

Rep. Wild Votes To Enshrine Marriage Equality Into Federal Law

By Office of Congresswomen Wild

Washington, D.C. — Today, U.S. Representative Susan Wild voted to pass the bipartisan and bicameral Respect For Marriage Act, to enshrine marriage equality into federal law, ensuring that all Americans have the right to marry whom-ever they love.

"I am proud of my vote to protect the right to marriage equality—a right is not a right unless it is equally exercised by all," said Rep. Wild. "We cannot allow families who depend on the rights and privileges secured by the guarantee of marriage equality to wonder if one day they will wake up in a nation that no longer recognizes their marriage, as many have since Justice Clarence Thomas called for the court to reconsider the Obergefell decision. Now, they will not have to worry.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House overwhelmingly approved a marriage equality bill Thursday that would ensure same-sex and interracial couples continue holding many of the rights they have now, should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn the cases that established those constitutional protections.

The measure now heads to the desk of President Joe Biden, who plans to sign it.

The 258-169-1 vote included the backing of 39 Republicans, though many GOP lawmakers argued during debate there was no reason to pass the legislation since the justices have not agreed to take up any cases that would end legal marriages for interracial or same-sex couples.

Democrats countered the legislation is essential to assure Americans that should the conservative-leaning court take up such a case in the future, as it did with abortion rights, same-sex and interracial marriages will still be recognized federally.

They also said religious liberty protections added in the Senate should assuage concerns about potential impacts on people and organizations.

"I'm standing here today because in the year 2022, families like mine are once again concerned that an activist out-of-step Supreme Court is going to take those rights away," Minnesota Democratic Rep. Angie Craig said during floor debate.

Wisconsin Democratic Rep. Mark Pocan argued that his marriage to his husband, Phil, shouldn't be any different from any other marriages when it comes to taxes, visiting a spouse in the hospital, Social Security benefits, or retirement.

Pocan urged his colleagues, including Republicans, to back the bill, saying "it's never too late to do the right thing."

He later added that he was sure "no one here would intend to discriminate against me and my spouse, as I would never against you and yours."



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