



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

NEWS

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MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS CONSTITUTIONALITY OF MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE LANGUAGE

A unanimous 3-0 Court of Appeals decision finding that the language of the proposed Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is clear and Constitutional was affirmed by the Michigan Supreme Court last week. A majority of Justices on the court found the appeal by opposition groups to be so lacking in merit as to warrant no further consideration.

On June 11, 2004, a unanimous Court of Appeals panel rejected arguments by opposition groups, writing "... Plaintiffs' argument that the equal protection clause is altered or abrogated by the proposed amendment *is meritless*." The Court addressed a continuing theme of the opposition's public arguments when it wrote, "In addition, we find that there is *simply no merit* to plaintiffs' contention that the language is 'propaganda' or misleading."

Jennifer Gratz, Executive Director of the MCRI Committee. "It is refreshing news to hear that the Michigan Supreme Court has stopped yet another opposition maneuver designed to delay and hinder the people from having a chance to vote on this issue. Although we were always confident of our legal position regarding the language of MCRI, we now have the final word from the Michigan Supreme Court that we have a Constitutionally-sound proposal."

Grasping for straws, a spokesperson for the opposition group stated, "It looks like we can't go any further with that." (*AP Wire Reports and Detroit Free Press*, January 3, 2005.) The same spokesperson was paraphrased as saying they "... may now focus on challenges to signatures on petitions" Given that the opposition knows it will lose when MCRI is voted upon (64% of Michiganders consistently support the issue MCRI), MCRI staff is preparing for these tactics, as well.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee (MCRI), a Michigan-based Ballot Question Committee, is dedicated to giving the people of Michigan the opportunity to end preferential treatment based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin by State or local governments. MCRI will make Michigan a place of equal opportunity for all, not a State that uses discrimination as a tool to create "diversity." Achieving "diversity" and "affirmative action" should never be an excuse to discriminate!

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