

Visalia Times Delta

No matter how court rules, equal marriage fight goes on

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Food for thought and call to action.

Although many think the pending Supreme Court decision on marriage equality is the "final victory," it is only the beginning of the strife for "full equality." We must energize and engage our elected officials now on the continuing issues of extreme importance. Employment discrimination, student discrimination, housing rights, trans rights ... etc.

There are many things where much work needs to be done. We must not sit back and think that the fight is over. For instance, look at Roe v. Wade. The fight over a woman's right to choose is still being attacked as I type this.

The "Religious Right" in many areas of the country are pushing legislation to try and circumvent the Supreme Court. Such as removing marriage license authority from the government and giving it to the churches. Legislation that will allow any government employee to refuse to do their assigned duties under "religious objection."

Here in California, we had an Orange County attorney try to qualify the "Sodomite Suppression Act" for the 2016 ballot. Our California Attorney General felt that was a "patently unconstitutional" ballot initiative. The Attorney General filed for "Declaratory Relief" from having to provide title and summary for the initiative and was granted such in the historical decision by the Honorable Raymond M. Cadei in Harris v. McLaughlin Case No. 34-2015-00176996.

The amount of "reactionary" poorly written legislation being proposed in anticipation of the Supreme Court decision is mind boggling. Most of this legislation is not taking in consideration the consequences it may have on children and families, such as when Virginia abolished their "Domestic Partnership" law. In a way of keeping lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks from being able to have some sort of normalcy in their relationships, they harmed so many children of heterosexual domestic partnerships. Many children in those families lost health care coverage because now their parents became "just roommates."

The "fear mongering" from the "religious right" such as "The War on Christianity" forgets that a majority of LGBT people are people of faith, and most Christian — albeit disenfranchised Christians. When an LGBT youth sits in church Sunday after Sunday hearing that they are going to hell and are an abomination, which leads them to attempt suicide or worse yet, complete suicide — where are the "family values" in that? When more than 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT and are homeless because they "came out" and were kicked out of their home for being true to who they are. Where are the "family values" in that? Where are the "Christian values" in that?

When we have an elected official willing to stand with us, we must stand with them and support them!

So, as you see by the examples, I have provided the "fight" is far from over, so let's "energize and engage" to make this world a better place for all people!

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