

RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, CONCERNING HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, in 2011, the Indiana General Assembly adopted House Joint Resolution No. 6 ("HJR6") that would add a new Section 38 to Article 1 of the Indiana Constitution to read "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Indiana. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."; and

Whereas, to become effective, HJR 6 must be agreed to by the 2014 General Assembly and ratified by a majority of the state's voters voting on the question at the November 2014 general election; and

Whereas, IC 31-11-1-1(a) already provides that, "Only a female may marry a male. Only a male may marry a female."; and

Whereas, IC 31-11-1-1(a) was upheld against a state constitutional challenge; and

Whereas, the primary purposes of a constitution in a democracy is to limit the powers of government and protect the rights of minority individuals; and

Whereas, a study by the Indiana University Maurer School of Law found more than 600 rights and obligations related to marriage that could be permanently denied by HJR 6; and

Whereas, in a letter written to members of the Indiana General Assembly on November 18, 2013, the Indiana Interfaith Coalition on Non-Discrimination stated that, "The Indiana Bill of Rights guarantees the free exercise and enjoyment of religious opinions, and prevents the giving of a legal preference to any creed. Preferring and codifying one particular religious view of marriage in the Indiana Constitution flies in the face of both of these guarantees."; and

Whereas, HJR 6 may expand the powers of government, limit the rights of minority individuals, and limit the guarantees of free exercise and enjoyment of religious opinions; and

Whereas, the CEO of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, has stated that "...economic development is becoming more about talent attraction and retention, and less about taxes and incentives."; and

Whereas, leaders of the Indiana business community, including Eli Lilly and Cummins, have stated that HJR 6 would "...harm our efforts to retain and attract the best talent here" and "...it jeopardizes our ability to be competitive in global markets"; and

Whereas, HJR 6 would impede the ability of Valparaiso to attract new businesses, diversify our tax base, and draw badly needed jobs for our citizens; and

Whereas, the intent of HJR 6 does not represent the City's values as an open, welcoming community for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, that the Council hereby expresses it's opposition to HJR 6; urges the members of the 2014 Indiana

General Assembly to vote against HJR 6; and instructs the Valparaiso City Attorney to forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Indiana, the President of the Indiana Senate, the Speaker of the Indiana House, and to all Indiana House and Senate members who represent any parts of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Adopted this 23rd day of December, 2013 by a vote of all members present and voting.

John Bowker -absent

/s/ Joey Larr

Jan Dick - absent

/s/ Mike Baird

/s/ Tim Daly

/s/ Bob Taylor

/s/ Deb Butterfield

/s/ Jon Costas, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer