

# National Black Church Initiative

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## NBCI Outraged That Same-Sex Marriage Law is Upheld

*The Institution of Family Suffered a Blow Today*

**Washington DC** - Today, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals narrowly upheld same-sex marriages by ruling that the DC City Council was within its legal rights and negating the possibility of allowing District residents to vote on the matter. Bishop Harry Jackson and Rev. Anthony Evans argued forcefully for the opportunity to allow DC citizens to speak for themselves and sadly, lost. The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 churches with 800 churches in DC alone, is frustrated by this loss but encouraged that the complainants will appeal this case to the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to overturn this travesty.

The National Black Church Initiative has long maintained that it is important for us all to coexist peacefully, despite differences in sexuality, race, gender, or religion. However, our pacifist beliefs to not preclude us from firmly believing in the tenants of Christianity and our definitions of family - we will not hesitate to uphold these institutions. NBCI has hope that this wrong will be righted and prays for the swift resolution of a law that threatens our community.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, "Today the court has told the 500,000 residents of the District of Columbia that we have no right to vote on their own laws. This is wrong – we should have a right to vote on issues challenging the fabric of our lives here in DC. Like I've said in the past, we will continue to fight – taking this all the way to the Supreme Court. We will not give up easily; the African American community has proven its ability to stay the course when the going gets tough."

### **About NBCI**

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in health care, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.