

## Florida's Marriage Discrimination Amendment

### **Amendment 2 says:**

"Inasmuch as a marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

### **Who gets hurt first?**

Almost seven million Florida adults are unmarried, including over 860,000 who are living together with their unmarried partners.

- DOMESTIC PARTNERS registered in Tampa, Miami-Dade and other counties could lose their legal status.
- UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES could lose their job benefits.
- SENIOR CITIZENS could be forced to marry and lose their pension plans or Social Security from a previous marriage, or remain unmarried and lose benefits provided by their present partner.

### **Who gets hurt in the long run?**

- Anyone whose families and caring relationships extend beyond their legally married spouses.
- The mean-spirited discrimination amendment locks FL into a hierarchy of relationships, unfairly privileging marriage and penalizing the great diversity of families that we live in.

### **Who's on our side?**

- President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti of The League of Women Voters states that "no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination. The League of Women Voters of Florida believes that all life partners in Florida should be able to advocate for their loved ones in health care settings and participate in end-of-life decisions. By prohibiting recognition of any legal union that is treated as marriage or its substantial equivalent, the ... amendment would prevent this."
- Commissioners Charlotte Rodstrom and Cindi Hutchinson of Fort Lauderdale, Bruno Barriero and Carlos Gimenez of Miami-Dade County and John E. Rodstrom, Ken Keechl, Kristin Jacobs and Sue Gunzburger of Broward County, are just a few of the many individuals who oppose Amendment 2.
- Patricia Ireland, former president of the National Organization for Women argues that, "There are more important things that belong in our Constitution."

### **What can you do?**

Make Florida the **second state** to vote down a marriage discrimination amendment!

- a. Become an AtMP Florida activist!
- b. Talk about it! Your friends and neighbors might not know how bad it is.
- c. Recruit friends to work with you
- d. Get tips and resources from AtMP – sample letters, postcards, talking points, etc.

**VOTE NO! on November 4th, 2008**