

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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May 21, 2012

STATEMENT ON OPPOSITION TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Rep. Andy Gipson

Earlier this month President Obama stated his personal support for the establishment of same-sex marriage in the United States of America. His statement has re-ignited a debate in this country on whether same-sex marriage should be instituted or recognized as a matter of policy.

I am and have always been opposed to same-sex marriage and/or civil unions in whatever form. On May 10, 2012 I posted a comment to my Facebook page which simply stated that despite the high degree of press given to Obama's opinion, the "only opinion that counts is God's. Any way you slice it, it [same-sex marriage] is sin: see Romans 1:26-28 and Leviticus 20:13."

Since that time, a well-known radical liberal blog (The Huffington Post) ran an article falsely claiming that this Facebook post was a call "to kill gay people." Nothing could be further from the truth. I have never publicly or privately called for the killing of any people. I believe all people are created in the image of God and I stand firmly for the sanctity of all human life. All people are entitled to the protection of the laws of our nation and state protecting human life.

Any reasonable person who reads the actual post can see that both scriptures were cited only for the proposition that same-sex marriage is morally objectionable - sin. I believe this reflects the values of the vast majority of Mississippians and the people of District 77 whom I represent.

I would note that in 2004 the people of Mississippi overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to prohibit the conduct and/or the recognition of same-sex marriage in our State. Amendment 1 of 2004 was approved by 86% of Mississippi voters and amended our State constitution to provide:

"Marriage may take place and may be valid under the laws of this state only between a man and a woman. A marriage in another state or foreign jurisdiction between persons of the same gender, regardless of when the marriage took place, may not be recognized in this state and is void and unenforceable under the laws of this state."

See Article XIV, section 263A of the Mississippi Constitution.