



Testimony

SB 6716 – Expanding rights and responsibilities for domestic partnerships

Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections
January 29, 2008

Chairperson Fairley and members of the Committee, my name is Antonio Cube and I am testifying on behalf of the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), which represents the Catholic bishops of Washington State on public policy issues.

The Catholic Church steadfastly holds that marriage is the union between a man a woman, and has consistently supported the state’s Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. DOMA reflects the time honored understanding of marriage by both Church and society.

Sponsors of SB 6716 have publicly stated that this legislation is intended to extend existing marriage rights to same sex couples as a precursor to legalizing gay marriage in Washington State. It is for this reason that WSCC opposes SB 6716.

While opposing all unjust discrimination against any individual, WSCC calls upon the Legislature to uphold marriage as a union between a man and a woman which is the foundation of our civil society.