

My name is Jay Matthew, and I am with the ErasetheH8 campaign.

In no way, am I against the idea of celebrating marriage. In fact there is not one thing that I have heard today that I disagree with. I want express that To proclaim to call this week "celebration of marriage week," is Insensitive, and I am hurt that the Mayor and this council are not clearly acknowledging the fact that I, as a gay man, am unable to make the decision to be wed to my future husband. I find it hard to celebrate the institution of marriage, an institution that I am so clearly excluded from. I know the effects that divorce has on people.

In my opinion, it is insulting to think that you would accept, and sign, a proclamation that celebrates marriages when you know that marriages are being denied to Fresno citizens. To not take into account that Proposition 8 just stripped away the ability of every person in Fresno's Lesbian and Gay community the right to get married, as well as left 500+ Fresno county marriages in limbo is unfair and wrong. We are the people of Fresno, and I do believe in the sanctity of marriage, that is why I will not give up the fight to make sure that we all have that right to celebrate. And we do celebrate it, some of us for more than 50 years. That's what I call a tradition.