

Email from **David Burrowes MP** referencing the statement reproduced above

15 January 2013

Dear John

Many thanks for your email. Your attachment was very helpful and I will be sure to use it as I prepare to debate the Bill later this month.

As you may well be aware, I believe that a redefinition of marriage is wrong and unnecessary and could lead to the undermining of what is an important institution. If marriage is to include same sex couples it would be based not on the prerequisite structure of a sexual union between a man and a woman but only on a close, loving, exclusive friendship.

I recognise of course that there are many loving same sex couples - indeed some which are more committed than marriages. I therefore fully respect civil partnerships which effectively mirror legal rights of married couples. However, marriage has always been about a distinctive relationship between a man and a woman, evidenced by a potential capacity to have children. I do not believe the State should or needs to redefine the meaning of marriage. I am also concerned that a redefinition will in time restrict liberty of conscience beyond churches to the workplace and classroom.

For this reason I am leading the opposition to these proposals in Parliament. I appreciate that there are strong feelings against the Conservative Party and Prime Minister on this issue, however, I would suggest that you judge each MP on their individual stance and vote accordingly. There are an increasing number of Conservative MPs speaking out against the proposals and I know that they, like me, need the support of their constituents now more than ever.

For further information and for copies of recent articles I have written on this subject please go to: http://www.davidburrowes.com/marriage_campaign

Thank you for taking the time to contact me and I hope you find the above useful.

Best wishes

David