

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE WASHINGTON UNITED FOR MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN AND VOTE TO APPROVE REFERENDUM 74 TO RETAIN WASHINGTON STATE'S CIVIL MARRIAGE EQUALITY LAW

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Washington State Legislature passed and the Governor signed ESSB 6239, eliminating the ban on civil marriage for gay and lesbian couples, keeping domestic partnerships for seniors, and preserving the right of clergy and religious organizations to decide for themselves whether to perform or recognize any marriage ceremony or provide accommodations, facilities, services, or goods related to performing or celebrating any marriage; and

WHEREAS, this Civil Marriage Equality Law was introduced by request of Governor Gregoire, passed the State Senate by a bi-partisan vote of 28-21 and passed the State House of Representatives by a bi-partisan vote of 55-43; and

WHEREAS, AFT Washington supports the full inclusion of all families, including lesbian and gay couples and their families, in the life of our state, with equal respect, responsibility, and protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, AFT Washington opposes any attempt to repeal the Civil Marriage Equality Law or any other attempt to once again forbid lesbian and gay couples from entering into civil marriages;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AFT Washington endorses and will participate in the Washington United for Marriage Campaign;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that AFT Washington urges voters to 'decline to sign' any petitions circulated for Referendum 74 in order to negate efforts to get the repeal of the Civil Marriage Equality Law qualified for the ballot;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, because of AFT Washington's deep commitment to human, civil, and women's rights, it urges all voters to Approve Referendum 74 if it appears on the ballot this year in order to retain the Civil Marriage Equality Law.

Sandra Schroeder, President, AFT Washington