

AR adoption ban

The Alternatives to Marriage Project opposed Arkansas Ballot Initiative #1 and encouraged Arkansas citizens to vote NO! Unfortunately, it passed November, 2008.

This is
the actual text of Arkansas Ballot Initiative No. 1

An act
providing that an individual who is cohabitating outside of a valid marriage
may not adopt or be a foster parent of a child less than eighteen years old.

A proposed act

§
providing
that a minor may not be adopted or placed in a foster home if the individual
seeking to adopt or to serve as a foster parent is cohabiting with a sexual
partner outside of a marriage which is valid under the constitution and laws of
this state;

§
stating
that the foregoing prohibition applies equally to cohabiting opposite-sex and
same-sex individuals;

§
stating
that the act will not affect the guardianship of minors; defining "minor" to
mean an individual under the age of eighteen (18) years;

§
stating
that the public policy of the state is to favor marriage, as defined by the
constitution and laws of this state, over unmarried cohabitation with regard to
adoption and foster care;

§
finding
and declaring on behalf of the people of the state that it is in the best interest
of children in need of adoption or foster care to be reared in homes in which

adoptive or foster parents are not cohabiting outside of marriage;

§
providing
that the director of the department of human services shall promulgate
regulations consistent with the act;

§
and
providing that the act applies prospectively beginning on January 1, 2009.