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News Release

GAY AND LESBIAN COALITION OF WESTERN NEW YORK ADOPTS OFFICIAL POLICY ON GAY MARRIAGE.

Buffalo, NY, December 11, 2003 – – In its continuing effort to advocate for equal rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) individuals in Western New York, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition adopted an official policy on gay marriage at its December 8th Board of Directors meeting. Closely matching the Empire State Pride Agenda's (ESPA's) advocacy statement, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Western New York's position reads:

The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Western New York is dedicated to winning equal rights under federal and state law for LGBT families, which must eventually include equal access to civil marriage. We also support any local, state or federal measures that move our families closer to receiving the rights and responsibilities granted to other families through civil marriage, whether through the creation of civil unions or a domestic partnership structure, or passage of any of the incremental bills that give our families a piece of the 700+ state rights which we are denied by being blocked from civil marriage. The Coalition completely respects the separation of church and state and would not want government to take the unconstitutional action of by requiring any religious institution to perform same-sex marriages.

The adoption of this policy comes as important strides toward marriage equality remain challenged by the threat of a Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and defining civil marriages as only existing between man and woman.

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