



July 21, 2022

The Honorable Mitt Romney
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Romney,

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.

You told reporters in Washington on Wednesday that you didn't think "we need to lose sleep over it unless there were a development that suggested the law was going to be changed."

Respectfully, I'd suggest that development has already happened.

In a concurring opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, Justice Clarence Thomas was explicit in his desire to use the same legal rationale to overturn same-sex marriage equality. He called that ruling "demonstrably erroneous" and said the Court has "a duty to correct the error."

It is only a matter of time before a case comes before the court that gives Justice Thomas the chance he's seeking to strip this right from LGBTQ+ Utahns.



Senator, I've known you to be a rational, thoughtful leader — a breathtaking contrast with the chaotic approach of President Trump and some leaders in your party. While we disagree on many policy matters, I consider you a trusted agent of stability during complicated, dangerous times.

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.

Very truly yours,

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

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City