

November 16, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate,

On behalf of the 45 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,<sup>i</sup> including a majority of all major religious traditions and 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 55 percent of Republicans.<sup>ii</sup> Support for interracial marriage has reached 94 percent, up from only 20 percent a year after the *Loving v. Virginia* decision in 1967.<sup>iii</sup> 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  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith in Public Life  
Faithful America  
Freedom BLOC  
Hindu American Foundation  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Jewish Women International  
Latter-day Saint Democrats of America  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice  
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)  
SALDEF  
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference  
Sikh Coalition  
Sikhnet  
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

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<sup>i</sup> 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>.

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

<sup>iii</sup> 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>.