

## (July 18, 2006) Lipinski Opposes Government Recognition of Gay Marriages, Opposes Political Ploy

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WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Rep. Dan Lipinski voted "present" on H.J.Res. 88, an amendment to the Constitution that would prohibit government recognition of same sex marriages, which failed by a voted of 236-187-1. A two-thirds vote is required for passage of a constitutional amendment. Last month the Senate had already voted to kill the amendment, thus virtually ending any chance that it would be adopted by Congress this year.

"This amendment was brought to the floor as a political ploy so that the Republican party could send a campaign message for the upcoming election," said Lipinski. "My vote 'present' was my own message - while I have always opposed government recognition of gay marriages and continue to do so, I believe that since the Senate already had disposed of this amendment last month we should be spending our time on the House floor debating, voting on, and passing legislation we can get enacted this year to help American families. Time on the legislative calendar is limited, and we need to be working on legislation that will help solve our energy crisis, improve health care affordability for our families, provide a better Medicare prescription drug program, strengthen Social Security and Medicare, expand educational opportunities for our children, and protect our nation. We do need to defend the values that make America strong. But American families need action, not just political messages."