

*LGBTQ+ State Groups Applaud the Passage of the Respect for Marriage Act in the U.S. Senate and Call for Congress to Take Further Action to Protect Our Communities*

We, the undersigned, a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) state organizations, make the following statement in response to the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act in the U.S. Senate.

The Respect for Marriage Act will maintain the status quo and protect families by repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), ensuring that all federal benefits are available to married couples no matter where they live, and ensuring that states give full faith and credit to all validly celebrated marriages. Effectively, the Respect for Marriage act will protect the rights of same-sex and interracial couples.

This legislation is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the freedom to marry. LGBTQ+ families deserve stability and respect under the law in their families and all areas of their daily life. We are glad to see the national debate on marriage as settled.

We are incredibly grateful to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin for her hard work to get this bill passed, reaching across the aisle to do it. She has been a champion for protecting LGBTQ+ rights, and this bill's passage is thanks to her.

We thank Congress for taking this step. But it is just that: a step.

The Respect for Marriage Act is only one of the ways in which we must work to ensure LGBTQ+ people are treated fairly and equally under the law. The bipartisan vote on this demonstrates that we are able to have these important conversations across the aisle and work together to protect our community, and that's what we must continue to work for.

Our community — and especially transgender people — are already under fierce attack. Right now, we are seeing grave assaults on people's basic liberties across the board — from denying reproductive freedom to the passage of school censorship laws to efforts to criminalize established, life-saving healthcare for transgender youth. But it doesn't stop there. Our community was

recently attacked in a violent shooting at Club Q — one of the few safe gathering spaces for LGBTQ+ people in Colorado Springs. We must join with all our communities and fight these attacks head-on. We must do more to ensure that we can all live safely, with dignity and respect.

It is now critical that the Senate pass federal nondiscrimination protections this year because a majority of our states still lack explicit laws protecting LGBTQ+ people from discrimination. Ensuring LGBTQ+ people are covered by federal law is a top policy priority and an urgent need facing our community so that we can count on consistent protections wherever we live, work, and play. We can celebrate today's step forward, but we are far from the finish line.

The stakes for our families are enormous. A future is in sight where no American in any part of the country is left vulnerable to discrimination because of who they are or who they love. We are united to make it so.

Alaskans Together For Equality  
Alliance for Full Acceptance  
Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum  
Basic Rights Oregon  
Equality Arizona  
Equality California  
Equality Federation  
Equality Florida  
Equality Illinois  
Equality Michigan  
Equality New Mexico  
Equality North Carolina  
Equality Ohio  
Equality South Dakota  
Equality Texas  
Equality Utah  
Equality Virginia  
Equality Maine  
Fair Wisconsin  
Fairness Campaign

Fairness West Virginia  
Forum for Equality  
Freedom Oklahoma  
FreeState Justice  
Garden State Equality  
Gender Justice  
Georgia Equality  
Louisiana Trans Advocates  
Mass Equality  
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition  
Montana Human Rights Network  
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition  
One Colorado  
One Iowa  
OutFront Minnesota  
OutNebraska  
PROMO Missouri  
Silver State Equality  
Tennessee Equality Project  
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center  
The Transformation Project  
Transgender Education Network of Texas  
TransOhio  
Wyoming Equality