

2022 RES-274  
RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC PASSAGE AND SIGNING OF  
THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

WHEREAS, on December 13th, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act which codified federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages; and

WHEREAS, this historic, bipartisan law was authored by former Dane County Board Supervisor, the first openly LGBTQ member of the U.S. Senate, and OUR Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, the road toward progress for the LGBTQ community has been long and arduous, yet thanks to the bravery of countless individuals refusing to give up, these obstacles have been overcome and history has been made; and

WHEREAS, the Respect for Marriage Act will give millions of Americans in same-sex and interracial marriages the certainty that they will continue to enjoy the freedoms, rights, and responsibilities afforded to all other marriages; and

WHEREAS, the Respect for Marriage Act recognizes the intersectionality between the LGBTQ community and the broader struggle for civil rights and equality while acknowledging the complex layers of different experiences is one step closer to protecting the rights of those who face discrimination on many levels; and

WHEREAS, in the landmark civil rights case, Obergefell vs. Hodges, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in 2015 that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming public support for this ruling and for same-sex marriage, challenges continued, and in the recent Dobbs decision, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his concurrence that Obergefell as well as Loving v. Virginia, which legalized interracial marriage, should be revisited; and

WHEREAS, the Respect for Marriage Act closed the door on that possibility and guaranteed that progress would continue and that the respect and dignity of marriage equality is now the law of the land; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as a historic day in our nation's history with the signing of the Respect for Marriage Act.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk