

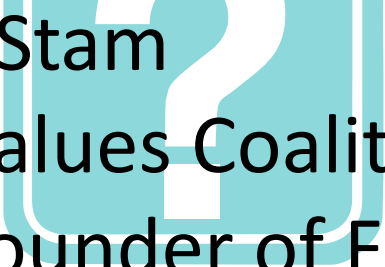
# **Fact-checking Pro-amendment Claims**

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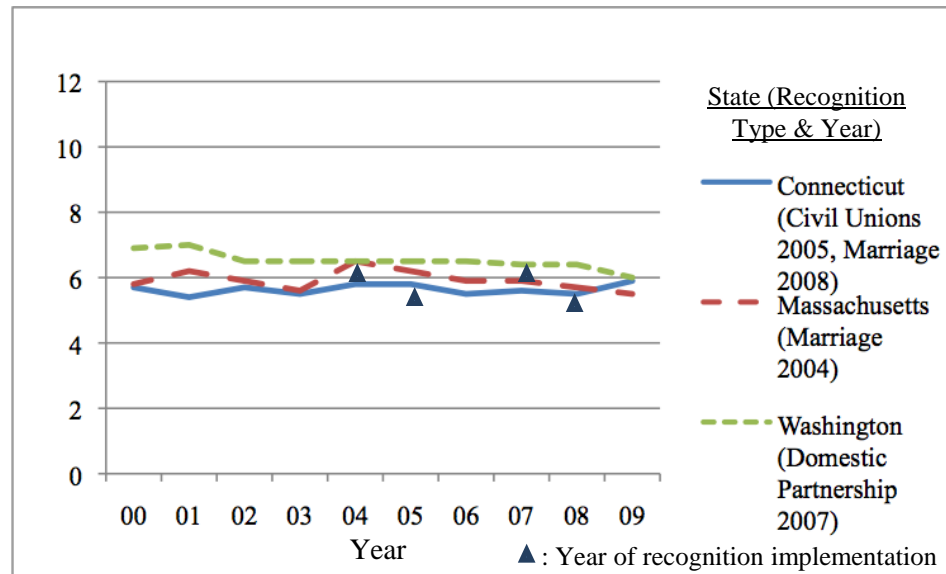
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*Legal Recognition of same-sex couples devalues the institution of marriage and, as a result, heterosexuals become less interested in entering and staying In marriages.*

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- Rep. Paul “Skip” Stam
  - North Carolina Values Coalition
  - James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family
  - Prof. George Dent

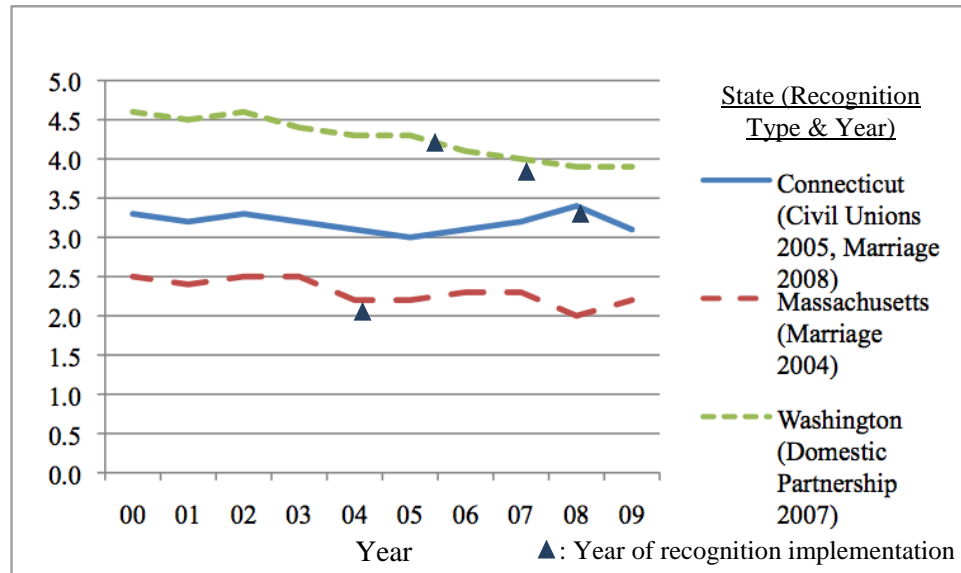
## Marriage Rates in Recognition States (per 1,000 population)

Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC/NCHS



## Divorce Rates in Recognition States (per 1,000 population)

Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC/NCHS



Data from Europe also suggests that there is no association between legal recognition of same-sex unions and fluctuations in rates of marriage, divorce, and non-marital births (Badgett, 2009; Eskridge & Spedale, 2006).



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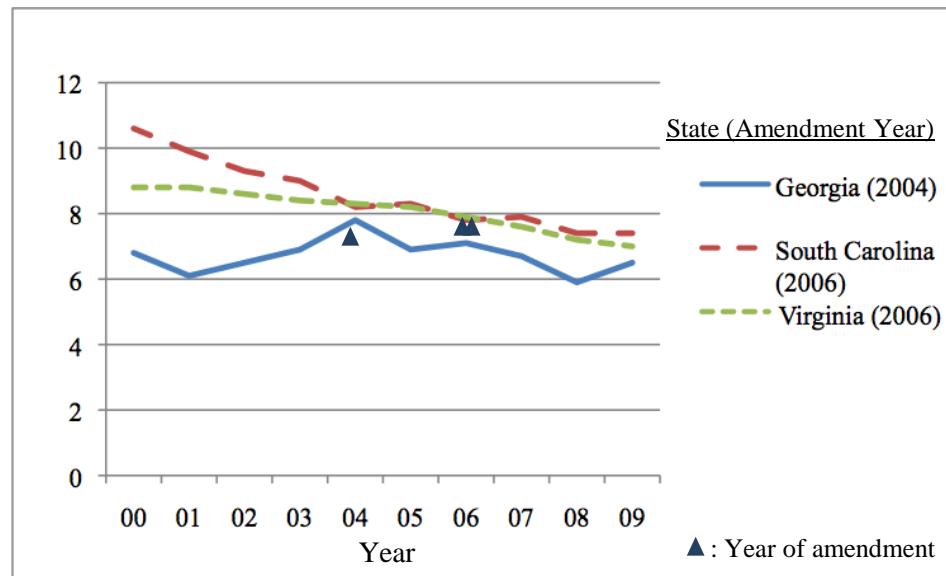
*Constitutional amendments promote stable different-sex marriages (by reminding people of traditional marriages' importance).*

- Various Conferences of Catholic Bishops
- Sen. Dan Soucek



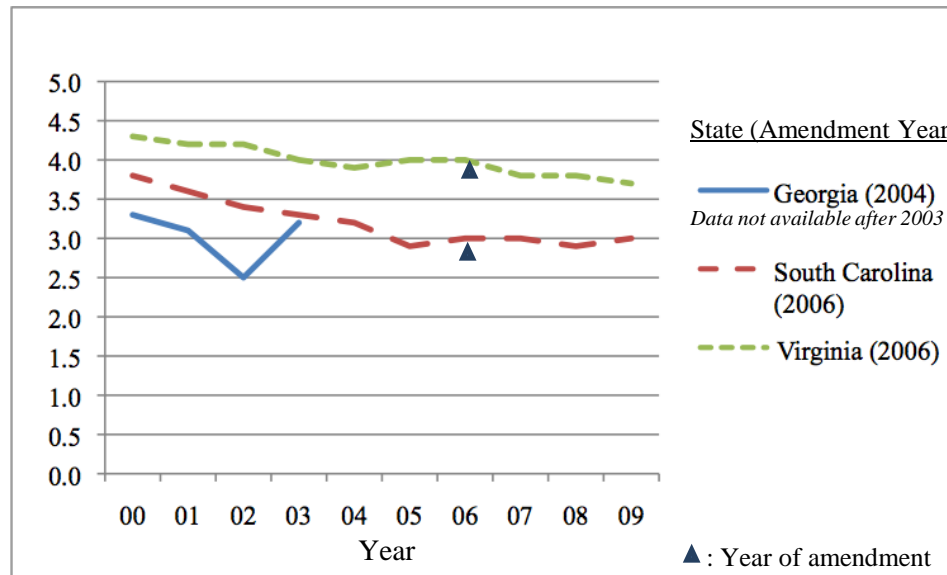
## Marriage Rates in Amendment States (per 1,000 population)

Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC/NCHS



## Divorce Rates in Amendment States (per 1,000 population)

Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC/NCHS



*Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates in 2009 (per 1,000 population),  
and Treatment of Same-sex Unions in 2009*

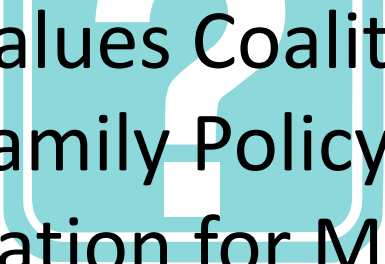
*Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC/NCHS*

Lowest Divorce Rates		Highest Divorce Rates	
Massachusetts (same-sex marriage)	2.2	Nevada (marriage amendment, domestic partnerships)	6.7
Iowa (same-sex marriage)	2.4	Arkansas (marriage amendment)	5.7
Illinois (no marriage amendment)	2.5	West Virginia (statutory ban of same-sex marriage)	5.2 <i>tied</i>
District of Columbia (domestic partnerships)	2.6 <i>tied</i>	Wyoming	5.2 <i>tied</i>
New York (recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages)	2.6 <i>tied</i>	Idaho (marriage amendment)	5.0

*Constitutional amendments promote stable different-sex marriages (by reminding people of traditional marriages' importance).*

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*Married different-sex couples provide the optimal environment for child-rearing. Same-sex couples are incapable of raising healthy, well-adjusted children.*

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- Rosenfeld noted in 2010 that “in 45 empirical studies of outcomes of children of same-sex couples . . . none found statistically significant disadvantages for children raised by gay and lesbian parents compared with other children.” (Rosenfeld, 2010.) At least three additional studies published after those 45 studies also failed to find significant disadvantages.
- Methodology has improved over time.
- Measures of (dis)advantage included mental health, social adjustment, school performance, behavioral problems, etc.
- “[S]ocial science has shown that the concerns often raised about children of lesbian and gay parents – concerns that are generally grounded in prejudice against and stereotypes about gay people – are unfounded.” (Amer. Psych. Ass’n, 2008)

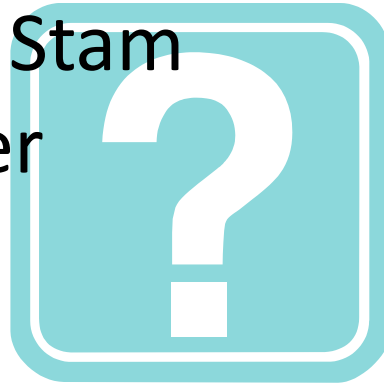
“Focus on the Family (2004), Gallagher (2004), and other marriage equality opponents cite studies comparing the children of intact heterosexual families with children being raised by a single parent as a consequence of divorce, separation, or the death of a spouse. Such studies generally show that, all else being equal, having two parents is more beneficial for a child than having a single parent (McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994). However, this research literature does not include studies comparing children raised by two-parent same-sex couples with children raised by two-parent heterosexual couples. Consequently, drawing conclusions about the children of gay, lesbian, and bisexual parents from those studies inappropriately attributes differences resulting from the number of parents in a household to the parents’ gender or sexual orientation (e.g., Stacey, 2004).” (Herek, 2006.)

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*The constitutional amendment won't affect  
North Carolina's economic competitiveness*

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## Competitiveness in the global labor market

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- Locations that do not embrace diversity, including sexual orientation-based diversity, risk alienating educated and creative professionals who are important to market competitiveness. (Florida, 2002; Florida, 2005; Florida & Gates, 2006.)
- Numerous polls suggest that educated professionals tend to support legal recognition of same-sex couples (see, e.g., repeated polling by Pew).

# Competitiveness in the global labor market

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- “Companies like Facebook, Google and Apple are the future of our global economy. But the proposed anti-gay constitutional amendment signals to these and other major employers, as well as their mobile, educated employees, that North Carolina does not welcome the diverse workforce that any state needs to compete in the international marketplace.”

- Chris Hughes, Co-Founder of Facebook

- The amendment “will make it harder to get educated, progressive people to come to NC ... As a business, it will make it harder for us .”

- Jim Whitehurst, CEO of Red Hat

- “I can say with certainty that if an amendment eliminating rights for domestic partners had been in place, The Body Shop would not have relocated its North American corporate headquarters here.”

- Richard Degnan, VP, The Body Shop

## Competitiveness in the global labor market

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- It is flawed to argue that amendments are economically harmless because states/countries with similar bans are doing (arguably) well economically. Cross-state comparisons are unhelpful because confounding variables come into play. For example, recent comparisons of North Carolina to Texas and China fail to consider Texas's oil and China's inexpensive labor costs.
- The American Legislative Exchange Council has opposed the ways in which its report has been cited. "Its 'Rich States, Poor States' report focuses only on fiscal policy, not social issues. ALEC doesn't have a position on marriage policies, says Kaitlyn Buss of ALEC." (News & Observer, Sept. 15, 2011.)

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**THE END**