

Medical research shows same-sex parents raise healthy children

Written by Minnesotans United for All Families
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The Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MN-AAP) announced recently its formal opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment that would limit the freedom to marry for committed, same-sex couples in Minnesota. MN-AAP joined the coalition with Minnesotans United for All Families, citing the decision as a “child health issue.”

A press release from MN-AAP states, “As an advocate for children and their families, MN-AAP believes this amendment would be harmful to the health and well-being of children and adolescents in Minnesota.” The statement goes on to say that children raised by same-gender parents do just well as their counterparts raised by opposite-gender parents. “More than 25 years of research has documented that there is no relationship between parents' sexual orientation and any measure of a child's emotional, psychosocial, and behavioral adjustment. Rather, children's optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family than by the particular structural form it takes.”

“This move by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics confirms what we have heard from the thousands of same-sex couples across Minnesota raising children,” said Richard Carlbom, Campaign Manager for Minnesotans United for All Families. “This amendment hurts the real Minnesota families who would be singled out and excluded from the freedom to marry and ability to protect their families.”

A June 2012 statement from the American Psychological Association echoes the expert opinion of the MN-AAP, noting “there is no scientific evidence that parenting effectiveness is related to parental sexual orientation. That is, lesbian and gay parents are as likely as heterosexual parents to provide supportive and healthy environments for their children. This body of research has shown that the adjustment, development and psychological well-being of children are unrelated to parental sexual orientation and that the children of lesbian and gay parents are as likely as those of heterosexual parents to flourish.”

“We are thankful to the MN-AAP for its stand on behalf of the real Minnesota families who would be hurt by this amendment,” continued Carlbom.

“We know that same-sex couples want to marry and start families for the same reasons as straight families – for love, commitment and responsibility. The medical community agrees that children are best raised by two loving, committed parents. This amendment would use the

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constitution to say that some families are less valuable than others in our state, and that's why it's so important to Vote No on November 6."

Minnesotans United for All Families is the official campaign to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment that would limit the freedom to marry for committed, same-sex couples in Minnesota. Its coalition includes more than 620 organizations, businesses, non-profits, communities of faith, and all political parties in Minnesota.