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From: Linda Mennitt [mailto:felix.com@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2005 11:08 PM

To: comments

Subject: fair tax for all

Adverse Tax Consequences for Same-Sex Couples

1.Health Insurance for Partners - A Taxing Proposition: Employees pay

income and payroll tax on the health insurance premiums their employers provide for domestic partners who do not otherwise qualify as dependents. Benefits for different-sex spouses are not subject to this tax.

2.Flexible Spending Accounts Not So Flexible: Employees can use

flexible spending accounts to pay for a different-sex spouse's medical expenses, including eyeglasses, prescriptions, and co-pays, on a pre-tax basis. These accounts cannot be used for a same-sex partner, or even a same-sex spouse.

3.Retirement Savings - Death and Taxes: Tax treatment of retirement

even if the parent supported the child for her whole life.

5.Even When a Child is Legally Adopted by Same-Sex Partner, Benefits

are STILL Unavailable: Social Security provides "surviving parent" benefits to the parent caring for a minor child when the other parent dies. But all children raised by same-sex couples are excluded from this benefit, even though their parents pay equally into Social Security, because it is only given to couples who are recognized as "spouses" under federal law, which same-sex couples are not. Even though the benefit is for children and not spouses, children being raised by GLBT people are denied it because their parents cannot marry.