There is approximately 9,000,000 homosexual individuals in the United States of America. 9,000,000 people in the United States alone are banned of rights that should be granted as an act of equality. Only seventeen of fifty states have recognized this act of equality and have legalized gay and lesbian marriage. No one is physically or emotionally hurt by the marriage of homosexual couples, families who are married receive benefits to help support children, and this act of discrimination sends a damaging message to youth. Homosexual couples should be granted the same rights as heterosexual couples.