

## **Legislative Efforts to Strengthen Marriage**

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to examine and analyze legislative and community efforts to strengthen marriage. Over the past three years, state legislatures across the nation have been attempting to find ways to decrease marital breakdown. The legislative attempts have taken a variety of forms. This paper analyzes the different legislative approaches to the problems of marital distress and breakdown. Additionally, this paper examines community efforts to strengthen marriage that have begun to be adopted by judges and magistrates who perform marriages.

One approach in the effort to maintain marriages that are strong and stable is to try to ensure that people understand the legal ramifications of marriage before they enter into a marriage. This paper includes, as an appendix, a prototype for a brochure that could be given to people in California when they apply for a marriage license that would explain, in plain language, the rights and obligations that marriage entails. \* Hastings College of the Law, Class of 1999