; and

9           **WHEREAS** currently 16 states have adopted constitutional amendments that protect  
10 the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman; and

11           **WHEREAS**, in 1996, the Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature amended AS 25.05 to  
12 declare that marriage is a union between one man and one woman and to declare that same-  
13 sex marriages are prohibited in Alaska; and

14           **WHEREAS**, in November 1998, the people of the State of Alaska approved  
15 Legislative Resolve 71, Twentieth Alaska State Legislature, to amend art. I of the  
16 Constitution of the State of Alaska by adding sec. 25, which states, "to be valid or recognized  
17 in this State, a marriage may exist only between one man and one woman";

18           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature is committed to continuing to  
19 defend, promote, and support the historic role of the family as the basic unit of our society and  
20 legal marriage as the union of one man and one woman; and be it

21           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the 109th United  
22 States Congress to approve Senate Joint Resolution 1, known as the Marriage Protection  
23 Amendment, that proposes to amend the Constitution of the United States by defining the  
24 institution of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

25           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
26 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
27 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate;  
28 the Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis  
29 Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Tom DeLay, Majority  
30 Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of  
31 the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa

- 1 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
- 2 the Alaska delegation in Congress.