

February 4, 2004

Akin Statement on Massachusetts Supreme Court Ruling on Gay Marriage

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), released the following statement regarding today's decision by the Massachusetts high court that the Massachusetts constitution will tolerate only full and equal marriage rights for gay couples.

"This ruling clears the way for same-sex marriages in Massachusetts that could take place as early as this May. It also underscores the need for a constitutional amendment which will insulate states from the legal ramifications of these types of activist and fundamentally unconstitutional decisions.

"Unless marriage is defined on a Federal level in a traditional, common sense way that is consistent with our heritage and the views of an overwhelming number of Americans, it will become increasingly difficult to shield state laws from such nonsensical, invasive and troublesome ruling.

"This decision seeks to usurp the legislative authority of elected representatives. A constitutional amendment is necessary to prevent such judicial activism from undermining the sanctity of marriage."