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NEWS

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Assembly endorsement of same-sex ‘marriage’ is ‘terribly misguided’

Following is a statement from Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference on today’s vote in the Assembly that would redefine marriage in the Empire State:

“The vote in the state Assembly to redefine marriage is not surprising but it is nevertheless disappointing. Marriage is the fundamental building block of our society. The state has always had a compelling interest in recognizing marriage for reasons of elementary biology, as was recognized by Judge Robert Smith in the 2006 NYS Court of Appeals decision, *Hernandez v. Robles*.

“The state’s sole interest in giving legal recognition to a sexual relationship between two individuals is to encourage the stable rearing of children. Marriage leads to the creation of families and allows children to be raised in the same home by both their mother and father. It should be obvious to all that men and women bring vastly different gifts to their roles as parents, and that children are best served in the overwhelming number of cases when they are raised by their mother and their father.

“Marriage is not simply a mechanism with which to provide people with benefits. By creating same-sex ‘marriages,’ the state is endorsing the notion that procreation is completely disconnected from marriage and that a nontraditional family structure serves a child as well as a traditional one. We firmly believe that this is terribly misguided.

“On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of New York State, we call on the state Senate in the strongest terms to reject this radical social experiment and continue to recognize marriage for what it has always been and always will be – the union of one man and one woman.”

The Catholic Conference represents New York State’s Bishops in matters of public policy.

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