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Quakers oppose amendment

I am strongly opposed to amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. As a Quaker and member of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, I am glad that we have a clear statement opposing such a proposed amendment by Congress to the federal Constitution. It states:

"The faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has always been to seek that of God in everyone. From this, we have come to know that God's love extends to all of Creation. All children of God regardless of their perceived or identified sexual orientation are beloved of God who created them, and all are deserving of love and compassion in accordance with the example and teachings of Jesus Christ. Within our Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we have not yet come to unity on the question of marriage for same-sex couples. However, it is surely not the Federal government's role to prefer one religious definition of marriage over another, much less to codify such a preference in the U.S. Constitution. To the contrary, the great contribution of our Constitution is to protect the rights of all faiths and all citizens. Throughout its history, the United States Constitution has been amended toward equal treatment for all. Even though the practice has always fallen short of the ideal, changes to the Constitution have been made to favor including more citizens with equal treatment, rather than fewer. We see this trend to be accordance with God's will for a just social order."

This statement also reflects my opinion as to the proposed amendment in the Pennsylvania Legislature. I believe that both state and federal laws should protect all citizens' rights equally.

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