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Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

Dear Senators

National plebiscite on marriage equality

As I understand it this is the first time that an anti-discrimination measure not requiring an amendment to the Constitution is being proposed for a nation-wide plebiscite.

Before considering the pros and cons of such a process it is worth bearing in mind that **the bulk if not all of those seriously committed to the plebiscite have been on record as being personally opposed to equality.** As such the plebiscite debate loses its genuine nature and must be considered in the context of an apparent rear-guard move to head off change.

Arguments for or against a plebiscite really become a proxy for arguments for or against same-sex marriage as most of those committed to reform accept that Australia need do no more or no less than other equivalent Westminster jurisdictions in passing the reform by usual Parliamentary processes.

It would be preferable to abandon attempts to pass marriage equality during this term of Parliament under the current Prime Minister and reconsider the Parliamentary strategy after the Federal election. This avoids the ugliness and expense of a community campaign and all that would entail. It would allow Parliament to do its work to implement marriage equality at this time.

Indeed Parliament may not need to do much more than what it did in 2004 to ensure that same sex marriages weren't permissible and reverse its approach. There was no plebiscite in 2004 and there need not be one now.

Yours sincerely

Luther Weate