



505 Fifth Avenue, Ste. 901  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 243-3576

## **Statehouse Update - 7/13/2004**

by Marty Ryan, Legislative Director

### **Your “Call” is urgently needed**

The United States Senate is scheduled to vote Wednesday on whether to constitutionally approve of discrimination (The Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution). Please use the following link to learn more about and take “immediate action” on this proposed resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution. [Federal Marriage Amendment](#)

### **Woodshed politics**

They’re at it again. On Thursday, July 8, Republican leadership in the United States House of Representatives violated its own rule in a successful effort to defeat the “Freedom to Read” amendment. Enough Republican members of the House were taken to the woodshed by leadership and persuaded to change their vote an amendment offered by Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ron Paul (R-TX) which would help restore the privacy and First Amendment rights of library and bookstore patrons. The time limit for voting was extended by several minutes, causing the proposed amendment to lose on a 210 -210 tie.

Read more about it here:

<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=16074&c=206>

Finally, it’s very important to thank Representatives Leonard Boswell (D – Des Moines) <http://www.house.gov/boswell> and Jim Leach (R – Iowa City) <http://www.house.gov/leach>, and thank them for supporting the Sanders-Paul Amendment to the 2005 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Bill. Members of Congress rarely receive “thank-you” letters from constituents, and this is a very appropriate time.

Representatives Nussle, King, and Latham opposed the measure.