

health & wellbeings

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For the Record...
continued from page seven
 order to use it as a mechanism for obtaining rights and obligations under hundreds of other statutes. Plaintiffs cannot rely upon statutes that are not contested in this case as a basis to claim the right to marriage."
 "The Legislature's choice to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples can be justified by the recognition that this union is unique. Not only is it a union of differences, but it is a union in which children are commonly raised. Therefore, it plays a particular role in teaching children. ... Current marriage laws could be seen by the Legislature as a way to recognize the significant contribution that both sexes can bring to parenting and family formation."
 "Plaintiffs twist the declaration of the Legislature's support for the institution of marriage into the statement that 'heterosexual couples and their families are morally superior to gay and lesbian couples and their families.' ... This insulting, demeaning statement is not the state's. It is an invention of the plaintiffs. Plaintiffs use these histrionics to undermine the Legislature's legitimate goal of enacting legislation to express and support its preference to encourage family formation through married opposite-sex couples because of their unique and long-standing contributions to the foundation of society."
 "The Vermont Legislature has been responsive to homosexuals in numerous ways, including prevention of discrimination, permitting adoption of children, not enacting a local Defense of Marriage Act and not regulating intimate sexual contact among adults. While homosexuals may not have achieved all of their legislative goals, it simply cannot be said that homosexuals in Vermont 'have no ability to attract the attention of lawmakers' (quoting a previous court case) or that they need 'extraordinary protection from the majoritarian political process.' (quoting another precedent)"

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