



February 8, 2008

Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu
13 septembrie Nr. 1-3
Sector 5
Bucharest, Romania
President of the Romanian Senate
Via e-mail: nicolaevacaroiu@senat.ro

Dear Sir:

Focus on the Family is a Christian ministry dedicated to strengthening the family, founded by child psychologist Dr. James Dobson. Through its broadcasts, Focus on the Family reaches, on a daily basis, 220 million listeners on 7,000 radio stations, in more than 160 countries, and in 27 different languages.

We were pleased to learn that the Romanian Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to revise Romania's laws to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Because of Dr. Dobson's and this ministry's passion for nurturing and defending families worldwide, we respectfully submit this letter in support of the efforts to protect traditional marriage in Romania.

With more than 30 years of experience helping marriages and families, we have seen the struggles of the modern family validate what social science research has long reported: The best environment in which to raise the next generation is in a home with a married mother and father. All things being equal, children with married parents consistently do better in every measure of well-being than their peers who have single, cohabiting, divorced or step-parents, and this is a stronger indicator than parental race, economic or educational status, or neighborhood.

Marriage was not created by government; it exists to meet a social need. Marriage identifies and connects a child biologically and legally with both their mother and father, ensuring that the parents who conceived the child remain together to raise the child. In this way, marriage provides something that government desperately needs and cannot provide for itself—strong and stable citizens.

Because of the social goods marriage provides for children, as well as for men, women and society, it is in the government's best interest to legally define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Conversely, legal recognition of same-sex relationships undermines public support for marriage, which in Romania is currently very high. In fact, 94.7 percent of the Romanian population agrees that children need a home with both a mother and a father to grow up happily (International Social Survey Programme, 2002).

Defining marriage in law as between a man and a woman is necessary to protect it against the efforts of those who would place the desires of adults above the needs of children. Marriage is not a legal vehicle for the purpose of equality; rather it is a social institution with children at its heart. Therefore, we strongly urge you to protect the traditional definition of marriage from any attempts to radically redefine it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Minnery".

Tom Minnery
Senior Vice President, Government & Public Policy