



---

1042 Burlington Lane • Frankfort, KY 40601 • (502)875-4345 • FAX: (502)875-2841 • [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org)

March 25, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KENTUCKY BISHOPS ENDORSE SB 245 CONDITIONALLY**

Marriage is a faithful, exclusive, and lifelong union between one man and one woman, joined as husband and wife in an intimate partnership of life and love.

To promote, preserve, and protect marriage today requires, among other things, that we advocate for legislative and public policy initiatives that define and support marriage as a unique, essential relationship and institution.

Our defense of marriage focuses primarily on the importance of marriage, not on homosexuality or other matters. The Church's teaching about the dignity of homosexual persons is clear. They must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Our respect for them means we condemn all forms of unjust discrimination, harassment or abuse.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky supports SB 245 to define marriage, but only conditionally. Senate Bill 245, as amended in committee, now seeks to change the Constitution of Kentucky in a manner that goes beyond simply defining marriage.

Senate Bill 245 as amended would limit the judicial branch of government by forbidding it to order the expenditure of funds, the enactment of legislation or the raising of taxes in situations where the common good might demand it.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is able to support SB 245 if the language related to the Court of Justice is deleted from the bill.