



Co-sponsorship Memorandum

"No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, June 26, 2015

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senators Carpenter, Dassler-Alfheim, Roys, Spreitzer, Ratcliff

Representatives Rivera-Wagner, Udell, Cruz, Neubauer, Phelps, Snodgrass, Spaude, Stroud, Arney, Clancy

DATE: May 29

RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB 2031/1, relating to: eliminating constitutional restrictions on marriage

DEADLINE: June 5 at 5:00PM

In June 2014, same-sex couples had their right to legally marry upheld in Wisconsin, and one year later, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed this right for couples across the country in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. In late 2022, the United States Congress passed bipartisan legislation providing statutory protection for same-sex and interracial marriages, which the President then signed into law.

LRB 2031 would remove invalid and unenforceable language in our state's constitution that fails to honor the bonds of love of all devoted couples. The landmark Supreme Court decision *Obergefell v. Hodges* opened the door for all couples to enjoy the freedom of marriage across

the United States, and it is time for Wisconsin's constitution to reflect that marriage equality is the law of the land.

Wisconsin should ensure it is on the right side of history by removing this discriminatory language from our state's constitution. We urge you to consider co-sponsorship of this resolution.

To be added as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email or contact Sen. Carpenter's office at 6-8535 by June 5 at 5PM. Co-sponsors will be added to both Senate and Assembly versions, unless otherwise notified.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2025 legislature on first consideration, eliminates the constitutional restriction that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state and the provision that a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of a marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.