**Why & How To Support Gay Marriage**

**Top 5 Reasons to Allow It**

1. **Equal Rights.**
   Achieving gay marriage is about achieving equal rights. The Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens, including the 3.1 million Americans living together in same-sex relationships. If marriage is granted to some, it must be granted to all.

2. **Equal Inclusion.**
   Gay couples are alienated from our economic, legal, and health systems when they are denied marriage and the protections of over 1,000 federal statutes and hundreds of state and local laws that use the word marriage to incorporate couples into society.

3. **Equal Protections.**
   As parents, gays are denied the automatic recognition of parenthood and the simpler adoption process that married parents receive. As spouses, they are denied the right to visit and make medical decisions for a sick partner. A gay American with a foreign spouse has no right to live with that person in America.

4. **Equal Benefits.**
   A widowed gay spouse has no right to his or her partner’s social security and pension payments and does not automatically inherit their partner’s estate (wills are often disputed by disapproving families). Any inheritance received is subject to estate taxes.

5. **Equality: Separate is Inherently Unequal.**
   Substituting civil unions for marriage is impractical and immoral. It is impractical to call a committed gay relationship anything other than marriage because 1,138 federal laws use the word marriage. Everyone recognizes what “marriage” means while they may not know what “civil union” is. The moral problem is that a separate institution for the same citizenry is wrong. Would we deny blacks “marriage,” segregating them to “civil unions”? As segregation taught us, separate is inherently unequal.

**Top 3 Ways to Achieve It**

1. **Knowledge is Power.**
   Educate yourself so you can educate others. Start with our Talking Points to get the facts. Gay marriage makes sense: understand the facts to understand the logic.

2. **Spread the Word.**
   The best way to take action is to talk about gay marriage to everyone and anyone. So many are against gay marriage because most have never given thought to gay marriage. Make them think by talking to them.

3. **Work the System.**
   Government only changes when people tell it to. Contact your representatives and tell them to support gay marriage. Vote for Kerry and other supporters of gay rights.