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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Walker Issues National Marriage Week Proclamation**

*Encourages citizens, churches, businesses, organizations and community leaders to strengthen marriage*

Madison – “We are thrilled to see Wisconsin recognizing the importance of marriage to the men, women and children of our great state,” said Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Council. “Governor Scott Walker’s National Marriage Week Proclamation is a strong statement about how the governor views marriage and its importance to his overall agenda.”

National Marriage Week USA, which takes place February 7-14, 2011, is part of an international effort that is beginning to gain momentum around the country as more and more people realize how crucial healthy marriages are to society. Wisconsin joins other states as well as several European Countries and Australia to recognize and promote marriage as a great social and public good for individuals and communities.

Governor Walker’s proclamation states, in part, “...A healthy, loving marriage... provides irreplaceable personal happiness and creates the safest place for children to flourish and to enjoy the full emotional, moral, educational and financial benefits of both parents....”

The benefits of marriage are legion. Social science research has repeatedly shown that married moms and dads raising their children together is the best possible environment for children’s safety and positive physical, mental and emotional development. Married men and women appear to be the greatest wealth-producing entity we have. Marriage benefits minorities economically and reduces the likelihood that women and children will experience poverty.

“The Governor’s proclamation sets Wisconsin apart as a national leader in recognition of marriage as a great good for men, women and children,” said Eric Skelton, Director of Marriage & Family Ministry at Wisconsin Family Council. “In our work with churches and communities around Wisconsin, we champion marriage as the one institution within our society that consistently provides men, women and children with a better life. It builds strong communities and churches. And it is at the core of the basic economic unit—the family.”

“As Governor Walker recognizes in his proclamation,” said Appling, “the breakdown of marriage takes a great emotional, physical and financial toll on the well-being of the family. There’s no denying that family breakdown takes a great toll on the financial well-being of the state, as well. That Wisconsin’s governor recognizes the foundational role marriages plays in our society and economy gives us great hope for his agenda to rebuild Wisconsin’s economy.”

To find out more about National Marriage Week visit <http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/>. [Click here](#) to read Governor Scott Walker’s National Marriage Week Proclamation.

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Wisconsin Family Council is a statewide, not-for-profit organization advancing Judeo Christian principles and values in Wisconsin by strengthening and preserving marriage, family, life and liberty.