On June 19th, we will stand united in our nation’s capital and declare with one voice...

Why Marriage Matters

In Jewish tradition, the joining of a man and woman in marriage is known as kiddushin, from the root kadosh, or holy. It is through this holy union that a husband and wife emulate the biblical description of Adam and Eve: “v’hayu l’vasar echad – and they shall be one flesh.” And, in partnership with God, through marriage, they fulfill his first commandment to mankind: “pru u’r’vu – be fruitful and multiply.” No less today is this holy tradition important, as we rely upon faithful marriages and stable families to sustain and build our Jewish heritage.

A GROWING BODY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CONFIRMS THE UNIQUE STATUS AND BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE:

- Marriage reduces the risk of poverty for children and communities. The majority of children whose parents do not become or stay married experience at least a year of poverty.
- Fatherless households increase the incidences of crime. Boys whose parents divorce or never marry, for example, are two to three times more likely to end up in jail as adults.
- Marriage protects children’s physical and mental health. Children whose parents become and stay married are healthier on average and much less likely to suffer mental illness, including depression and teen suicide.
- Both men and women who marry live longer, healthier, happier lives. On virtually every measure of health and well-being, married people are better off than otherwise similar single people.
- Cohabitation is not the same as marriage. Married couples who live together prior to marriage are thirty to fifty percent more likely to divorce. Cohabiting couples do not see the same boost to health, welfare and happiness on average compared to married spouses, and neither do their children.
- Parents who do not become or stay married put children’s education at risk. Children whose parents divorce or never marry generally have lower grade point averages, are more likely to be held back a grade or drop out of school, and are less likely to become college graduates.
- When marriages fail, ties between parents and children typically weaken too. Adult children whose parents divorced are only half as likely to have warm, close ties to both their mothers and their fathers. In one national survey, 65% of adult children of divorce reported they were not close to their fathers (compared to 29% of grown children from intact marriages).

WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

Where? Capitol Grounds
Washington, DC

When? Thursday, June 19th

Rally with speakers and music from 11am-1pm, followed by March to Supreme Court.

Why?
Because every child deserves a mom and a dad!

For more info, or to get involved, visit www.MarriageMarch.org today.

(Adapted from Wilcox, W. Bradford et al. “Why Marriage Matters: 26 Conclusions from the Social Sciences” (New York: Institute for American Values, 2005).)
**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

1. **10:30 AM** – Begin gathering at Area One for the rally program.
2. **11:00 AM** – Rally program begins.
3. **1:00 PM** – End of rally; March to Supreme Court commences.
4. **2:00 PM** – March arrives at Supreme Court and Marchers disperse.
5. **2:30 PM** – Participants in Lobby Day☆ report to appropriate locations; other Marchers disperse to return home or to their buses.

☆ For info on Lobby Day, please contact lobbyday@nationformarriage.org.

**AREA MAP**

Notes:
- The rally stage will be facing away from the Capitol building, toward the West. The crowd will gather in Area One facing East toward the Capitol.
- The rally site will include portable bathroom facilities.
- The March will not continue all the way around the Capitol building, but will disperse from in front of the Supreme Court (as marked by the X).

☆ Specific reporting locations for Lobby Day will be communicated separately.