

Marriage Fairness

In New York State



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

All New Yorkers Deserve the Freedom to Marry.
Support the Marriage Fairness Bill.

2,462

Federal & NY State benefits, rights and privileges denied to same-sex couples who cannot legally marry¹, 1,324 in New York alone.

184 million

Dollars that would be added to NY State's economy following the legalization of same-sex marriage².

1967

The year *Loving v. Virginia* affirmed the right of interracial couples the freedom to marry, This law would do the same for gay and lesbian New Yorkers.

New York Must Recognize the Rights and Liberties of All Americans

- Marriage fairness is a civil rights issue. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry creates a second class citizenry just as laws banning interracial marriage did. Among the rights denied same-sex couples are: the authority to make medical decisions, the ability to visit a hospitalized partner, access to inheritance and the protection of Family Court in domestic violence cases or child custody disputes.

Marriage is a Civil Institution

- Amending the state's Domestic Relations Law has civil implications only. Clergy members could continue to choose which marriage ceremonies they will perform, as they do today.

The Protections of Marriage Should be Available to All Children and Families.

- Children of same-sex parents often suffer economic, legal and familial insecurity because their bond to their parents is not legally recognized. Every major children's health and welfare organization – including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association and the Child Welfare League of America has come out in support of the rights of lesbians and gay men to parent.

Get involved in the Marriage Fairness Campaign today!

Call your state senator and express your support for Senate bill 5884, the Marriage Fairness Bill.

Visit nyclu.org/lgbtrights or email us at ebraudy@nyclu.org

¹US Government Accountability Office <http://www.gao.gov/docdb/lite/details.php?rptno=GAO-04-353R%20>; and Empire State Pride Agenda: www.prideagenda.org

²Love Counts: The Economic Benefits of Marriage Equality for New York: William C. Thompson, Comptroller, June 2007 (The amount is calculated as the three years following the legalization of marriage in NY State.)