

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2004

Catharine and Pamela Spaulding

Dear Friend:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding same-sex marriage. Receiving your ideas and concerns is so important in order for me to represent you, and our state, to the best of my ability in the United States Senate.

I believe that marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman. Also, I believe that it is primarily the responsibility of individual states to set the rules governing family law. I will support amending the constitution if activist judges attempt to force laws on the nation.

The Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996, bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows any state to refuse recognition of a marriage between same-sex couples. This Act preserves the rights of states to determine the legal definition of marriage. I am concerned, however, that a biased court with an agenda may overturn the Defense of Marriage Act and rewrite state laws. Should a court take this power granted to states away, my colleagues and I in the Senate will have to look to amending our Constitution to resolve the issue.

Thirty-eight states, including North Carolina, have passed Defense of Marriage Act Regulations. I support the Defense of Marriage Act Regulations because I firmly believe that the final decision regarding same-sex marriage should be left to people of North Carolina and not to an overactive judicial system.

As discussion on this issue moves forward, I will continue to support marriage as an institution between a man and a woman. The final decision on the future of marriage in America should be left to the people in America.

With my warmest best wishes,

