



July 21, 2022

The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee,

As you know, Utah's four members of the House of Representatives — all conservative Republicans — voted Tuesday for the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act, which would codify the protection of same-sex and interracial marriages.

Representatives John Curtis, Blake Moore, Burgess Owens, and Chris Stewart were among 47 Republicans who joined Democrats in voting for the bill — a surprising number that breathed new life into what many thought would be a futile, but righteous, partisan exercise in a mostly gridlocked Congress. I applaud and deeply appreciate their action, which duly represents the 71 percent of Americans who support same-sex marriages and 94 percent of Americans who support interracial marriages.

On behalf of our shared constituents in Salt Lake City, I urge you to join Representatives Curtis, Moore, Owens, and Stewart by declaring your support for the bipartisan bill today.

While every Senate Democrat is expected to vote for the measure, there are increasing indications there may be enough Republican votes to reach the 60-vote threshold needed to overcome the filibuster and see this bipartisan legislation passed into law. I have been disappointed not to see your name among those who have reportedly decided to support the bill.

Senator Lee, your position on marriage equality and the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans has been unambiguous, but I would implore you to acknowledge the right to equal protection enshrined in the 14th Amendment.

Rather than waiting for the Supreme Court to create confusion and chaos on marriage equality, I respectfully request that you rationally and pragmatically choose to codify what has become a common-sense, mainstream measure.

If Utah's House delegation can stand together in support of loving families, so can its senators.

On behalf of the people of Salt Lake City — our shared constituents — I urge you to put this question to rest, once and for all, by supporting the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act today.

ERIN MENDENHALL
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Mendenhall".

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City