



Marriage Amendment Project

January 18, 2005

Karl Rove, Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Via facsimile: 202-456-0191

Dear Karl,

Pro-family leaders from across the country are in Washington, D.C. this week to observe and celebrate the Inauguration of President Bush to a second term. We arrived filled with hope and anticipation about what the President can accomplish over the next four years. We believe he has an historic opportunity to strengthen our nation, our families and to provide security for our children. We are anxious to encourage millions of pro-family Americans to stand with the President in this effort.

We are particularly optimistic about the improved chances we have to preserve marriage as the union of one man and one woman through a Constitutional Amendment. Great progress was made toward this goal in November. Voters chose the President who supported the amendment over Senator Kerry who did not. A dozen states with referenda on the issue voted overwhelmingly for traditional marriage. Many more will do so in the months ahead. The new U.S. Senate represents a shift of at least five votes in our direction.

We trust then that you can imagine our deep disappointment in the defeatist position President Bush demonstrated in a weekend interview published in the *Washington Post*. The President cited resistance in the Senate to passing a Constitutional Amendment and appeared to accept the excuse that no action was possible unless the Defense of Marriage Act was struck down. He even declined to answer a simple question about whether he would use his bully pulpit to overcome this Senate foot dragging. This comes on the heels of the President's interview a few weeks before the election on which he appeared to endorse civil unions.

We couldn't help but notice the contrast between how the President is approaching the difficult issue of Social Security privatization where public opinion is deeply divided and the marriage issue where public opinion is overwhelmingly on his side. Is he prepared to spend significant political capital on privatization but reluctant to devote the same energy to preserving traditional marriage? If so, it would create outrage with countless voters

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who stood with him just a few weeks ago, including an unprecedented number of African Americans, Latinos and Catholics who broke with tradition and supported the President solely because of this issue. Millions of us were committed to President Bush and voted for him because of his commitment to sanctity of life and his support for marriage between one man and one woman. When the Administration adopts a defeatist attitude on an issue that is at the top of our agenda it becomes impossible for us to unite our movement on an issue such as Social Security privatization where there are already deep misgivings.

Fortunately there is time for the Administration to correct the impression that your strategy is passivity in the fight to preserve marriage. We respectfully request that the President spend his political capital on the issue of the preservation of marriage just as he intends to do on other priorities. We request the designation and announcement of a top level White House/Administration official to coordinate this effort. When it comes to the social security of our culture and our children nothing is more urgent than stopping the activist courts which are trying to redefine marriage. We can do this by passing the Constitutional Amendment. We look forward to working with you to accomplish that goal.

Jim Dobson
Focus on the Family

Tony Perkins
Family Research Council

Paul M. Weyrich
Free Congress Foundation

Gary Bauer
American Values

Rich Bott
Bott Radio Network

Kenneth Hutchenson
Mayday for Marriage

Rod Parsley
Center for Moral Clarity

Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Chairman
High Impact Leadership Coalition

Janet Folger
Faith2Action

Alan Chambers, President
Exodus International

Donald E. Wildman
American Family Association

Dick Bott, Sr.
Bott Radio Network

Stuart Epperson
Salem Communications Corporation

Carl D. Herbster
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Byron Voorheis, III,
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Rick Scarborough
Vision America

Gary Glenn
American Family Association of
Michigan

Keith Wiebe
American Assoc. of Christian School

Randy Thomas
Exodus International

Leo Godzich
Nat'l Assoc. of Marriage Enhancement

Kelly Shackelford
Free Market Foundation

Ron Crews
MA Coalition for Marriage

Phil Burress
Citizens for Community Values

Samuel Casey
Christian Legal Society

Rev. William Owens, President
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Let Freedom Ring, Inc.

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Men for Nations

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Alan E. Sears
Alliance Defense Fund
(for identification purposes only)

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American Center for Civic Character

Richard D. Land
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission