

April 5, 2004

Dear Supervisor,

On behalf of the over 2,600 households in Sonoma County who are members of the American Civil Liberties Union, I urge you to act to have the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution supporting marriage for same sex couples, recognizing same sex marriages that have already been performed and opposing a constitutional amendment that would restrict states from allowing same sex marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships.

The opportunity to publicly and legally commit to share one's life with a person of one's choice is for many people one of the most central aspects of human experience, and denial of marriage to same sex couples is a denial of fundamental civil rights. Marriage is a commitment. It is about sharing, love, trust, and compromise. Two adults who make this personal choice to form a life-long commitment should not be denied the right to marry just because they are gay or lesbian. Society is stronger when it recognizes all couples who share their love and commitment.

Please put Sonoma County on record in supporting love, commitment and equality and opposing those who want to change the Constitution to deny state governments the power to grant to couples of the same sex legal recognition of their relationship.

Sincerely,

Steven Fabian, Chair

ACLU Letter Sent to City Council of Sebastopol:

March 16, 2004

Mayor Linda Kelley and the City Council of the City of Sebastopol,

On behalf of the over 2,600 households in Sonoma County and the over 360 households who have a Sebastopol address and are members of the American Civil Liberties Union, I urge the council to pass the resolution urging the county Board of Supervisors to support "civil marriage" for same sex couples, opposing a constitutional amendment that would restrict same sex marriages and recognizing same sex marriages that have already been performed.

The resolution is correct in stating that "The opportunity to publicly and legally commit to share one's life with a person of one's choice is for many people one of the most central aspects of human experience, and denial of marriage to same sex couples is a denial of fundamental civil rights."

The Sonoma Chapter of the ACLU passed a resolution today in support of Sebastopol's leadership in proposing and hopefully passing this resolution. I can assure the council that our chapter will do all it can to attempt to get similar resolutions passed by the other cities in Sonoma County as well as the county's Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely yours,

Steven Fabian, Chair