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Marriage: An Issue of Rights and Benefits?

When the California Supreme Court struck down their state's Defense of Marriage Act in May 2008, a point was proven: this debate is not about rights and benefits.

Even before one Proposition 8 vote was counted in California, same-sex partners could enter into domestic partnerships which provided all the benefits of marriage the state could give.

The California court's controversial May 2008 decision actually served to take one of the main arguments of same-sex marriage activists - "the rights and benefits issue" - completely off the table, argues Glenn T. Stanton, research fellow for global family formation at Focus on the Family.

"The recent and far-ranging CA Supreme Court decision summarily demolished one of the opposition's primary points: justice demands same-sex couples have access to all the rights and protections of marriage under law. California law already gave same-sex couple each and every right of marriage, but merely called it something different: domestic partnerships. This Court, in its ruling, said having the same rights, but merely a different name imposed "appreciable harm" on gay couples and the children who live with them!"

"People need to know the Court said this wasn't about rights, but making sure gay couples feel totally accepted. Marriage has never been about identity politics and passing the Amendment wouldn't restrict any of these couples from the benefits of marriage they say so desperately need. The CA Supreme Court unwittingly took this argument right out of the hands of same-sex marriage advocates."

The debate about marriage in Pennsylvania is not about benefits. It is about defending the status of an important institution that serves as a building block for the well-being of our communities.

For more information, visit www.PA4Marriage.org or call 717-657-4990 x106.