



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov

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Dear Members of the Houston Congressional Delegation,

I write today to urge you to pass the Respect for Marriage Act recently passed by the US Senate. Seeing 12 Senate Republicans support this legislation shows a strong, bipartisan consensus on the issue of marriage equality.

For many families in Houston, this legislation would protect families by repealing the Defense of Marriage Act and requiring states to recognize all marriages that were legal where they were performed. This would be especially important in states like Texas, where laws remain on the books banning same-sex marriage and sodomy, despite Supreme Court rulings legalizing both.

The Respect for Marriage Act would also protect interracial marriages by requiring states to recognize legal marriages regardless of “sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin.”

As Mayor of the fourth largest city in the United States and the largest in the country without marriage equality protections at our state level, this legislation is urgently needed to protect the marriage rights of thousands of Houstonians.

I ask you to support this bipartisan legislation and move this country toward equality.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor