

**AGPA Same-Sex Marriage Resolution**  
**Approved by the AGPA Board of Directors November 6, 2005**

WHEREAS the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) supports the civil liberties of all of its members;

WHEREAS AGPA specifically opposes discriminatory practices directed towards its lesbian, gay, bi and transgender (LGBT) members;

WHEREAS discriminatory practices are known to negatively affect the mental and physical health of lesbian, gay, bi or transgender persons and their families (Badgett, 2001; Cochran, Sullivan, & Mays, 2003; Herek, Gillis, & Cogan, 1999; Meyer, 2003);

WHEREAS research finds same-gender couples to be functionally comparable to heterosexual couples (Peplau & Beals, 2004; Peplau & Spalding, 2000);

WHEREAS research finds that the mental health status of children raised in gay and lesbian headed households is comparable to that of children raised in heterosexually headed households (Patterson, 2004; Perrin, 2002; Stacey & Biblarz, 2001; Tasker, 1999);

WHEREAS the institution of marriage confers over 1000 federal and numerous state legal benefits upon participating heterosexual couples and their families (“An Overview of Federal Rights”, 2005c; “Marriage and Relationship Laws”, 2005d; “Rights and Protections”, 2005b; “Top 10 reasons”, 2005a);

WHEREAS the word “marriage” conveys a “specifically recognized status” and is considered to be one of the “most rewarding and cherished institutions” (Suzuki, 2004; “Massachusetts Law”, 2005; “Top 10 reasons”, 2005a);

WHEREAS most same-sex couples are denied access to civil marriage (“Marriage/Relationship Laws”, 2005);

WHEREAS civil union or domestic partnership is unequal to marriage, is not accessible to all same-gender couples, is not federally recognized, and is rarely portable (Suzuki, 2004; “History of Marriage”, 2005; “Top 10 Reasons”, 2005a);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AGPA supports the non-discriminatory practice of permitting same gender couples equal access to civil marriage and all of its benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AGPA stands in opposition to the proposed Federal Constitutional Amendment which would rewrite our country’s constitution to restrict civil marriage to opposite-sexes only.

## References

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