



Imprimir

Cerrar ventana

# A fight that must be won

| 2009-12-03 | El Diario NY

Six local Democrats voted to maintain the discriminatory status quo for gay and lesbian couples in New York State: Joseph Addabbo, Shirley Huntley, George Onorato and Hiram Monserrate, all of Queens; Carl Kruger of Brooklyn; and Ruben Diaz Sr. of the Bronx.

These and two other Democrats from upstate voted with a solid Republican block to oppose the marriage equality bill on the State Senate floor yesterday. A bill had already been approved in the Assembly and Governor David Paterson had announced that he would sign marriage equality legislation.

Unlike heterosexual couples, gay and lesbian couples are barred from marrying and accessing the rights and benefits attached to marriage—from joining the health plans of a partner or making critical health decisions to being eligible for even bereavement fares.

There is also another double standard. Gays and lesbians pay taxes that cover countless services for the public, including heterosexuals. They are among the workers across a spectrum of fields that serve heterosexuals. Yet they continue to be marginalized.

Senators like Diaz claimed that their constituents oppose same sex marriage. But even if they disagree, this is not the issue that New Yorkers are obsessed with opposing—rather, they are losing sleep over maintaining their families during this economic recession.

Yesterday, religious and conservative groups rejoiced over the vote. But there is no cause for celebration when discrimination is upheld. Legal marriage that is gender neutral is not a matter of religious beliefs—it is a basic civil right that is long overdue.

When Governor Paterson last year ordered state agencies to recognize same sex couples who were married elsewhere, he did the right thing. Shamefully, the Senate failed to follow Paterson's lead.

The majority of senators issued a blow to equality. But we applaud the 24 senators who stood up for a basic right and expect that they, along with redoubled efforts and organizing, will work for another round and ultimately, a victory for couples and families.

Imprimir

Cerrar ventana

- CANALES
- Autos
- Clasificados
- Deportes
- Diversión
- Educación
- Entretenimiento
- Negocios-Finanzas
- Inmigración
- Móvil
- Noticias
- Recetas
- Salud
- Teleguía
- Vida y Estilo
- Voto Latino

- PUBLICACIONES
- La Opinión
- El Diario
- Hoy NY
- La Raza
- El Mensajero
- La Prensa
- Vista
- La Vibra
- Contigo
- Rumbo

Advertise   Contáctanos   Privacidad   Términos de uso   Índice del sitio

© Copyright 2009, impreMedia Digital, LLC All rights reserved