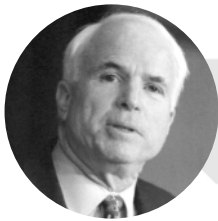


OPPOSITION TO THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT: A CONSERVATIVE VALUE



Sen. John McCain (R)

SENATOR FROM ARIZONA

"The constitutional amendment we are debating today strikes me as antithetical in every way to the core philosophy of Republicans. It usurps from the states a fundamental authority they have always possessed, and imposes a federal remedy for a problem that most states do not believe confronts them."



Dick & Lynne Cheney

VICE PRESIDENT AND
SECOND LADY

"Lynne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with. With respect to the question of relationships, my general view is freedom means freedom for everyone. ... People ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to. The question that comes up with the issue of marriage is what kind of official sanction or approval is going to be granted by government? Historically, that's been a relationship that has been handled by the states. The states have made that fundamental decision of what constitutes a marriage."



Sen. John Sununu (R)

SENATOR FROM NEW
HAMPSHIRE

"For 215 years, America's Constitution and Congress have left the power to define marriage with the states, and specifically, in the hands of the people acting through their elected representatives. ... Defining marriage is a power that should be left to the states."



Rep. Bob Barr (R)

FORMER CONGRESSMAN FROM
GEORGIA AND AUTHOR OF THE
DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

"If we, and by 'we' I mean conservatives in general, want to convince the American people of the propriety of our ideas, we must win that battle in the realm of public opinion. We must not impose our worldview by recklessly amending the greatest affirmation of individual freedom in the history of the world – our Constitution – to take power away from the people, and away from the states."



Jonah Goldberg

EDITOR-AT-LARGE,
NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE

"I've been opposed to [the MPA] ... I'm not a fair-weather friend of federalism. Real diversity, as the founders envisioned it, requires accepting that some communities will do things you don't approve of."



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