

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2004

CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944

U.S. SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD INTRODUCES MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT OF 2005

24 CO-SPONSORS JOIN ALLARD IN SUPPORTING AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) introduced his Marriage Protection Amendment in the Senate Monday.

“This legislation is being introduced to protect and defend traditional marriage. We must not stand still when the courts are being used to challenge and distort civilization’s oldest, most venerable social institution,” Senator Allard said. “We are responding to that challenge.”

“Activist judges and lawyers continue trying to redefine traditional marriage in literally dozens of states,” Senator Allard said. “The American people through their elected representatives, not unelected judges, should decide the future of marriage in our country.”

“Support for this amendment comes from a broad cross-section of America, cutting across ethnic and religious lines, which believes as I do that it is important to ensure that marriage continues to be defined as it has been defined historically and culturally as the union between a man and a woman,” the Senator said.

“The second purpose of this legislation is to reinforce the authority of state legislatures – not unelected judges – to determine benefits issues related to civil unions or domestic partnerships,” Senator Allard said.

Twenty-four original co-sponsors joined the Senator in introducing the amendment. Those include Senators James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma), Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), Mike Enzi (R-Wyoming), Jim DeMint (R-South Carolina), Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama), David Vitter (R-Louisiana), John Thune (R-South Dakota), Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee), James Talent (R-Missouri), Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Richard Burr (R-North Carolina), Mel Martinez (R-Florida), Jon Kyl (R-Arizona), Elizabeth Dole (R-North Carolina), Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

###