

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
The Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

The recent Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a historic victory for families across the United States, unequivocally determining marriage equality is a right enshrined in the Constitution and directing all 50 states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We applaud the work done by the Department of Justice to secure a ruling that considers all couples as equal under the law and we thank you for the leadership you have demonstrated in advocating equality for the LGBT community.

In light of the *Obergefell* decision, local county clerks began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in states which previously did not recognize these relationships. Regrettably, some state and local officials reacted defiantly to the ruling, issuing statements in opposition to the directive from the Court and refusing to grant licenses to same-sex couples. In fact, some officials have stopped issuing any marriage licenses, thus interfering with all couples' access to the fundamental right to marry. We write to request that the Department of Justice take the appropriate steps to ensure all states and localities act in compliance with this ruling.

Families across the country that gained legal recognition for the first time as a result of this decision have waited long enough to be treated as equals under the law. When opponents of marriage equality attempt to disregard the Court's clear ruling, real families are denied their constitutionally protected rights. As such, we urge you to take any actions necessary to ensure same-sex couples are afforded immediate and complete access to the rights and responsibilities bestowed by the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

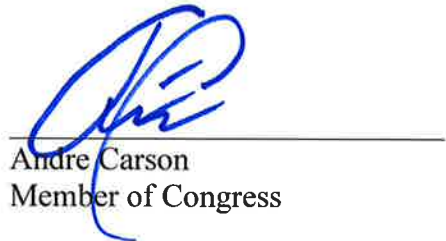


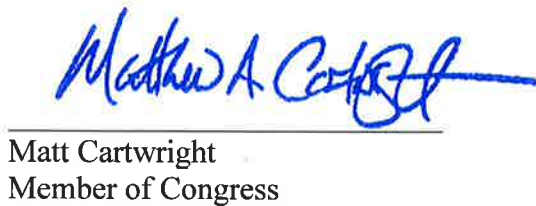
Karen Bass
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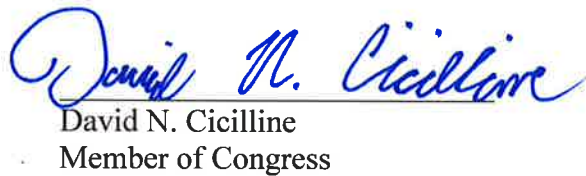

Lois Capps
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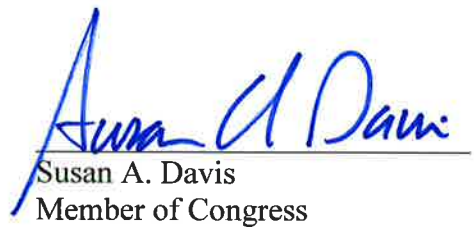

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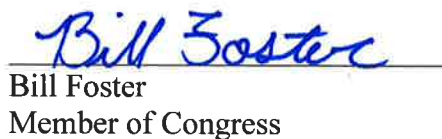

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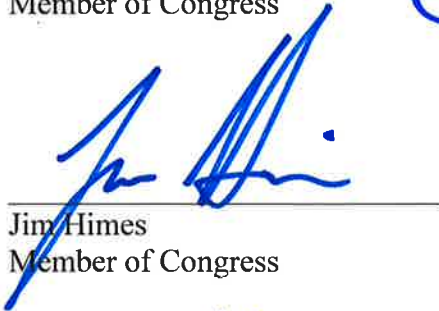

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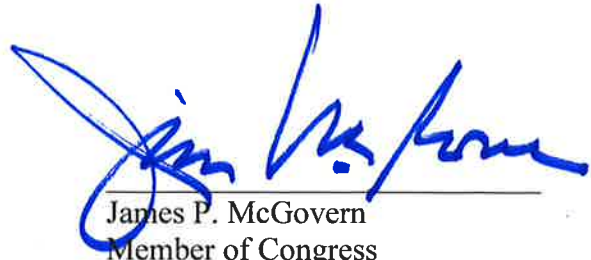

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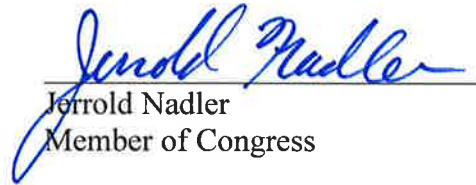
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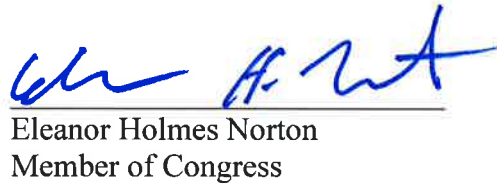
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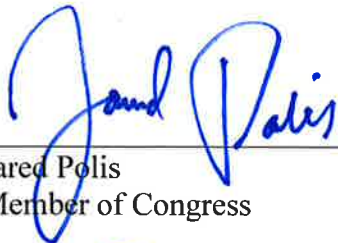
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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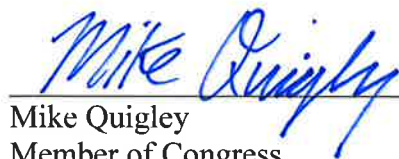
Scott Peters
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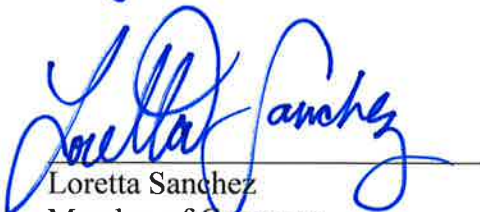
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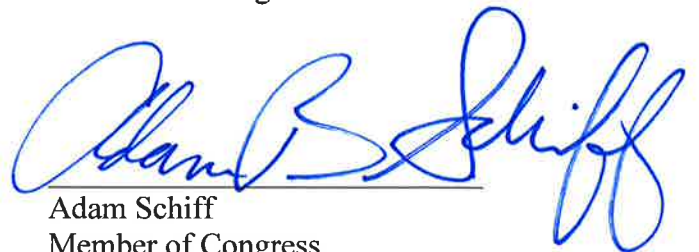
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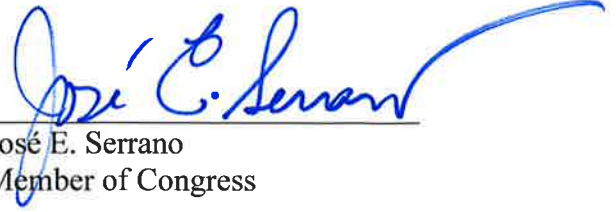
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



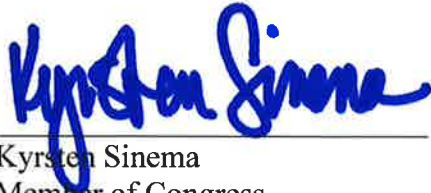
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