

#11 Children

that children that ways that mothers t has a definite sign, seven grandchild-

n for probably ten e have a desk mate me and says:

I don't have to. up and walked out. iservative, I walked

: was said very gen-

to my seat.

ing of civilization, in gnized a marriage es the next genera- ns of melding two

s this resolution. I

ened. We needed ad only nineteen : to do it given their ose. Then another

been married forty- proud of them. Two ne on the way. My 's gay. She has a sig- ntana's law doesn't ot anybody in this a something person she lives a quiet life ver know she's gay, lege my wife and I semester, we had a Vell we had no idea. ry concerned about

~~what was happening to her. And quite frankly I think there was a possibility of suicide.~~ She has grown from that point to a very stable person, and productive and does things for society quite well. She represents a healthcare faction for the Physical Therapy Association — travels all over the nation. Smart? Oh Lord she's smart. Good person. But what we're doing with this constitutional amendment, should she have lived here, is to deny her civil rights. You know folks I grew up in the South. The town that I grew up in was segregated ... Now you think about a gay person in redneck country, I can say that 'cause in northeast Texas that's redneck country. And the prejudice against the gay and lesbian community is there, I'll guarantee ya. And that hate in their eyes or the fear in the gay person's eyes is there. Do we want a society in this state to do that? Do we want to deny the rights of a gay and lesbian person? I don't think so. Ladies and gentleman this bill is wrong. And I suggest you vote against it.

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. It was incredibly moving. But at this point we have counts of where we think this was going. So it was gonna pass. We had probably ten or fifteen undecided. And then one last Republican stood up. A very powerful man in Wyoming politics, maybe running for governor in the next election, he got up and he said:

REPUBLICAN MAN. We are the state of Matthew Shepard and the state of *Brokeback Mountain*, but we're also the State of Esther Hobart Morris, first female justice of the peace in the United States, and Nellie Tayloe Ross, first woman to serve as a governor of any U.S. state — and — if we let Resolution 17 out of this body — our state will be ripped apart at the seams quite frankly. It will divide families, divide churches, divide neighbors, divide friends, and will cause a political havoc that this state hasn't seen in decades. I urge you to vote against this bill.

REP. COHEE. We have heard this issue and I think it is time to cast the vote. Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

CATHERINE CONNOLLY. And then came the vote.

CLERK. The question having been called, the chief clerk will call the roll. Peterson.

PETERSON. Aye.

CLERK. Barbuto.

BARBUTO. No.

CLERK. Brechtel.

BRECHTEL. Aye.