

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1st, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to ask you to quickly implement the Supreme Court's ruling in *United States v. Windsor* that struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Court's decision is of tremendous importance to the thousands of married same-sex couples around the country who may now participate fully in federal programs that provide much-needed security for American families. We are grateful for your leadership and your Administration's critical role in achieving this pivotal victory in the fight for equality.

The Court's ruling unquestionably moved us one step closer to realizing the Constitution's promise of equal liberty for all. But there is still more work to be done to ensure that this promise becomes reality for married same-sex couples throughout the nation.

As you know, DOMA impacted more than 1,100 Federal laws and countless more regulations, effectively denying married gay and lesbian couples access to all federal responsibilities and rights that take marital status into account. We know that your Administration is currently reviewing these laws and welcome your commitment to implementing the Court's decision fully and quickly. Attorney General Holder's assurance that "the Department of Justice will work expeditiously with other Executive Branch agencies to implement the Court's decision" confirms that this work is underway. Likewise, we were pleased to see Secretary Napolitano take quick action at the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that married same-sex bi-national couples are able to apply for Green Cards in the same manner as opposite-sex married couples. We also recognize the swift action from the Office of Personnel Management to explain what the decision means for married federal employees with a same-sex spouse in terms of accessing health, retirement, and life insurance benefits. We hope that the Administration will continue rolling out guidance as it is developed for particular laws and programs and will bring administrative treatment of married same-sex couples up-to-date across the full array of federal law as soon as possible.

As you implement the necessary changes at the agency level, we urge you to do so in a manner that, to the greatest extent possible, ensures that legally married same-sex couples across

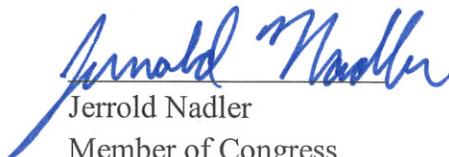
the country, no matter where they live, are treated equally under federal law. We pledge to work with you and support you fully in this effort. To that end, we will continue working to pass the Respect for Marriage Act, which repeals DOMA in its entirety and provides a uniform rule for federal recognition that would ensure that couples lawfully married under state law are treated equally under federal law no matter where they live.

Thank you, again, for your leadership and work on behalf of gay and lesbian couples and their children. Every person and every family deserves equal respect under the law, and we look forward to working together to make this a reality for married gay and lesbian couples throughout this great nation.

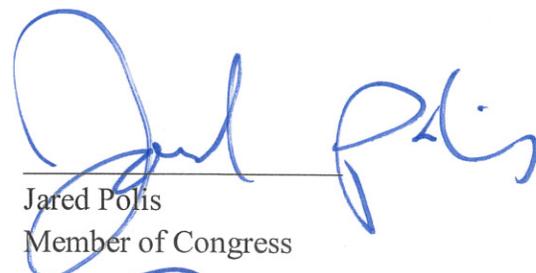
Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



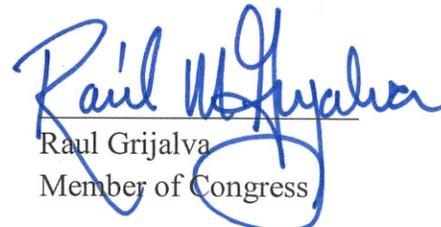
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



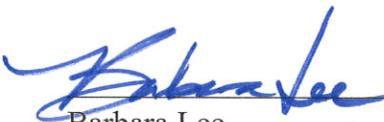
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



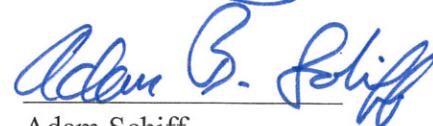
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



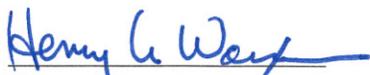
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



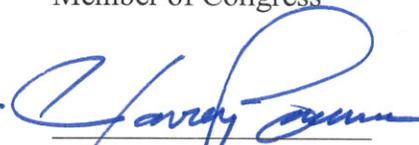
Adam Schiff
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Robert Andrews
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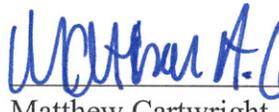
Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress


Timothy Bishop
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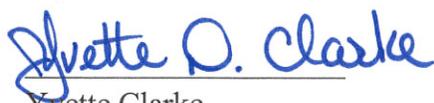

Suzanne Bonamici
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Bruce Braley
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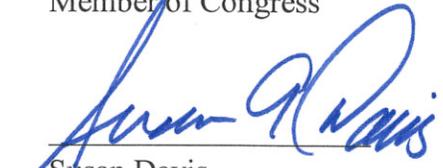

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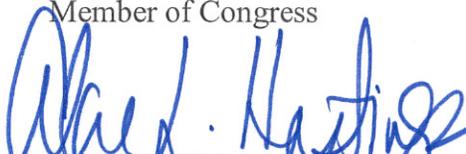

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Lois Frankel
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Joe Garcia
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Luis Gutierrez
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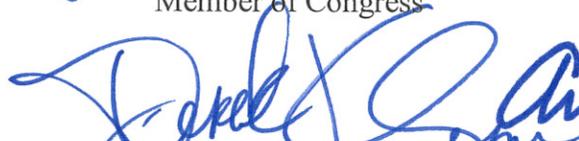

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

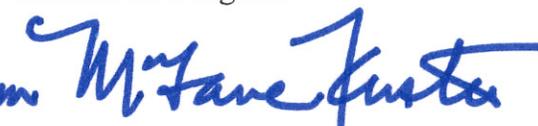

Alcee Hastings
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Brian Higgins
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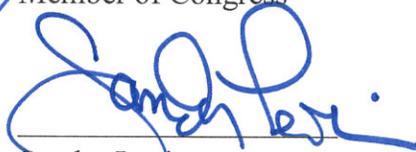

Rush Holt
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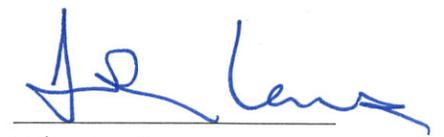

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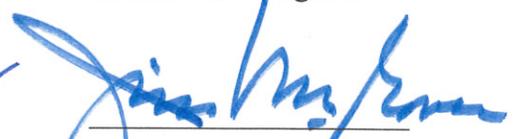

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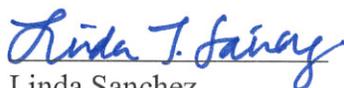

Patrick Murphy
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

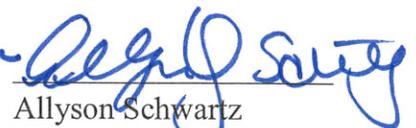

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John Sarbanes
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Jan Schakowsky
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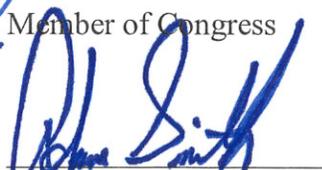

Brad Schneider
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Allyson Schwartz
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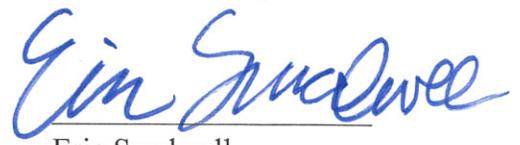

Jose Serrano
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Brad Sherman
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Louise Slaughter
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Jackie Speier
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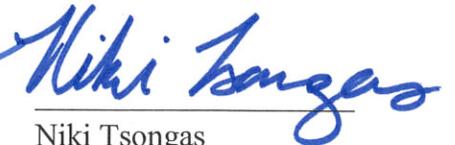

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

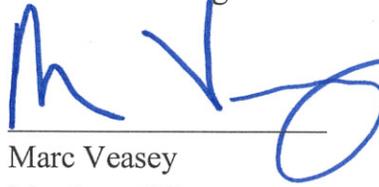


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

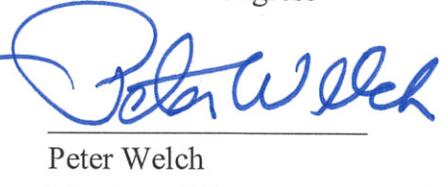


Paul Tonko
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