

## Smoke and Mirrors Marriage Requirement (Part 3) – 02/17/2005

### Following the Marriage Education Thread to Its Source

By Ernie Whiteside

This issue is like a scab that I just can't quit picking at until I get it off. The state of Michigan is cutting and slashing its budget everywhere, so why did they just pass legislation that created a tax credit for premarital education? Won't this reduce the revenue for the state at a time when it is badly needed? Maybe not!

United States House Resolution 240 was introduced on January 4, 2005 and is cosponsored by Representative Dave Camp, Michigan, U.S. House District 4. The resolution is titled "Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2005." Section 103, entitled "Promotion of Family Formation and Healthy Marriage," paragraph (b) entitled "Healthy Marriage Promotion" and subparagraphs provided funds for "Pre-marital education and marriage skills training for engaged couples and for couples of individuals interested in marriage." This resolution has been working its way through the process since it was originally introduced as H.R. 4090 on April 9, 2002.

The recent marriage education law, like so many others, is simply the action of a state legislature that is desperate to get its hands on federal money and willing to jump through just about any hoop to do so. I haven't seen or heard any of my neighbors crying out for state laws or tax credits for premarital education, have you? Our state legislators should be listening to us, the citizens of Michigan, not jumping every time the fed cracks the whip or tosses a little money on the table. My motto remains, "Just say, 'No!'" to federal money and the strings that come with it.

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