

Notes from the Hill

On Jan. 2, exercising firm leadership, Senate President Robert Travaglini avoided fatal parliamentary maneuvers and moved for a vote on the marriage amendment, with 62 legislators, 12 more than required, voting in the amendment's favor, thus successfully keeping the amendment alive in 2007. Those legislators deserve a huge thanks for voting to move the amendment a step closer to the 2008 ballot.

Rep. Phil Travis earns extra special thanks for leading the efforts on the amendment's behalf. Jan. 2 was his last day in office and he finished his life as a legislator defending traditional marriage to the end, and successfully. His tremendous



courage and persistence will be missed. Other amendment supporters leaving office include Virginia Coppola, Shirley Gomes, Shirley Owens-

Hicks, Marie Parente, and Susan Pope. All the returning legislators can be reached by calling the Statehouse switchboard at 617-722-2000.

The successful vote, or more specifically the fact that there was even a vote, surprised everyone. Many legislators point to the influence of a ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court on Dec. 27, asserting in terms unprecedented in their clarity and strength that by blocking a legislative vote on initiative petitions, legislators would violate their oath of office. In addition, Catholics and other citizens sent thousands of calls and e-mails to legislators asking for a favorable vote, and the Catholic bishops in Massachusetts sent individualized letters urging each legislator to honor his or her constitutional obligations, as well as a second statement reiterating this point after the SJC ruling.

The battle is not over. At least 50 legislators must vote once again to give final approval to place the amendment on the general election ballot in 2008. Stay tuned!

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference issued the following statement in response to the successful vote on Jan. 2:

"Today the constitutional rights of the citizens of the Commonwealth have been upheld. The democratic process and the right of the people to have their voices heard were affirmed. We applaud the members of the Legislature for fulfilling their responsibilities as representatives of the people who elected them and for living up to their oath of office to support the constitution. We thank the 62 legislators that voted to move the marriage amendment forward for a vote of the people in 2008."

SENATE

Senator,	Party	Town
Scott P. Brown,	R	Wrentham
Robert S. Creedon,	D	Brockton
Robert L. Hedlund,	R	Weymouth
Richard T. Moore,	D	Uxbridge
Michael W. Morrissey,	D	Quincy
Steven C. Panagiotakos,	D	Lowell
Robert E. Travaglini,	D	Boston

HOUSE

Representative,	Party	Town
Bruce J. Ayers,	D	Quincy
John J. Binienda,	D	Worcester
Christine E. Canavan,	D	Brockton
Gale D. Candaras,	D	Wilbraham
Mark J. Carron,	D	Southbridge
Paul C. Casey,	D	Winchester
Virginia Coppola,	R	Foxborough
Robert Correia,	D	Fall River
Geraldine Creedon,	D	Brockton
Sean Curran,	D	Springfield
Viriato Manuel deMacedo,	R	Plymouth
Paul J. Donato,	D	Medford
Lewis G. Evangelidis,	R	Holden
James H. Fagan,	D	Taunton
David L. Flynn,	D	Bridgewater
John P. Fresolo,	D	Worcester
Paul K. Frost,	R	Auburn
Colleen M. Garry,	D	Dracut
Susan W. Gifford,	R	Wareham
Emile J. Goguen,	D	Fitchburg
Shirley Gomes,	R	South Harwich
William G. Greene Jr.,	D	Billerica

HOUSE

Representative,	Party	Town
Robert S. Hargraves,	R	Groton
Donald F. Humason Jr.,	R	Westfield
Frank M. Hynes,	D	Marshfield
Michael F. Kane,	D	Holyoke
Paul Kujawski,	D	Webster
William Lantigua,	D	Lawrence
John A. Lepper,	R	Attleboro
Paul J. Loscocco,	R	Holliston
James R. Miceli,	D	Wilmington
James M. Murphy,	D	Weymouth
David M. Nangle,	D	Lowell
Robert J. Nyman,	D	Hanover
Shirley Owens Hicks,	D	Boston
Marie J. Parente,	D	Milford
Jeffrey D. Perry,	R	Sandwich
George N. Peterson Jr.,	R	Grafton
Thomas M. Petrolati,	D	Ludlow
Elizabeth A. Poirier,	R	N. Attleborough
Karyn E. Polito,	R	Shrewsbury
Susan W. Pope,	R	Wayland
Mary S. Rogeness,	R	Longmeadow
Richard Ross,	R	Wrentham
Michael F. Rush,	D	Boston
Angelo M. Scaccia,	D	Boston
Todd Smola,	R	Palmer
Joyce A. Spiliotis,	D	Peabody
Walter F. Timilty,	D	Milton
A. Stephen Tobin,	D	Quincy
Philip Travis,	D	Rehoboth
James E. Vallee,	D	Franklin
Anthony J. Verga,	D	Gloucester
Brian P. Wallace,	D	Boston
Daniel K. Webster,	R	Hanson