



Dear Senator:

Marriage Equality matters to me. I am a New Yorker, and a proud resident of your district. The issue of civil marriage inequality as currently exists under our state law is one of the most pressing civil rights issues of our time. As you know, New York State segregates our state's civil function of marriage based on gender. Marriage Equality is needed legislation, which will afford families the rights and protections owed them by the state, and will allow lives and communities to flourish and strengthen.

There are currently 1,324 civil state and federal rights a marriage granted by the State of New York gives to individuals in heterosexual relationships who wish to marry. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning individuals across our state and country live in committed and loving relationships. In New York, these citizens are denied these 1,324 civil rights by their allegedly representative government. Marriage equality will provide a civil right to citizens, and does not impose any function on a religious institution. When marriage equity is established, no religious organization that chooses not to perform same-gender marriages will be forced to stop their practice and freedom of religion. Marriage equality will afford families with the peace of mind and protections of rights such as hospital visitation, health insurance and home protection. Once Marriage Equality is law, no family wishing to be recognized by the state will have to leave New York to find their equality elsewhere.

Again, I fully support New York's right to Marriage Equality. This legislation is about strengthening and protecting families, and our government acting to correct an inequality in the law which denies citizens due civil rights. With marriage equality, LGBTQ families across our great state will finally be able to fully experience the American dream that all women and men are created equal, and should be treated as such under the law. If you currently support Marriage Equality, I thank you and encourage you to be an advocate for this issue among your fellow legislators. If do not currently support civil marriage equity, I strongly urge you to begin supporting the civil rights of your constituents. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NY, Zip + 4: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____