

**Warren Chisum**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:  
Appropriations  
Environmental Regulation



## House of Representatives

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my objective to confirm the legislative intent of the House Joint Resolution 6 that was passed by the Texas House and Senate, signed by the Governor and approved by Texas citizens in 2005 as Proposition 2, in which 76% of the voters supported this language. It was incorporated in the Texas State Constitution as Article 1, Section 32 as follows:

*MARRIAGE. (a) Marriage in this state shall consist only of the union of one man and one woman.  
(b) This state or a political subdivision of this state may not create or **recognize any legal status identical or similar to marriage.** (Added Nov. 8, 2005.) (emphasis added)*

As bill author of this legislation and as clarified through committee and floor discussion by legislators who voted for passage, I can assure individual citizens as well as elected members of all political subdivisions in Texas that our purpose was to protect marriage as defined, defend the public value of that vital institution and avoid legal recognition of other relationships presented as "similar to marriage" such as civil unions and domestic partnerships. It is clear to me that any subdivision including cities and school districts taking the action of such recognition through the extension of employee benefits to "domestic partners," violates the intent and the letter of this legislation that is now a part of the Texas Constitution as Article 1, Section 32.

Protecting the will of the voters and our Texas Constitution commands the highest attention from state elected officials. As such, I intend to notify Attorney General Greg Abbott of my concern on this specific matter.

Accordingly, I request that political subdivisions of Texas, including Pflugerville Independent School District, immediately refrain from recognizing domestic partners in any government policy as such policies are likely to be ruled a violation of the Texas Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Chisum".

State Representative Warren Chisum