

Mr. Speaker, we have heard this afternoon about children and activist judges, because that is how the focus groups suggest this debate should be framed.

My children have been raised around people in committed same-sex marriages, relationships in some cases which have included children. They, and most of us, have seen neighbors, relatives, and friends in dysfunctional heterosexual marriages. It is not their sexual orientation, it is people's behavior. My children and most American young people know that marriage is not under attack, and activist judges do not prevent citizens in States from making their own decisions, like we will in Oregon in November.

It is shameful to play politics with the personal lives of millions of Americans who are not just gay, but elderly, and for whatever reason are not married but are in a committed relationship. Luckily, because my children and the vast majority of America's youth disagree with the world view of the supporters of this amendment, it will not only fail today, but it certainly does not represent the future.