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## Christian group asks to fight suit on gay marriage

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SAN FRANCISCO—An influential Christian group is seeking to formally fight a federal lawsuit aimed at overturning California's gay marriage ban.

The Alliance Defense Fund filed court papers Thursday asking U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker to allow it to defend the constitutionality of Proposition 8. Gay couples prohibited from marrying filed a lawsuit in San Francisco federal court May 22 and allege that California's marriage ban violates constitutional equal protection provisions.

The Alliance Defense Fund spent more than \$37 million in leading the campaign to pass Proposition 8 in November and successfully defended it before the state Supreme Court. The judge will hold a hearing July 2 to consider the group's request and whether to temporarily suspend the ban while considering the lawsuit.

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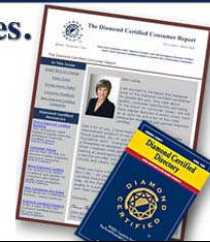
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