



Ethical Action Report



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GLBT Equality: Participate June 5th in the National Call-In Day

Tell your senator to oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment.

BACKGROUND

On June 5th the Senate will vote on amending the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman only. The Marriage Protection Amendment (MPA), formerly known as the Federal Marriage Amendment, would take away the protections of marriage from same-sex couples and their children. The MPA would also jeopardize state and local domestic partnership laws and nullify civil rights protections based on marital status.

Discrimination should not be written into the Constitution. Same-sex couples should not be denied the rights that all other Americans enjoy.

This amendment is a political ploy in an election year to rile the religious right and direct our attention away from the massive failures of the Bush administration. Our money and resources would be much better spent on more urgent matters. Tell Washington to stop

playing politics with people's lives and defend the principles of freedom and justice.

ACTION

Call your senators on June 5th and urge them to vote no on the Marriage Protection Amendment, which would amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as strictly between a man and a woman, singling out gay and lesbian Americans for separate and unequal treatment. You can reach your senator by dialing (202) 224-3121. The Senate website www.senate.gov also lists direct office lines and e-mail addresses.

Civil Liberties: Demand a Special Counsel to Investigate NSA Spying

Help preserve our nation's system of checks and balances.

BACKGROUND

It was recently revealed that President Bush authorized the National Security Agency to conduct electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens without a warrant.

This is an abuse of presidential power and is in violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which makes it a crime to intentionally engage in electronic surveillance without court approval. Congress passed FISA after revelations that former President Nixon was spying on American citizens, using national security as a justification.

No president should be above the law. A special counsel is necessary to maintain our nation's checks and balances.

ACTION

E-mail your senators and insist that the Department of Justice appoint a special counsel to investigate and prosecute any and all crimes committed.

Freedom of Speech: Tell Google to Stop Repressing Freedom of Information in China

Help defend freedom of information worldwide.

BACKGROUND

Early in 2006, Google launched a Chinese version of its search engine, Google.cn. This version of Google's popular search engine is self-censored and restricts search results for key words such as "human rights," "political reform," and "Tiananmen Square," among others.

The chief executive of Google argued that censorship was unavoidable in the Chinese market, where the government restricts free speech. However, Google is acting contrary to their previous pledge not to censor results for any search term, a statement that was

displayed on their Support Center website. Since the launch of Google.cn, this statement has been removed.

Under threat is the right to freedom of information and the free flow of ideas across borders, guaranteed by international human rights laws. There are currently over 100 million Internet users in China who will be affected by Google's decision to self-censor.

ACTION

Write to the CEO of Google and tell him to defend freedom of information by refusing to censor Google's search engine. His address is:

Eric Schmidt, Chairman and CEO
Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043
USA

You can also contact the Google Help Center with your complaint at www.google.com/support/bin/request.py.

Women's Rights: Help Pass the Freedom of Choice Act (S.2593/H.R.5151)

Help protect reproductive freedom for future generations of American women.

BACKGROUND

In March 2006, the governor of South Dakota signed into law a bill that outlaws abortion in all cases except when the woman's life is in danger. There would be no exceptions for women who are the victims of rape or incest, and doctors who carry out an abortion would be fined \$5,000 and could face up to five years in prison. The bill was written specifically to challenge *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that established the right to abortion, and will be implemented on July 1st, 2006.

Twelve other states did consider or are considering state-wide abortion bans of their own during this legislative season. In addition, several states have passed "trigger laws" that would severely restrict or even outlaw abortions upon a reversal of *Roe*.

In reaction to these restrictions, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) have introduced the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). FOCA would establish a federal law that would secure the right to choose and guarantee reproductive freedom for American women in the event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

ACTION

Urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Freedom of Choice Act (S.2593/H.R.5151).

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