

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2009

Dear Member:

We write regarding the impending vote on the Marriage Equality Act, Assembly Bill - A7732, sponsored by Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell (D-Manhattan). As you know, the New York State Assembly has already passed this bill in 2007 during a previous session. Five other states - Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and Vermont - have now adopted similar measures and a number of court cases in states across the land will also likely, over time, rule in favor of full marriage equality.

Equal protection under the law has always been a hallmark of the American political and legal system, and in this instance we believe this principle should be extended to all those in our state who seek the civil contract of marriage and the numerous legal rights and protections that come with it.

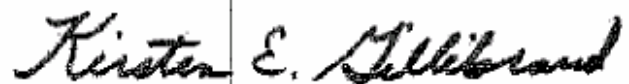
We have expressed our support for full marriage equality in New York and for a reworking of federal law that denies full federal legal equality to anyone who is lawfully married in any state. Passage of this bill will be a vital step to achieving that goal.

We appreciate the sincere and considered effort you put into this, and other, legislation and we thank you for the job you do representing your constituents. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us on this or other matters that are of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator