

This just in: Heather has two daddies

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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Sunday was Father's Day, and the White House [issued](#) the standard presidential proclamation any major feast of the [Hallmark Cycle](#) calls for. Pretty bland stuff, until this: "Nurturing families come in many forms, and children may be raised by a father and mother, a single father, two fathers, a step father, a grandfather, or caring guardian."

Two fathers, Mr. President? David Brody [complains](#) that this oh-so-controversial phrase—"do NOT underestimate the power of those two words," he warns—may alienate anti-same-sex-marriage Christians who otherwise support Obama's agenda. Now I'm not convinced that's a real big group of people, but that aside, Candace Chellew-Hodge's [point](#) is a good one:

Alienation

is something [the LGBT community is] familiar with — kicked out of our families, kicked out of our churches, fired for being who we are, denied housing for being who we are, denied the rights and responsibilities of marriage. You want alienation? Mr. Brody, the line starts behind me.

I'm just as interested, however, in Brody's later point:

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President has a pretty neat and important event today on his Father's Day initiative... So why dilute the impact of that with these words?

Father's Day should NOT be controversial. The "two fathers" scenario is a very divisive issue. Why bring it up and take away from the big event of the day?

Why indeed? Why would the president so brazenly include a brief statement of verifiable fact buried in the fourth

paragraph of a boring press release hardly anyone will get through? Doesn't he know it will leave conservative Christian commentators no choice but [to hyperventilate over it](#), thus distracting from Obama's [substantive agenda](#) for responsible fatherhood programs? (To his credit, Brody himself did cover the latter in a [separate post](#).)

The president's right: plenty of children are nurtured by same-sex parents, as they are by grandparents and others. (He was also right when he [said the same thing](#) on Mother's Day, to little fanfare.) This is true whether or not you believe such children to be in an *equally* good situation as those brought up by both biological parents—a very different question, and one Obama did not engage here.

If conservative commentators pay more attention to this than to the president's pro-fatherhood efforts—efforts many social conservatives can get behind if they're not too busy attacking Democrats on principle—then that's their fault, not his.