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Posted at 11:16 AM ET, 03/ 4/2011

Sam Arora is now for and against marriage equality

By Jonathan Capehart



CAPEHART

Maryland Del. Sam Arora (D) has [broken his silence](#) and ended his [disgraceful wavering](#) on how he will vote on the marriage equality bill. A measure he campaigned on and co-sponsored, by the way. After reading his [statement below](#), you'll be forgiven for thinking the first-term legislator is trying to have it both ways.

I have heard from constituents, friends, and advocates from across the spectrum of views and have thought about the issue of same-sex marriage extensively. I understand their concern--this is a very serious issue, and one that many people feel passionately about. As the vote drew nearer, I wrestled with this issue in a way I never had before, which led me to realize that I had some concerns about the bill. While I personally believe that Maryland should extend civil rights to same-sex couples through civil unions, I have come to the conclusion that this issue has such impact on the people of Maryland that they should have a direct say. I will vote to send the bill to the floor because it deserves an up-or-down vote. On the floor, I will vote to send the bill to the governor so that Marylanders can ultimately decide this issue at the polls. I think that is appropriate.

So, great. Arora keeps his promise to vote for the bill in committee and on the floor. But after supporting marriage equality to get elected, he now says he supports civil unions? And his support for a voter referendum if the measure passes is unconscionable. Yes, a referendum is legal and will almost assuredly be approved in Maryland. But putting the civil rights of a minority up for a popular vote is never a good idea. In fact, it's wrong.

By Jonathan Capehart | March 4, 2011; 11:16 AM ET

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