



April 7, 2009

## Same-Sex Marriage in the Heartland Is Pennsylvania Next?

Last Friday, the Supreme Court of Iowa ruled that same-sex couples can now marry. The ruling invalidates Iowa's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, which limited marriage to the union of husband and wife. Like Pennsylvania, Iowa requires that passage of an amendment in two successive sessions of the Legislature before the citizenry can vote. Also like Pennsylvania, according to an April 6, 2009, article on IowaPolitics.com, most of Iowa's legislators assured constituents that, "Iowa's Defense of Marriage Act is solid and will pass any court challenge; therefore a constitutional amendment is unnecessary."

Reacting to the Iowa Supreme Court's news in an Associated Press article (April 4) John Stemberger of the Florida Family Policy Council remarked, "It's a classic example of why we in Florida amended our state constitution to protect it from judges who would not seek to appreciate their limited and restrained role as a jurist." A few months ago, the citizens of Florida, California and Arizona passed marriage protection amendments.

Advocates in Iowa will immediately begin the process of amending their state constitution to protect marriage as the union of husband and wife. Iowa can pass a marriage amendment by 2012. It is time for Pennsylvania's legislature to act now, too. The legislative process must begin now to allow the people to determine the meaning of marriage.

For more information visit [www.PA4Marriage.org](http://www.PA4Marriage.org) or call 717-657-4990 x106.