



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT OF 2011 (S.598 and H.R. 1116)**

Adopted by the Board of Governors of
The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
at its meeting on March 15, 2012

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2004, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers adopted a resolution and policy in support of Same Sex Marriage, which reads as follows: “The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers supports legislation authorizing marriage between same-sex couples and the extension of all legal rights and obligations of spouse and children to same sex couples who marry. The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers encourages the United States Congress and the legislatures of all states to achieve the legalization of marriage between same-sex couples and the extension of all legal rights and obligations of spouses and children to same sex couples”; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Defense of Marriage Act found at Title 28 of the United States Code denies to same-sex married couples the legal rights of heterosexual married couples under all Federal laws, rules and regulations; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the Defense of Marriage Act same-sex married couples are not entitled to the benefits of more than 1,000 Federal laws which are available to heterosexual married couples; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Respect for Marriage Act of 2011 (S.598 and H.R. 1116) would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and would ensure respect for State regulation of marriage,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers advises the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States that it would serve the public interest and secure the rights and liberties of all couples who are legally married pursuant to the laws of the State in which they reside, regardless of the gender and/or sexual orientation of such couples, and would ensure respect by the Federal government for the State regulation of marriage, for the Congress and the President to adopt The Respect for Marriage Act of 2011 (S.598 and H.R.1116); that such legislation is well advised; that it would secure the rights and liberties of all citizens of the United States; that it would eliminate the discriminatory effect of the Defense of Marriage Act that erodes and curtails freedoms of the citizens of the various states, territories and possessions of the United States that are a fundamental aspect of human liberty, the preservation of which is the sole purpose of a democratic form of government; and that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers urges the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to promptly enact The Respect for Marriage Act and the President to thereafter promptly approve such enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

This 15th day of March 2012 by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

