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## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC" GOT A SLPPERY SLOPE? CALL IN THE LABORATORIES OF DEMOCRACY!

By Stephen L. Bakke  May 4, 2016



### *Here's what provoked me:*

*We weave a tangled web when we encourage the Federal government to make rules and referee everything. Tortured reasoning has lead us to an incredible expansion of the Federal government's powers. It's actually gotten in the way of truly productive government using the concept of individuals and states having, and using, their significant power.*

### *Here's my response:*

#### **Got a Slippery Slope? Call in the Laboratories of Democracy!**

Noah Feldman's article expressed his opinion that, given the nature of our Constitution and considering what the courts have recently decided (or refused to), perhaps polygamy could receive Constitutional protection ("Why the Constitution would protect polygamy – It would be a logical extension of the right to same-sex marriage," April 15).

On April 24, D.J. Tice offered his "two cents." ("That slope on marriage rights just got slipperier.") It's painful for many, but Tice is right as he continues the discussion. He points out that if one closely examines the Constitution and the powers granted to the Federal government, there's nothing to prevent polygamists from using the same arguments used to get Constitutional "approval" for same-sex marriage. Tice agrees with Feldman that "if all humans are inherently entitled to have their marriage choices respected and acknowledged by the government, there's no good reason to exclude.....plural marriage."

But then Tice puts on the right track regarding these "slippery slope" issues. Problems run rampant when the Federal government treads beyond where they should. Given our Founders' wisdom, we have 50 states which have significant power, and exist partly to be "laboratories of democracy." On an individual basis, states should venture out and permit or reject many of these controversial laws and policies. Those that work prevail, and others states follow suit. Those that fail fall by the wayside.

Bring on the states as social laboratories for new and controversial laws and policies.

