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### Backers of anti-gay initiative submit petitions

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SAN FRANCISCO—The sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage in California submitted signatures April 24 to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

A coalition of religious groups called Protect Marriage collected more than 1.1 million signatures in support of the amendment, said Brian Brown, executive director of the California office of the National Organization for Marriage.

The initiative needs 694,354 signatures, or 8 percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race, to make it onto the ballot.

The signatures must be verified before the amendment can be approved for the election.

National GLBT leaders joined with California activists in pledging to defeat the initiative.

**“This mean-spirited attack is out of touch with the ideals of most Californians, who are known for being fair-minded and respecting and valuing personal freedoms,”** Said Rea Carey, acting executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.