

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

President pro Tempore
Toni G. Atkins
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, Speaker Rendon, and President pro Tempore Atkins,

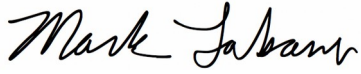
As Members of the California Congressional Delegation, we write to you regarding ACA 5 and the repeal of Proposition 8 from the California Constitution. We are grateful for the significant steps taken by the Legislature and the Administration to ensure that LGBTQI+ families have the stability they deserve and enthusiastically support the codification of those protections.

We believe this moment is a critical juncture for LGBTQI+ Americans. Although 71% of Americans support the freedom to marry for same-sex couples—an all-time high—a swift and extreme rollback of LGBTQI+ rights is sweeping through statehouses across the nation and placing the fundamental freedoms of LGBTQI+ people in the center of vitriolic culture wars. At the federal level, Judge Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision called into question the Constitutional tenets upholding the rights to marriage and private sexual conduct between individuals of the same sex. Over the past few years, the advances that have been made for LGBTQI+ rights over decades are becoming increasingly tenuous and politicized.

We believe the right to create a family should not be dictated by the state, nor should the legal parameters of love be defined by the whims of politicians. Families and children rely on the benefits and responsibilities of marriage, and California has an opportunity to send a national message on what we stand for as a state: equal rights, equal protections, and equal opportunity for all Californians. As a state with a long record of leading the nation on civil rights issues, we are of the opinion that removing outdated language from the state Constitution that puts American families at risk is a necessary and long overdue step towards national equality.

Thank you again for your leadership in defense of LGBTQI+ Californians and families everywhere.

Sincerely,



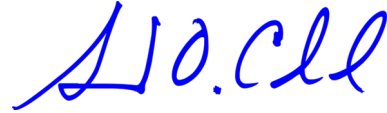
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



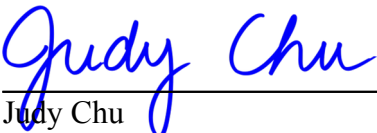
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



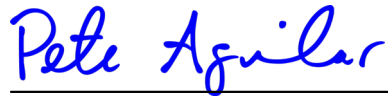
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



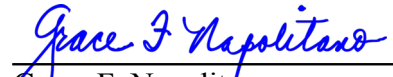
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



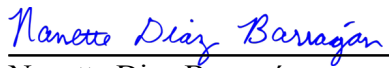
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



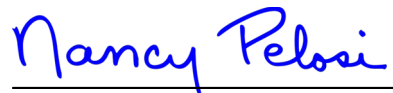
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



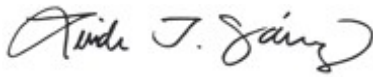
Adam B. Schiff
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Doris Matsui
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Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



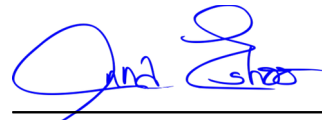
Linda T. Sánchez
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Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



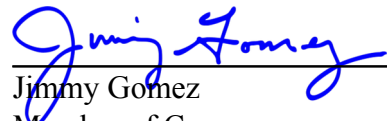
John Garamendi
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Jared Huffman
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Jimmy Gomez
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Eric Swalwell
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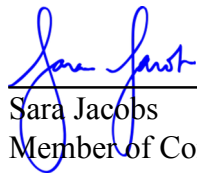
Jimmy Panetta
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Ted Lieu
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Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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