

September 16, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate,

On behalf of the 40 undersigned faith-based organizations, we join together in support for the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556). Across religious traditions, we honor the common tenet that every person has inherent dignity and worth. And wherever we call home, we share the desire to care for our families with love and commitment. We urge the Senate to pass the Respect for Marriage Act, taking meaningful action to protect same-sex and interracial marriage.

The Respect for Marriage Act is a simple way to provide legal stability for all married couples and their families. Within our communities, we approach matters of marriage, family, and identity differently. This bill recognizes this diversity of belief while ensuring that same-sex and interracial couples are treated with equal respect within the public sphere.

Since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, popular support for same-sex marriage has increased by 10 percentage points to 71 percent,ⁱ including a majority of all major religious traditions and 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 55 percent of Republicans.ⁱⁱ Support for interracial marriage has reached 94 percent, up from only 20 percent a year after the *Loving v. Virginia* decision in 1967.ⁱⁱⁱ With time, opponents bore witness to the shared bonds that exist across all marriages and were swayed.

The freedom to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity. Yet the ability for two people to join together in shared devotion is at risk as long as it remains dependent on the current Supreme Court. Out of our shared religious obligations to care for our neighbors and to pursue justice, we urge you to pass the Respect for Marriage Act.

Sincerely,

Interfaith Alliance

Keshet

ADL (The Anti-Defamation League)

Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Auburn Seminary

Believe Out Loud

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Catholics for Choice

Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation

DignityUSA

Faith in Public Life

Faithful America

Freedom BLOC

Hindus for Human Rights

Jewish Women International
Latter-day Saint Democrats of America
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Many Voices
Maranatha
Muslim Advocates
Muslims for Progressive Values
National Council of Jewish Women
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Ways Ministry
Parity
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructing Judaism
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
SACReD (Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity)
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Sojourners
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Episcopal Church
The Freedom BLOC
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ
Women of Reform Judaism

ⁱ Justin McCarthy, *Same Sex Marriage Support Inches Up to New High of 71%*, Gallup (June 1, 2022), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/393197/same-sex-marriage-support-inches-new-high.aspx>.

ⁱⁱ *Religious Landscape Study: Views About Same-Sex Marriage*, Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/views-about-same-sex-marriage/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Justin McCarthy, *U.S. Approval of Interracial Marriage at New High of 94%*, Gallup (Sep. 10, 2021), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/354638/approval-interracial-marriage-new-high.aspx>.