

REFERENCE TITLE: uniting American families act; adopt.

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **SM 1003**

Introduced by  
Senators Rios, Miranda: Hale, Soltero

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress and President of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the United States immigration system is built on the principle  
4 of family unification; and

5 Whereas, under the United States Immigration and Nationality Act,  
6 United States citizens or legal permanent residents may sponsor their spouse  
7 for immigration to the United States; and

8 Whereas, same-sex partnerships are not recognized for federal  
9 immigration purposes, meaning United States citizens or legal permanent  
10 residents in same-sex relationships cannot sponsor their partner for  
11 immigration benefits; and

12 Whereas, an estimated 35,820, of the 594,391 same-sex unmarried  
13 partners counted in the 2000 census include one citizen and one noncitizen;  
14 and

15 Whereas, these couples continue to face the threat of one member's  
16 removal from the United States; and

17 Whereas, the inability of United States citizens or legal permanent  
18 residents in same-sex relationships to sponsor their partner for immigration  
19 benefits, even if their relationship is legally recognized through marriage,  
20 civil union or domestic partnership by one of the 50 states, is a  
21 discriminatory practice that often forces couples to separate or to move  
22 abroad in order to stay together; and

23 Whereas, the Uniting American Families Act seeks to fulfill the promise  
24 of family unification in the United States immigration system by extending  
25 immigration eligibility to the foreign-born same-sex "permanent partners" of  
26 United States citizens and lawful permanent residents; and

27 Whereas, to qualify as a "permanent partner" under the Uniting American  
28 Families Act, a person must be able to show a relationship with another adult  
29 in which both parties intend a life-long commitment, financial  
30 interdependence, exclusivity, inability to marry in a manner that is  
31 "cognizable" under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and absence of close  
32 blood relationship; and

33 Whereas, the United States Congress and President have the ability to  
34 strengthen the families of binational, same-sex couples by enacting the  
35 Uniting American Families Act.

36 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

37 1. That the Congress and the President of the United States adopt the  
38 Uniting American Families Act (H.R. 2221 and S. 1328) to eliminate  
39 discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of  
40 United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful  
41 permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and  
42 lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection  
43 with permanent partnerships.

44 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
45 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the  
46 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
47 Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.