

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. House and Senate,

The undersigned American Sikh organizations join in support of the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556), and its bipartisan amendment introduced by Senator Baldwin, which works to prevent discrimination, equally protect the rights of all Americans, and shield religious freedom.

When inequality exists in our laws, the effects often trickle down to minority communities first. As Sikh Americans of every orientation, we understand discrimination and want all, especially the most vulnerable among us, to be protected equally by the law. Our core belief is that God resides in every human being, and we pray, as many Americans do, that all people may prosper. We call this Sarbat da Bhalla.

Sikhs have a fundamental duty to offer protection to the marginalized, and it hurts us deeply that as this bill was deliberated in Washington, at least five people were killed and 25 injured at Club Q in Colorado Springs. This devastating shooting specifically targeted the LGBTQ+ community, as previous incidents of hate have specifically targeted Sikhs. We are thus reminded of our duty to protect and call on you to support the Respect for Marriage Act and extend the common-sense safeguards it offers to all American families.

Our beautiful nation is one of the most diverse in the world, with a wonderful tapestry of faiths and communities. Before the law, all families in that tapestry must be protected and afforded the ability to build a stable, empowering and prosperous home.

In Service,

1. City Sikhs
2. Ik Onkar Bridges
3. Nanak's Way
4. Sarbat.net
5. Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
6. Sikh Coalition
7. Sikh Dharma International
8. Sikh Dharma of Virginia
9. Sikh Dharmasal
10. Sikhnet.com
11. Sikh Research Charity
12. Vishva Sikh Vichar Sanstha International

Act: [S.4556 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Respect for Marriage Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Amendment: [Download File: Respect for Marriage Act Amendment Text | U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin \(senate.gov\)](#)