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**MIKE QUIGLEY**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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TARP, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND BAILOUTS  
NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND DEFENSE  
AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
COURTS, COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
THE CONSTITUTION

March 13, 2013

Illinois General Assembly  
301 S 2nd St. # 300  
Springfield, IL 62706

To the Members of the Illinois General Assembly,

For many years, we have fought together for what we believed was in the best interests of our districts, our state and our country.

The Illinois General Assembly is now faced with the opportunity to extend civil marriage to gay and lesbian couples in Illinois. You have the chance to provide recognition as well as basic legal protections to all Illinois families across our state.

We urge you to vote “yes” on Senate Bill 10. Illinois will be stronger when we allow all loving and committed couples the chance to care for and protect one another through marriage.

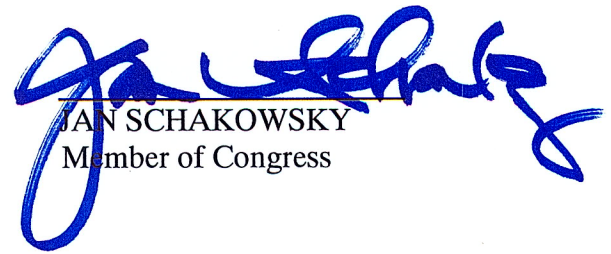
An ever-increasing number of Illinoisans agree. From public opinion polls to letters and conversations with constituents, we are seeing a clear and rapid shift toward support for marriage equality. Put simply, the public has turned a corner on this issue. Most Illinoisans believe we should not impose second-class status on one group of citizens – and they believe that government should treat all families with equity, fairness and respect.

This bill will strengthen Illinois families by allowing individuals who love each other to enter into the joys and benefits of a legal marriage. And, importantly, it will provide strong safeguards for religious institutions to follow their own beliefs with respect to marriage. The bill speaks only to civil marriage.

For some time now, people have been talking about the problems we face in Illinois, but it is time that we start celebrating what Illinois is doing right. Hundreds of clergy leaders, CEOs and business executives, and prominent members of the African-American and Latino communities have voiced their support for this legislation. The editorial pages of every major newspaper covering Illinois have endorsed it. Please join us in being on the right side of history – and vote to include all Illinoisans in the freedom to marry.


Sincerely,

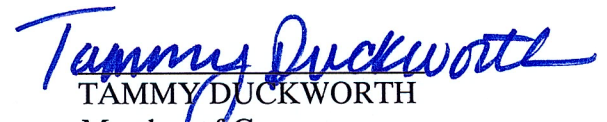
  
MIKE QUIGLEY  
Member of Congress

  
JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress

  
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