

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of concerned citizens, in support of marriage as currently defined in the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) draws to the attention of the House:

- that on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 the House of Representatives endorsed a motion that said "That this House calls on all parliamentarians, consistent with their duties as representatives, to gauge their constituents' views on ways to achieve equal treatment for same sex couples including marriage."
- that marriage is currently defined in the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) as being "... the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."
- that each element of the definition of marriage is essential to its integrity, particularly with respect to the welfare and wellbeing of children;
- that marriage is a "keystone" institution on which our society rests;
- that marriage provides for a stable family structure and is the ideal environment in which children are raised and nurtured; and
- that marriage is worthy of ongoing protection and support.

We therefore ask the House to maintain support for marriage as currently defined in the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) and reject any proposal to amend its definition.