

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 511

Expressing support for the designation of June 26, 2016, as “LGBT Equality Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2016

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COONS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REID, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of June 26, 2016,
as “LGBT Equality Day”.

Whereas the United States recognizes that all individuals
should be treated equally;

Whereas Members of the 114th Congress support the rights
and freedoms of individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,
and transgender (in this preamble referred to as
“LGBT people”);

Whereas, on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court of the
United States ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558,

that States could no longer criminalize the private conduct in which same-sex couples engage;

Whereas, on June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *United States v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675, that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (Public Law 104–199; 110 Stat. 2419) was unconstitutional and the Federal Government could no longer restrict married same-sex couples from receiving Federal benefits and protections;

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584, that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and States could no longer discriminate against same-sex couples when recognizing or licensing a marriage;

Whereas decisions handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States on June 26 in 2003, 2013, and 2015 ended marriage discrimination and the criminalization of same-sex private intimate conduct under the law;

Whereas LGBT people and their allies have worked together for more than 60 years to make progress toward achieving full equality for all individuals in the United States, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas LGBT people in the United States continue to face many barriers that cannot be solved through courtroom litigation alone;

Whereas transgender individuals and LGBT people of color are disproportionately and uniquely burdened by such barriers, including violence, discrimination, poverty, and societal isolation;

Whereas LGBT people continue to be targets for violence based on who they are and who they love, as demonstrated most recently by the terrible massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, in which 49 individuals tragically lost their lives;

Whereas, although victories at the Supreme Court of the United States have affirmed the dignity and equality of millions of same-sex couples, statutory reforms are needed to ensure that LGBT people in the United States are free from discrimination and have equal access to the American dream; and

Whereas June 26, 2016, would be an appropriate date to designate as “LGBT Equality Day”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports equal rights and protections for all
3 individuals, regardless of actual or perceived sexual
4 orientation or gender identity;

5 (2) supports the designation of June 26, 2016,
6 as “LGBT Equality Day”;

7 (3) encourages the celebration of “LGBT
8 Equality Day” to—

9 (A) commemorate the significance of deci-
10 sions handed down by the Supreme Court of
11 the United States on June 26 in 2003, 2013,
12 and 2015; and

13 (B) continue educating all people about the
14 forms of discrimination, harassment, and intol-

1 erance that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
2 transgender individuals continue to face; and
3 (4) acknowledges the need for further legisla-
4 tion to ensure that individuals in the United States
5 are free from all forms of discrimination on the
6 basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or
7 gender identity, including in employment, housing,
8 public accommodations, education, Federal funding,
9 credit, and jury service.

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