

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to swiftly and comprehensively implement the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *United States v. Windsor* striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

As you know, DOMA excluded legally married, same-sex couples from the vast sweep of Federal laws that consider marital status. It affects over 1,100 statutes and countless federal regulations, including some of the most fundamental protections for American families: Social Security, Family and Medical Leave, the Tax Code, the Veterans Code, and many others. As the Court noted: "By its great reach, DOMA touches many aspects of married and family life, from the mundane to the profound." The Supreme Court has now definitively resolved, as many of us had believed, that DOMA is a fundamental denial of constitutional liberty. We salute your personal leadership and your Administration's advocacy, which have been instrumental in ensuring this great victory for all Americans.

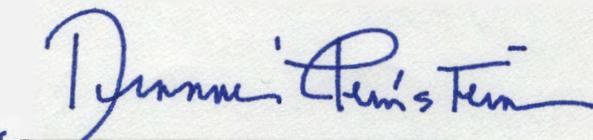
But there remains much more work to do. We understand that your Administration is evaluating the vast number of statutes and regulations impacted, and that many laws provide Federal agencies with great discretion to provide relief to legally-married, same-sex couples. We urge you to ensure that legally-married, same-sex couples are treated equally under Federal law regardless of where they live, to the greatest extent possible. Only by doing this can we truly provide equal protection to the married couples that have long borne the brunt of DOMA's unconstitutional discrimination.

We also remain firmly committed to the cause of fully repealing all of DOMA by passing the *Respect for Marriage Act*, which now has been reintroduced in the Senate with 41 cosponsors. Some statutes, including the Social Security Act

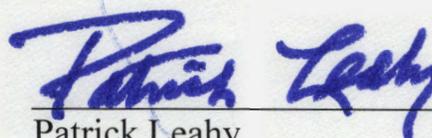
and Veterans Code, may limit the degree to which equal treatment under the law can be fully realized. Passing this legislation will fix that, by making sure that couples that have entered into the lifelong commitment of lawful marriage are treated equally under Federal law regardless of where they live. We also believe that DOMA should be stricken from the books – period. It should not be subject to a potentially shifting Supreme Court majority. Nor should a couple’s legally-recognized marriage be vulnerable to changing Administrations.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to ensuring equality under Federal law for married same-sex couples. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make sure that these couples receive the full and equal treatment to which they are entitled by the Constitution.

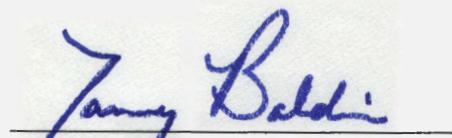
Sincerely,



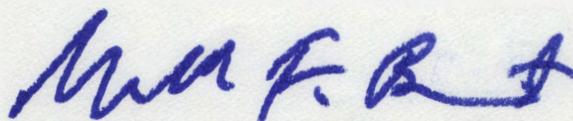
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



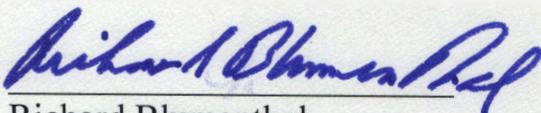
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



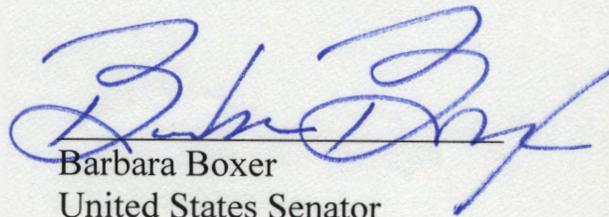
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



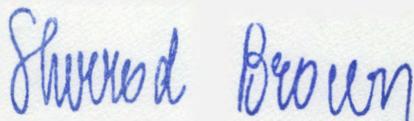
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



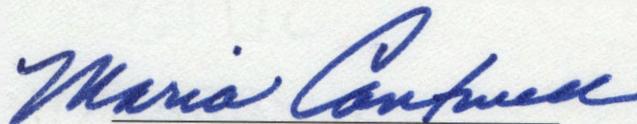
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



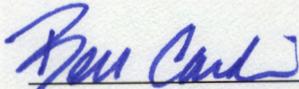
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



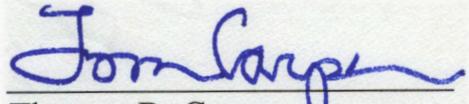
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



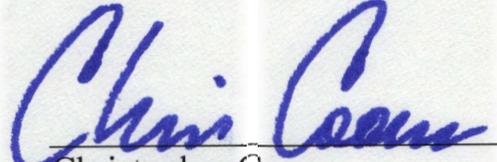
Benjamin Cardin  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher Coons  
United States Senator



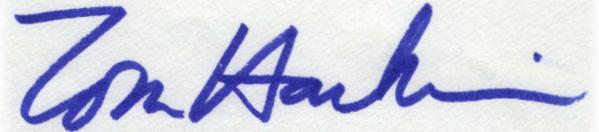
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



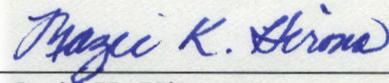
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



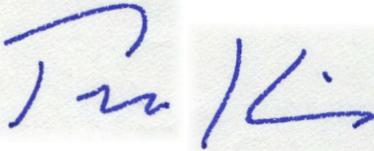
Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



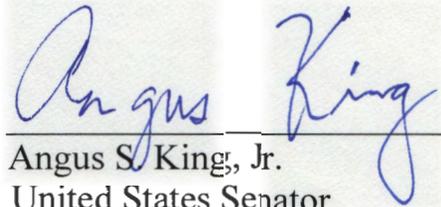
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



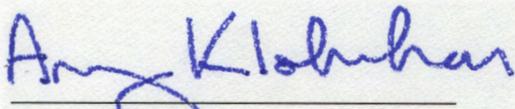
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



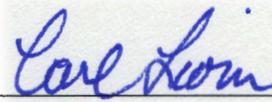
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



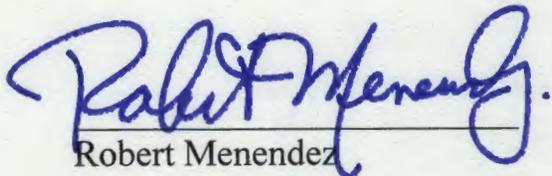
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



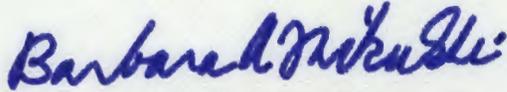
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



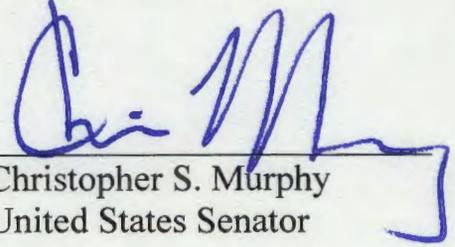
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



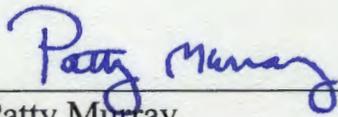
Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



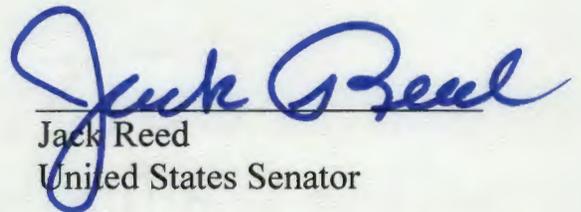
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



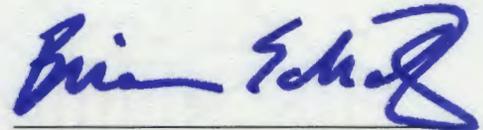
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



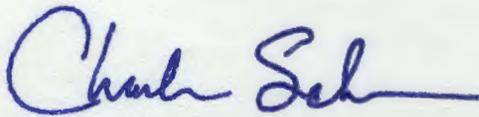
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Bernie Sanders  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



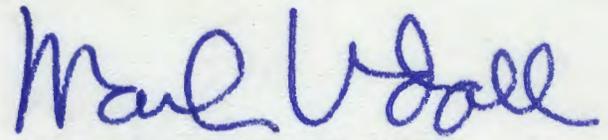
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



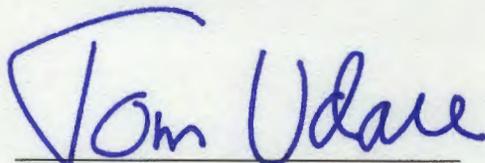
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



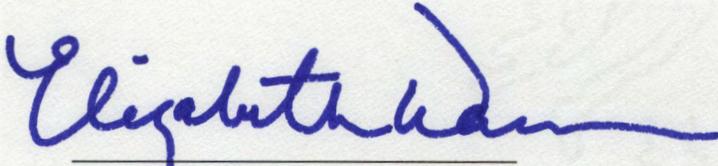
Mark Udall  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



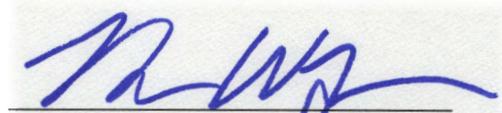
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator