



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN®

November 15th, 2022

Dear Senators:

Together we, the signatories of this letter, write in support of the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404/S. 4556) representing a diversity of health, education, and human services organizations and professional associations that provide public assistance, research and lifesaving services and care to nearly every community in the United States. Fairness, equal treatment, and opportunity are central to our values because we care about our clients and patients, their families and the communities we serve. Americans from all walks of life, across demographics, geographies, and party lines agree that loving, committed couples have the right to be respected and protected under the law. Support for marriage equality for same-sex couples and interracial couples is at an all-time high -- with vast majorities of the public supporting these policies. As many of us highlighted in our support for Marriage Equality in 2015, a patchwork of inconsistent and discriminatory state marriage laws perpetuates stigma and disparity which harms the health, mental health, and economic wellbeing of those impacted.

**This is why we support the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.** Codifying a consistent and inclusive federal standard conferred by the *Loving*, *Windsor*, and *Obergefell* rulings will help to ensure marriage equality, stability for couples and their families, and reduce stigma. No person, including same-sex couples and interracial couples protected by this bill, should fear their marriage will not be recognized by the federal government or their employment benefits threatened.

Our organizations strongly embrace diversity and inclusion because we want everyone we serve to feel included and welcomed as their true, authentic selves. Strong families are the foundation of our social fabric, and fair and equitable treatment for *all families*, under the law, will lead to improved health and well-being, economic and educational opportunities, and to a better future for future generations. As health, education, and human services providers committed to inclusion and equality for our clients and patients, their families, and the communities we serve, **we call on the Senate to pass the Respect for Marriage Act.**

Signed:

AIDS United  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Physicians  
American Counseling Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association

American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
BOOST Collaborative  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care  
Colorado Public Health Association  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
Florida Public Health Association  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality  
Healthcare Ready  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Indiana Public Health Association  
LGBTQ Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association  
Maine Public Health Association  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Missouri Public Health Association  
NASTAD  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Safety Council  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Nevada Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New York State Public Health Association  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Institute  
Research!America  
School Social Work Association of America  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
The Gerontological Society of America  
Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico  
Vermont Public Health Association  
Wisconsin Public Health Association