

November 28, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Baldwin and Collins:

The Respect for Marriage Act is a simple way to provide legal stability for all married couples and their families. Within our communities, we approach matters of marriage, family, and identity differently. This bill recognizes this diversity of belief while ensuring that same-sex and interracial couples are treated with equal respect by federal and state governments.

As faith-based organizations, we recognize that the First Amendment right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The bipartisan substitute amendment provides important clarification around the interaction between the Respect for Marriage Act and the robust religious freedom protections guaranteed under federal law. Crafted in the spirit of collaboration, the amendment protects the right to believe as we choose while leaving intact the core mission of the legislation to respect marriages.

The freedom to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity and supported by a majority of almost every major religious tradition in the United States. We urge the Senate to adopt the bipartisan amendment in full, without further amendment needed to protect religious freedom.

Respectfully,

Interfaith Alliance  
ADL (The Anti-Defamation League)  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Center for Faith, Justice, and  
Reconciliation  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Faithful America  
Hindu American Foundation  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Jewish Women International  
Keshet

Muslim Advocates  
Muslims for Progressive Values  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of  
Public Witness  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
The Sikh Coalition  
Sojourners  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ

*Cc: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell*