

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Family Equality Council Rejects Rick Warren for Invocation  
Leading Family Organization Calls on Supporters to Push for Change**

**Statement from Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director**

**Boston, MA** – Earlier this week, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies announced that infamous evangelical pastor Rick Warren will give the invocation at President-elect Obama's inauguration. Pastor Warren is a divisive figure who has used his fame and position to push untrue and damaging statements about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans. The President-elect would better serve *all* Americans by choosing a religious leader to give the invocation that has not directly defamed and attacked American people.

**Statement of Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director, Family Equality Council:**

"Election Night was incredibly difficult for the millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans who voted for President-elect Obama. On the one hand we celebrated the first black president and the most pro-equality president we've ever seen. At the same time we watched Arkansas, Arizona, California and Florida buck the trend of expanding equality for Americans by passing anti-LGBT propositions on marriage and foster care and adoption. President-elect Obama ran on a promise of unity and change. Inviting a person who has likened same-sex relationships to incest in an effort to strip away rights from LGBT people does nothing for unity or change. It has been hard enough for LGBT parents to explain to their children why people work day-in and day-out to hurt their families. Now we have to explain to them that the President we've celebrated understands so little about our community that he expects us to accept 'unity' as a justification for recognizing a person who has degraded our families in this way? On Inauguration Day, the millions of LGBT parents, children and family members in this country want to welcome our new President with open arms. Silence on this issue is not an option; the dignity of our families is at stake. We fully expect the President-elect to recognize his error and send the message that all are *truly* equal under an Obama administration. Replace Rick Warren today."

**About the Family Equality Council**

Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families. We recognize and believe that the laws, provisions and ordinances that hurt LGBT-headed families also hurt so many others—single parents, blended families, families of color, and more. To that end, Family Equality Council is standing strong to defeat anti-family legislation and promote pro-family legislation. For more information, please visit [www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org).

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