

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and
International Law
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Obama, Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Schumer, and
Chairwoman Lofgren:

As members of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, we are writing to express our strong support for a comprehensive immigration reform bill which would end discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) binational families. We urge Congress to include the *Uniting American Families Act* (H.R. 1024/S. 424) in any comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Currently, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents may sponsor their spouses (and other immediate family members) for immigration purposes. But, same-sex partners committed to spending their lives together are not recognized as “families” under U.S. immigration law and thus do not have this same right. As a result, tens of thousands of binational families are either already living separately, face imminent separation, or have left the U.S. entirely in order to

remain together. This is unacceptable, and we believe comprehensive immigration reform legislation must include a strong family reunification component inclusive of LGBT families.

According to 2000 census data compiled by the Williams Institute, an estimated 36,000 LGBT binational families are impacted by the inability to sponsor their partners for residency, and nearly half of those (47 percent) are raising children. Our existing, discriminatory immigration laws hurt not only those individuals, but their extended families, communities, and employers, as well. Not only would an inclusive family reunification provision strengthen American families, it would bolster the competitiveness of businesses in the U.S. by allowing corporations to attract, employ, and retain the very best talent from across the globe. Indeed, the U.S. lags behind 19 countries that already recognize same-sex couples for immigration purposes, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, and Germany.

In truth, no immigration reform bill can be called “comprehensive” unless it includes all Americans, including those who are LGBT. This is recognized in the *Reuniting Families Act* (H.R. 2709), which includes LGBT families in addressing the broader immigration problem of family unification.

We urge you to include LGBT binational families in comprehensive immigration reform legislation. No one should be forced to choose between the person they love and the country they call home. It is time that our immigration laws kept families together instead of tearing them apart.

Sincerely,



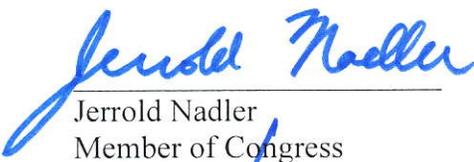
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



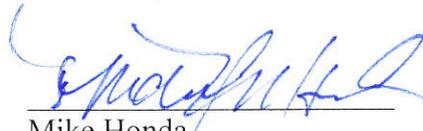
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



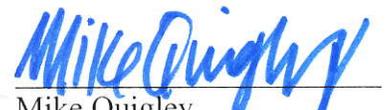
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



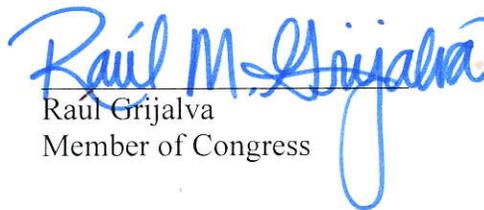
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Bill Delahunt

William Delahunt
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke

Yvette Clarke
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Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
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Jim Moran

James Moran
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Lynn Woolsey
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Carolyn B. Maloney

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Mike Doyle

Michael Doyle
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Judy Chu

Judy Chu
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John Lewis
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Rush Holt

Rush Holt
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Andre Carson

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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Eliot Engel
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Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
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Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

Susan D. Davis

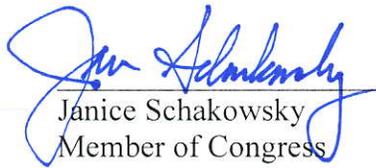
Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

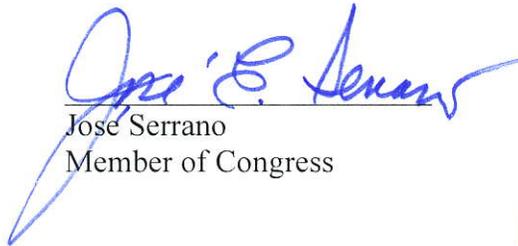
Alice L. Hastings

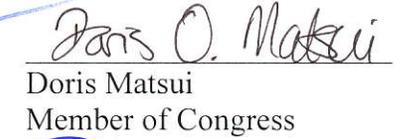
Alice Hastings
Member of Congress

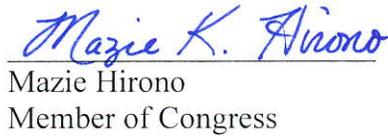

Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

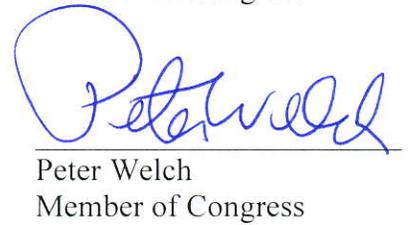

David Wu
Member of Congress

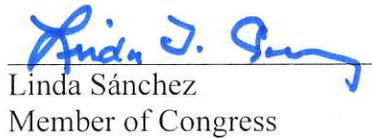

Jose Serrano
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Doris Matsui
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Mazie Hirono
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Linda Sánchez
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Chellie Pingree
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Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

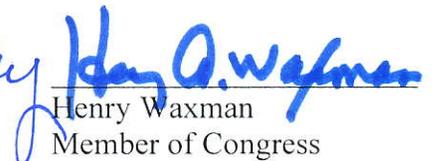

Diana DeGette
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Bob Filner
Member of Congress

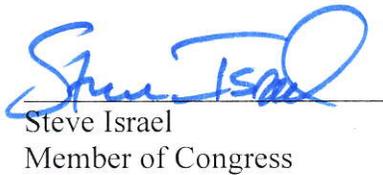

Howard Berman
Member of Congress

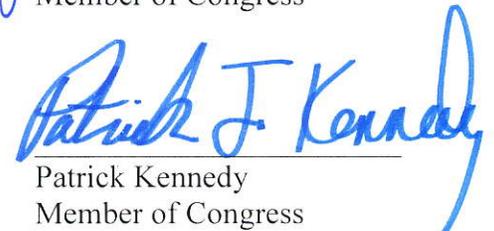

Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

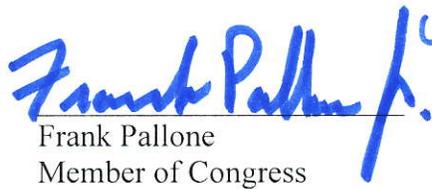

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Steve Rothman
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Steve Israel
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Patrick Kennedy
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Jane Harman
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Frank Pallone
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Niki Tsongas
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