

New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Statement

June 29, 2009



Council President Fielkow Statement:

Thank You to Legislature for Voting Down House Bill 60

New Orleans, LA - June 29, 2009 - Council President Arnie Fielkow happily thanks all Louisiana legislators who voted down House Bill 60, which aimed to restrict the right of Louisiana's adopted children to have two parents listed on a new birth certificate unless those parents are married in accordance with state law. Ultimately, this legislation would have deprived thousands of children in Louisiana of loving, caring families based on their potential adoptive parents' sexual orientation, as well as making it extremely difficult for children adopted by unmarried couples to apply for standard benefits such as school registration, medical coverage, life insurance and government services.

"The certificate of birth, especially for an adopted child, is a precious document that confers many rights and privileges. Although citizens from around this country, state and the City of New Orleans possess a wide range of views, one issue that will never be controversial is that our children come first," said Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow. "Democrats, Republicans, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, rich, poor -- all of

these disparate groups share the conviction that it is a priority to ensure the welfare of our society's children. My heartfelt thanks is given to all legislators who upheld the rights of all Louisiana citizens, and put the needs of all children first."

Council President Fielkow also congratulated the efforts of many others who helped urge state lawmakers to vote against the measure including the Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Forum for Equality.

"The Forum for Equality strongly opposed HB 60 because it was a mean spirited bill that hurt children adopted by gay and lesbian couples," said Randy Evans, Political Director for the organization. "We applaud and deeply appreciate Councilman Arnie Fielkow's vigorous efforts to defeat this hurtful bill."

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**New Orleans City Council**

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.