

# MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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## STATEMENT ON BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR HOMOSEXUAL PARTNERS

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference is concerned that Governor Weld has issued an executive order extending some family benefits to certain homosexual political appointees who are living together as "domestic partners."

This action is unjust to true families and every other friendship that does not arbitrarily claim the title of "domestic partner." Family benefits are provided by the state because of the intrinsic importance of stable family life for the good of society. That advantage is not a "right" that, by being given to one group, must be extended to all. These benefits are given to the family as a concrete expression of the state's commitment to protect and foster sound family life for the good of society.

The extension of family benefits to that small minority which wishes to express friendship through homosexual relations is an arbitrary and illogical act which directly harms family life by making a special interest group equal to the family. Why should special recognition and assistance be given to friends who happen to share the same house?

As we said in our 1991 statement, Family: The Key to a Healthy Society, "No legislation should be passed and no program approved that compromises the family or takes from the family those roles and initiatives that are proper to it. The extension of the title "family" to gay and lesbian couples and the granting of economic privileges to "domestic partners" on an equal plane with true families must be opposed and rejected as undermining the family in our society today."

We support equal civil rights for all persons. We oppose any and all unjust discrimination against persons who are homosexual. The current executive order however, and similar initiatives in our Commonwealth, confuse civil rights and family benefits. In so doing, they deprive unjustly the family of its rightful place in society and exacerbate social tensions that work to undermine the common good.

Massachusetts Catholic Conference

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