

Resolution Title: Resolution on Marriage Equality
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334

Whereas, marriage is a unique, social institution of civil society, regulated and administered by the state, and separate and distinct from religious, ethnic, or other traditions; and

Whereas, marriage bestows state and federal rights, protections, and responsibilities to heterosexual persons and their families that are currently unavailable to gay, lesbian bisexual and transgendered persons and their families; and

Whereas, children are being raised within all types of families; and

Whereas, U.S. law should not privilege the families of heterosexual couples over families of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered persons; and

Whereas, the opportunity to publicly and legally commit and receive public and legal acknowledgment of a private decision to share one's life with a person of one's choice is, for many persons, one of the most central aspects of human experience; therefore, the denial of marriage to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons is the denial of a fundamental civil right; and

Whereas, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered persons and their families deserve the same rights and legal protections as other families under the law, including the protection of children's economic interests by insuring legal access to the resources of both parents; and

Whereas, the inability to access these legal protections results in significant damage to these families, including financial insecurity, lack of insurance and other benefits, and access to the court system should dissolution occur; and

Whereas, discriminatory marriage laws sanction and perpetuate discrimination and homophobia, just as earlier, anti-miscegenation laws supported and perpetuated racism and social ostracism; and

Whereas, discriminatory marriage laws undermine the constitutional provision of equality, privacy, and justice for all persons; and

Whereas, the state's responsibility to enforce anti-discrimination policies should permit all families to enjoy similar rights and privileges; therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) oppose the proposed discriminatory constitutional amendment to limit civil marriages to heterosexual couples; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT support policies and legislation that remove references to sex and gender as eligibility requirements for a civil marriage license, providing for equal access to marriage and all of its legal and economic privileges and obligations, to all consenting adult persons, regardless of sex, gender-identity, sexual orientation or affectional preference.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

_____ **Delegate Assembly** _____

at a meeting held on _____

May 27, 2004 _____

Signed: _____

(President)

(Secretary)

_____ **Professional Staff Congress** _____

Local or Retiree Council Name

_____ **Local 2334** _____

AFT#