



August 3, 2005

Statement of Norma Shapiro, Legislative Director, ACLU of Massachusetts on Anti-Gay Ballot Initiative

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts supports the equal marriage rights of gay couples in the Commonwealth and denounces a petition filed yesterday with the State Attorney General's office that, if passed, would ban gay marriage.

This initiative is mean-spirited and discriminatory. No one's rights should be put up for popular vote, especially after efforts to deny those rights have been reviewed and twice rejected by the Legislature. More than 6,000 gay couples have been married in Massachusetts, strengthening families and communities. This mean spirited measure to keep families from economic and social equality is reprehensible.

For further information, the ACLU of Massachusetts, part of the MassEquality coalition, recommends a visit to www.massequality.org