

Thank you Council President and Council Members

As we celebrate marriage this week please remember that at this moment there are 562 married couples in the county of Fresno -- 18,000 couples statewide -- taxpayers, voters, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters whose marriages are in legal purgatory. Can you imagine waking up one morning and finding that your marriage -- your family -- was suddenly up for a popular vote? Walking outside your front door to collect your newspaper to face yard signs declaring your family unwelcome, and unvalued in the human community? Can you imagine looking into the eyes of your wife, or your husband and not knowing if tomorrow you would turn on the TV to find that you were suddenly divorced, without your consent? Or looking at your children and not knowing whether tomorrow you and your spouse would legally both be their parents?

This is a proclamation backed by a group that celebrates marriage, that educates people to help them form lasting, healthy relationships, and to avoid the heartache of divorce and yet right now there are 32,000 Californians having divorce thrust upon them. These divorces are not only damaging to those 32,000 Californians, and specifically to the 562 married couples in Fresno, but to our community as a whole. They send the message that people who are different are not equal. They tell us, that as a community it is okay, if not desirable to be so strongly divided, which goes against a fundamental American principle, “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”.

We hope that you will remember these marriages as you pass this resolution. We hope that these marriages will be validated and upheld by the California Supreme Court. We hope that you remember and understand that we too are real people, who love and cherish our spouses the same as everybody else -- who celebrate marriage just like you and only want to be able to share in that experience. But rest assured, that no matter what the outcome of the court’s decision, we will continue, we will never stop fighting for marriage equality....we’ll be there in 2010, 2012, and on and on until every person has the chance to celebrate -- fully, and legally, the covenant of marriage.