



September 4, 202

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 2051

RE: Respect for Marriage Act, S.4556

Dear Senators,

We have come to the sorry state of affairs that we have a Supreme Court that is currently dominated by extremist judges and they have upended fifty years of precedent by overturning Roe v. Wade, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a concurring opinion that Obergefell, Griswold, and Lawrence (the rulings that protect contraception, same-sex relationships, and marriage equality for the LGBTQ+ community) should be revisited next. It is so scary, but not surprising at all. It has been made crystal clear that overturning Roe v. Wade is just the tip of the iceberg.

Extreme right-wing forces have engaged in a concerted effort over the last forty years to pack the Supreme Court with right-wing extremist judges, who have stripped us of our rights over and over again. And, politicians aligned with these forces have not minced words about their contempt for these rights and any efforts to protect them.

After Roe v. Wade was overturned, LGBTQ+ couples and families have been anxiously rushing to the courts to get married, completing second parent adoptions with their partners, worrying about whether or not their partners and families will be covered by their health insurance in the future, and so much more to protect their families from these attacks. It's heartbreaking. No one should have to worry that their rights (that so many have fought and died for) will be stripped away at the hands of corrupt, illegitimate, and unelected Supreme Court justices that do not represent the broad consensus of the American people.

Members of Congress reacted to the Court's decision and Thomas' opinion by introducing the Respect for Marriage Act, a bill that would codify both same-sex and interracial marriage into federal law and would protect it from the same kind of attacks that right-wing politicians and Supreme Court justices launched against abortion. The Respect for Marriage Act has passed the House of Representatives by a bi-partisan vote. All Democrats voted in favor and while 37 Republicans joined them, regretfully, 157 Republicans voted against. And ONLY 5 Republicans in the U.S. Senate have publicly said they would vote to pass the bill. That is unacceptable. The U.S. Senate needs to act. It's time to pass the Respect for Marriage Act to protect interracial and LGBTQ+ marriage. We support and strongly urge its passage.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____

CC: President Joseph R. Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer