

June 5, 2006

**TO:** Interested Parties**FROM:** Matt Nosanchuk, Senior Policy Fellow, and Jim Kessler, VP for Policy**RE:** Third Way Talking Points on the Federal Marriage Amendment

**The Federal Marriage Amendment shows why we need change in Washington. It is completely unnecessary, an intrusion into the private lives of all families, and is designed to distract America from the serious challenges that Washington is ignoring.**

**The Federal Marriage Amendment shows why we need change in Washington because Congress already passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which I supported (voted for—if it applies) and which is now the law of the land.**

- *I cannot envision any scenario in which the Supreme Court overturns this law.*
- *States have already banned same-sex marriage on their own.*
- *There are no same-sex marriages in our state, and there will continue to be no same-sex marriages whether or not this passes or fails.*

**The Federal Marriage Amendment shows why we need change in Washington, because it opens a Pandora's box of unwanted intrusion into fundamental aspects of family life and family relationships.**

- *If the Constitution is amended to regulate marriage "and the legal incidents thereof," there are those who will exploit it to justify intrusions into the private family lives of Americans.*
- *Once we begin to turn the family into a creature of constitutional law, it is not hard to imagine the next amendment – limiting our ability to raise our children according to our own family's traditions, religious beliefs, and values.*
- *This country was founded on individual liberty enshrined by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. To add the first ever provision that opens the way to redefining the family is an affront to our values and a sad day for freedom and the Constitution.*

**The Federal Marriage Amendment shows why we need change in Washington, because President Bush and the Congressional leaders are using this amendment to divert attention from pressing matters like Iraq, rising gas prices, and their sinking standing in the polls.**