

MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
WEST END PLACE

150 Staniford Street, Suite 5, Boston, MA 02114-2511
Phone (617) 367-6060
FAX (617) 367-2767
staff@macathconf.org

Following is the text of the letter addressed and sent individually to each legislator of the Massachusetts General Court on May 7, 2007 from the four ordinaries of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and the Dioceses of Fall River, Springfield and Worcester. The letter addresses the Constitutional Convention scheduled for May 9th.

We, the Roman Catholic Bishops in Massachusetts with nearly 3 million parishioners in communities all across the Commonwealth, urge you to vote at the Constitutional Convention, scheduled to be called to order on May 9th, to move the Marriage Amendment to the November 2008 state-wide ballot.

As Bishops, we reiterate our position that we do not seek the translation of our religious convictions into public policy. Rather we speak based on universally accessible moral reasoning in order to promote the common good. We believe that society has a moral responsibility to foster the good of families, since the good of the family is closely linked to the institution of marriage as it has been recognized from time immemorial.

The proponents of the Marriage Amendment have followed the process afforded them by the Massachusetts Constitution. A record number of registered voters signed petitions asking to put the amendment on the 2008 ballot. A recent Suffolk University poll concluded that nearly two-thirds of the Commonwealth's registered voters want to exercise their constitutional right to vote on the Marriage Amendment.


We ask you to listen to the people. We ask you not to deny the right of our citizens to vote in this democracy. We ask you to let the people express their views on the future of marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Please vote to move the Marriage Amendment forward for the voter's consideration at the 2008 ballot.



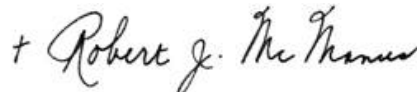
Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley
Archbishop
Archdiocese of Boston



Most Rev. Timothy A. McDonnell
Bishop
Diocese of Springfield



Most Rev. George W. Coleman
Bishop
Diocese of Fall River



Most Rev. Robert J. McManus
Bishop
Diocese of Worcester