



Central Valley Alliance of *A*theists & Skeptics

A Secular Voice in the Valley

(559) 892-0102
info@cvaas.org
www.CVAAS.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CVAAS Supports the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community

The Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics considers social and legal equality for members of the LGBT community to be a basic human right. CVAAS condemns all discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.

Fresno, CA (PRWEB) June 18, 2009 – There are no good secular reasons to ban same-sex marriage. Laws that oppose same-sex marriage, like California's Proposition 8, are not based upon any positive ethical philosophy; they are based upon homophobic or religious bigotry.

Our moral codes of conduct are formed by our individual conscious, which is in turn informed by society, philosophy, and religion. Out of this foundation only religion insists on a black and white morality by fiat that completely ignores human sympathy and empathy.

The Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics supports all LGBT legal rights at State and the Federal level. There are over 400 state and 1,000 federal benefits that heterosexual couples enjoy that are refused to same-sex couples. These include the right to jointly parent, adopt, or foster children. Same-sex couples are often denied joint insurance policies for home, auto and health. They are not eligible for civil protections toward community property and child support if their relationship is dissolved. They do not get the same immigration or residency benefits of a married couple, and they will not automatically inherit in the absence of a will.

There is a recent glaring example of discrimination here in the Central Valley. On May 29, 2009, Kristin Orbin, who suffers from epilepsy, had a seizure and had to be transported by ambulance to the Community Regional Medical Center. Her same-sex partner, Teresa Rowe, experienced hostility from the ambulance driver, was denied access to her partner at the hospital, and was ignored when she tried to give important medical history about Kristin to the hospital employees. Teresa's attempt to provide legal documentation to prove her right to make medical decisions for her spouse was also rebuffed by hospital employees.

A married person has the legal right to make medical decisions for his or her spouse. In California a same-sex couple must obtain this right through a power of attorney. Kristin and Teresa's example shows that this is not enough. It also demonstrates that without federal or state laws those who are predisposed toward discrimination can do so with impunity.

About the Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics

The Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics encourages teaching positive secular philosophy and rational scientific inquiry throughout the California Central Valley. CVAAS supports the separation of state and church, and urges members of the secular and skeptical communities to join or to form affiliated rational organizations.

For more information about CVAAS and for upcoming calendar events, see the CVAAS website at www.cvaas.org. Inquiries can be directed to info@cvaas.org or by phone at (559) 892-0102.

###