

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Public Liaison

Series/Staff Member: Marsha Scott

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 8411

FolderID:

Folder Title:

POTUS Talking Points on Gay Marriage for 03/29 Coffee

Stack:

S

Row:

30

Section:

4

Shelf:

6

Position:

2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KATHLEEN WALLMAN 
DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: GAY MARRIAGE

In the event that you are asked about gay marriage at tomorrow morning's coffee, Jack Quinn recommends that you respond along the following lines. These talking points were prepared with input from Marsha Scott.

- The institutions of traditional marriage and family face tremendous pressures in today's society. We must do everything we can to support and strengthen these institutions. I have previously said that I do not personally support same-sex marriages.
- I am aware that many communities and institutions are considering ways, outside the context of traditional marriage, to address issues relating to same-sex partnerships, including whether certain basic benefits can be provided to same-sex partners. The challenge in addressing these issues is to remain sensitive to the traditional values of our communities while preserving the fundamental right to live free from unjustified discrimination.
- In our country's history we have, for good reason, looked first to state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to consider issues like these involving community values and matters of conscience. I believe that issues relating to same-sex partnerships continue to be best resolved at this level of civil discourse.