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Psychiatric Physicians is proud to stand with our national Psychiatric Association, on issues of civil rights, and with our colleagues in Pediatrics, in Psychology and Social Work in support of L.D. 1020 that will make it possible for gay and lesbian couples to join in marriage.

As physicians, we note the invariably positive influence of stable, adult partnerships on all family members. Sustained and committed family relationships are cornerstones of our social support network as we face life's challenges, including illness and loss. There is ample evidence that long-term spousal and family support enhances physical and mental health at all stages of development.

Because same-sex couples are denied marriage, they experience several kinds of state-sanctioned discrimination that can adversely affect the stability of their relationships and their mental health.

In the same way, the children of gay and lesbian parents – because those parents cannot marry – do not have the same protection that civil marriage affords the children of heterosexual couples.

Civil marriage is associated with a unique set of benefits and responsibilities that provide legal and economic protections to adults in committed relationships and to their children.

The Maine Psychiatric Association strongly supports Maine legislation that provides for civil marriage for same-sex families, which will protect all Maine families from discrimination.



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Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians

207. 242.4007