Legalizing Gay Marriage Could Ease Georgia Budget Woes

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As gay couples spend 20 percent more than their straight counterparts and 10 percent more on their marriages, according to PlanetOut (Semuels, 2008), Georgia is losing revenue to other states such as Massachusetts, where such marriages are legal.

As economist Gary Becker pointed out long ago, it is not only the couple who suffer but those supporting the discrimination as well (James & Miel, 2008).

California’s gain of $370 million dollars over a three-year period following legalization (Semuels, 2008) is a lot of teacher furloughs foregone in any state.

Bipartisanship with the new Congress and the new urgency of changing the political rhetoric after the murders in Arizona can be built on common issues such as gay marriage.

Log Cabin Republicans in Georgia (www.lcrga.com) are already organized to work with Democrats to stimulate the Georgia economy to full recovery without a tax increase by further limiting the role of government in the private lives of Georgia citizens.

We all know that there will come a time soon when we will look back on this current moment and wonder why gay marriage was ever an issue, why it was ever illegal in the first place. We will also wonder why millions of dollars and hours were spent debating an issue that hurts everyone and cuts revenue during the Great Recession.

Georgia is losing tax dollars and valuable human capital as long as the discrimination remains in place.

Entrepreneurs are losing customers who not only will spend above average amounts on their weddings but also will probably add to the bill because of being able to do so legally in a “red” state.

We know from other countries and antiquity that gay marriage has been around a long time and strengthens the institution of marriage while providing children with loving couples to raise them.

Finally, Georgians should legalize marriage for all these reasons and simply because it is the right thing to do.

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