



December 18, 2022

The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Senator Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

President Joseph R. Biden Jr  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dem. Leader Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Respect for Marriage Act**

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress,

We write today to express our heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation for your leadership in the historic movement forward for LGBTQ equity represented by the signing this week of the Respect for Marriage Act.

As members of All Saints Church in Pasadena, we have been in the forefront of decades of struggle for LGBTQ equality -- and this year we marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the blessing of the first same-sex union in our congregation. Advocating for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in our church and for their equal protection in our nation has been a core value of our commitment to put our faith into action. And our commitment to that struggle is deeply rooted in our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

As Christians we believe we have a responsibility to both act that on that promise and to speak out and stand up when the faith we profess is hijacked and used as a weapon of mass discrimination against LGBTQ people. Religious liberty is a bedrock of our country and a right cherished by Americans of many faiths. But disguising homophobia as religious freedom is not only a gross distortion of the teachings of Jesus, it is a dangerous legal precedent. Religious liberty is not the liberty to impose your religion on everybody else – and equal protection is not equal protection unless it protects all Americans equally.

And so, while we celebrate together the momentous step forward represented in the Respect for Marriage Act, we also urge your continued efforts toward finishing the work by supporting the Equality Act – which would explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Many years ago, our rector emeritus George Regas challenged us to “set audacious goals and celebrate incremental victories.” The audacious goal of liberty and justice for all will remain aspirational in our nation until we finish the work of securing equal protection for those who have been historically marginalized. Nevertheless, today we celebrate the incremental victory of the Respect for Marriage Act and offer you our thanks for your prophetic leadership in making it happen and pledge to you our continued support for the work ahead.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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