

Vaad L'Shmor Kehillasenu

Brooklyn and Queens, New York

December 24, 2009

Rabosai:

The State of New York voted on a bill this month that proposed changes in the law to give government recognition to people who engage in same-gender relationships, calling it "marriage." Same-gender relationships violate the prohibition against immoral unions, giluyai arayos, which are forbidden to Jews by the Torah and which are forbidden to the gentiles by the Sheva Mitzvos bnai Noach. The Torah clearly states that Hashem, may His Name be blessed, expelled the Canaanim from Eretz Yisroel due to the sinfulness of their relationships, and our Chazal explain that there is a direct relationship between separation from erva, forbidden relationships, and kedusha, holiness.

In an open miracle, Hashem thwarted the will of nearly every top elected leader of the state, causing this bill to be voted down in the Senate. In the push for its passage, however, there were many politicians who came out strongly in favor of same-gender marriages, and who also have contact with our communities.

We can no longer continue to support or elect leaders who have publicly showed their approval for giluyai arayos, activities that stand exactly opposite of all our work as Jews to increase the awareness and influence of Hashem the Almighty in this world. Furthermore, it is not within the power of legislature, the courts, or, for that matter, any individual or group to redefine the language. Marriage is a word that has a definition accepted by all the world from time immemorial: it means the legalized union between a man and a woman for the purpose of forming a family. Human lives have meaning to the extent that they reflect the values taught by the Torah. No government has the power to create meaning by bestowing new definitions to behaviors that are abhorrent to the Torah.

Therefore, all politicians that have voted in favor of laws that seek to normalize the forbidden relationships of giluyai arayos, or who have made documented, public statements in support of such laws, should be cut off from our support. No money, no public displays of approval, and no votes should be given to politicians who have made documented, public statements or who have voted in favor of laws that seek to normalize the forbidden relationships of giluyai arayos. The Judge of all the Worlds should bring us to live under His sole authority in the merit of our reserving our allegiance to those who do not work to undermine the Torah.

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