

# Obama White House Calls for Repealing Defense of Marriage Act

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By Matt Cover

President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, Malia Obama, and Chief Justice John Roberts during swearing-in ceremony (AP Photo)

**(CNSNews.com)** – President Barack H. Obama is poised to be the most pro-homosexual chief executive in history.

Unveiling his agenda Tuesday on the newly refurbished version of the White House Web site, Obama called for the repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), as well as the extension of more than 1,000 federal marriage benefits and of adoption rights to homosexual couples.

The new administration laid out its plans on the Web site--whitehouse.gov--at 12:01 p.m. EST, during Obama's swearing-in ceremony.

The site's "Civil Rights" section lists a number of items long on the homosexual agenda, including expanding federal hate-crimes laws, repealing the ban on homosexuals in the military and extending the definition of workplace discrimination to include sexual orientation.

In the section entitled "Support for the LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered) Community," the Web site says Obama wants full inclusion of homosexual couples under federal law.

"President Obama supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples," the Web site says.

"Obama also believes we need to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100-plus federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples," the Web site says.

Among those federal legal rights are the ability to file joint tax returns, own property, and buy health insurance together.

Obama also favors granting adoption rights to homosexual couples, saying that children benefit from a healthy home, regardless of whether the "parents" are homosexual or not.

"President Obama believes that we must ensure adoption rights for all couples and individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation," the site said. "He thinks that a child will benefit from a healthy and loving home, whether the parents are gay or not," the website reads.

Obama further promises to distribute contraceptives through the nation's public health system, saying the move is vital to combating HIV and AIDS – and the new president wants contraceptives to be distributed in federal prisons.

"The president will support common-sense approaches including age-appropriate sex education that includes information about contraception, combating infection within our prison population through education and contraception, and distributing contraceptives through our public health system."

Obama renewed his pledge to expand federal hate-crimes laws to include sexual orientation – an effort he spearheaded as a freshman U.S. senator. The bill that Obama introduced in the Senate, the Matthew Shepard Act, would make it a federal hate-crime to commit violence against someone because of their sexual orientation.

"President Obama and Vice President Biden will strengthen federal hate crimes legislation, (and) expand hate crimes protection by passing the Matthew Shepard Act," the site says.

Obama also wants to lift the federal ban on needle exchanges, which provides intravenous drug addicts with free, clean needles in an effort to ensure they abuse illegal drugs safely.

"The president also supports lifting the federal ban on needle exchange, which could dramatically reduce rates of infection among drug users."

The new White House site confirms that Obama plans to work towards his desire to repeal a federal law that prevents homosexuals from

serving in the military. Obama says that the only test for military service should be patriotism.

"The key test for military service should be patriotism, a sense of duty, and a willingness to serve. Discrimination should be prohibited," the site says.

"The president will work with military leaders to repeal the current policy and ensure it helps accomplish our national defense goals."

Whether homosexuals are ever allowed to serve in the military won't be Obama's call, however. Only Congress can enact such a policy affecting the military.

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