


Massachusetts Family Institute
Dedicated to Strengthening the Family

April 5, 2006

Dear Representative

It has come to our attention that some legislators may be confusing Massachusetts Family Institute (MFI) with another similarly named organization that also attempted to pass a constitutional amendment to define marriage in 2001-2002. We hope with this letter to clear up that possible mistaken identity.

Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage (MCM) was the ballot question committee for the 2001-2002 initiative petition to define marriage. MFI members did help collect signatures in 2001. That amendment was unconstitutionally defeated by Senate President Birmingham adjourning the constitutional convention without a vote. MCM is led by Sally and Ed Pawlick, producers of MassNews. They also work with the Article 8 Alliance and MassResistance, led by Brian Camenker.

The second constitutional amendment in 2003-2004 was a legislative amendment sponsored by Representative Philip Travis and other legislators. It was supported by MFI, but not MCM, MassNews, Article 8 and Mass Resistance. After it was altered to mandate the creation of civil unions as equal to marriage, MFI joined opponents in urging its defeat to make way for a new simple amendment to define marriage. The civil union amendment was resoundingly defeated in September 2005.

Massachusetts Family Institute (MFI), and its ballot question committee, VoteOnMarriage.org, is the sponsor of the new amendment, for which a record number of 170,000 people signed petitions in 2005. It is currently before the legislature and scheduled to be voted upon at the Constitutional Convention on May 10.

MFI is part of a coalition of 20 state and national organizations committed to getting the new amendment before the people. MCM, MassNews, Article 8 and MassResistance are not members of this coalition. They are not affiliated with us and we do not work with them.

I hope this resolves any past or future misunderstanding.

Sincerely,



Kris Mineau
President, Massachusetts Family Institute
Spokesman for VoteOnMarriage.org



Evelyn T. Reilly
Director of Public Policy
Massachusetts Family Institute