

On July 31st, after only a few weeks, Stand For Marriage Maine had gathered over 100,000 signatures on petitions for a "People's Veto" of LD 1020. This was an incredible effort to protect marriage in Maine.

Pastor Bob's Remarks as 100,000 signatures were submitted to the Secretary of State

For generations, the legislative chambers behind me have been used to uphold and protect and preserve the traditions and values of Maine people. This used to be a place where bridges were built to bring together the various religious traditions and the secular concerns of citizens. Elected officials understood that duty and common sense required those long standing values and traditions to be respected and indeed honored.

On April 30 of this year, I sat in the Senate Chamber listening to State Senators mocking and disparaging the deeply held faith of Maine people. It was heartbreaking to listen to the ease with which they dismissed thousands of years of human history as if it were irrelevant.

I sat there with a copy of Maine law in my hands which reads:

"The people of the State of Maine find that the union of one man and one woman joined in traditional monogamous marriage is of inestimable value to society; the State has a compelling interest to nurture and promote the unique institution of traditional monogamous marriage in the support of harmonious families and the physical and mental health of children; and that the State has the compelling interest in promoting the moral values inherent in traditional monogamous marriage."

I listened carefully for someone to explain how those agreed upon findings were somehow no longer relevant. But it appears that the majority were too concerned about the immense pressure from lobbyists to care about reason and explanation.

It was not, as some have claimed a proud day for Maine. As the House and then the Governor followed the lead of those same lobbyists, Maine has come dangerously close to trading time honored tradition and social practice for the fad of a minority. National organizations who have failed in state after state to make their case for redefining marriage, brought the battle to Maine. The majority in the Senate and the House, with hearty agreement of our Governor, did their bidding and chose to endorse a genderless marriage.

Instead of adopting policies to nurture and promote marriage, as called for by Maine law, they chose to redefine it.

But over 100,000 Mainers have already said NO.

They believe there is still a duty and a benefit to nurture and promote the unique institution of traditional marriage. They believe that the State still has a compelling interest in support of harmonious families, physical and mental health of children and the moral values inherent in traditional monogamous marriage.

100,000 registered Maine voters have put their names on these petitions to say the legislature and the Governor were wrong.

They believe in preserving, improving and promoting Marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Those who because of the shortness of time, did not have opportunity to sign a petition will now have the opportunity to help protect marriage in November.

And anyone who will call 100,000 Mainers "haters" does not know Maine.

God bless you and may God bless Maine.