November 28, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Baldwin and Collins:

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 by federal and state governments.

As faith-based organizations, we recognize that the First Amendment right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The bipartisan substitute amendment provides important clarification around the interaction between the Respect for Marriage Act and the robust religious freedom protections guaranteed under federal law. Crafted in the spirit of collaboration, the amendment protects the right to believe as we choose while leaving intact the core mission of the legislation to respect marriages.

The freedom to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity and supported by a majority of almost every major religious tradition in the United States. We urge the Senate to adopt the bipartisan amendment in full, without further amendment needed to protect religious freedom.

Respectfully,

Interfaith Alliance
ADL (The Anti-Defamation League)
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation
The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faithful America
Hindu American Foundation
Hindus for Human Rights
Jewish Women International
Keshet

Muslim Advocates
Muslims for Progressive Values
National Council of Jewish Women
NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
The Sikh Coalition
Sojourners
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ

Cc: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell