

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
The Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We are writing to request that you formally recognize as lawful the more than 300 same-sex marriages recently performed in the State of Michigan for the purposes of federal law and eligibility for federal benefits.

On March 21, U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and its implementing statutes as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause. Judge Friedman also ordered that the State of Michigan be enjoined from enforcing the ban as well as declined to stay his order. One day later, in joyous celebrations across the state, more than 300 same-sex couples were lawfully married.

Since that time, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, at the request of Michigan's Governor and Attorney General, has issued an indefinite stay, blocking additional same-sex couples from exercising a long-denied right and casting unnecessary legal uncertainty over those couples who were recently married.

We appreciate your continued leadership role in the Executive Branch's implementation of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *United States v. Windsor*. The Court's decision was a historic step toward equal protection for all American families, regardless of sexual orientation. By clarifying the federal status of these now married same-sex couples in Michigan—as you did in January for similarly situated same-sex couples in Utah—you can take another step toward full equality.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



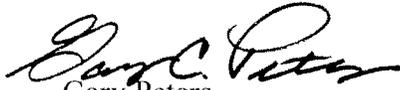
Carl Levin
U.S. Senator



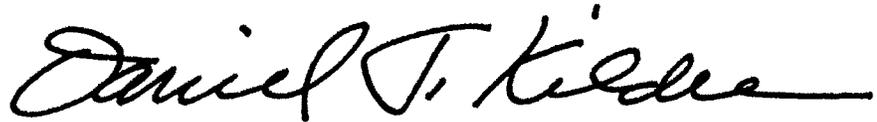
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress