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Is Marriage a Public Health Issue?

Minnesota’s health commissioner says “the evidence is growing that marriage is a public health issue.” He says studies on marriage show that married individuals have “lower mortality rates and better physical and mental health.”

Marriage has been around since Adam and Eve. It’s not a public health issue. The commissioner’s attempt to reach into marriage under the rubric of public health should concern everyone. Under public health, doctors have been stripped of conscience protections against abortion, sterilization and objectionable research. And religious liberties have been violated through a mandate for contraceptive coverage. As Steve Jobs once told a young techie, I say to the Commissioner, “Stick to your knitting.”

“Marriage is a matter of public health,” Commissioner Edward Ehlinger (MN Department of Health), Star Tribune, September 23, 2012.