

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 202

Expressing support for the designation of June 26, 2017, as “LGBT Equality Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2017

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of June 26, 2017,
as “LGBT Equality Day”.

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

Whereas Members of the 115th Congress support the rights
and freedoms of individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,
and transgender (in this preamble referred to as
“LGBT”);

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 people 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 people and LGBT people of color are disproportionately and uniquely burdened by such bar-

riers, including violence, discrimination, poverty, and societal isolation;

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, 2017, 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 people, regardless of actual or perceived sexual ori-
4 entation or gender identity;

5 (2) supports the designation of June 26, 2017,
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-
15 erance that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
16 transgender people continue to face; and

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

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