



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RELIGIOUS LEADERS APPLAUD
CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER FOR BRAVE REVERSAL OF
OPINION ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY
*OREGON MINISTERS, ACTIVISTS PRAISE REP FOR
SUPPORTING REPEAL OF DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT***

PORTLAND, OR - Standing on the Side of Love has joined with religious leaders from across Oregon to applaud **U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer** (D-OR) for reversing his position on marriage equality and supporting the **Respect for Marriage Act**, introduced by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) last Tuesday.

For background on the Congressman's announcement, see his Huffington Post [op-ed](#) entitled "Proudly Changing My Position on DOMA."

The following faith leaders offered praise for the Congressman's decision:

Kate Lore, Social Justice Minister & Standing on the Side of Love Spokeswoman: "People of faith have always played a tremendous role in supporting laws that advance justice and the movement for marriage equity is no different."

Reverend Dana Worsnop, Atkinson Memorial Church, Oregon City, Oregon: "As a religious leader, I stand on the side of love and for that which expands the scope and embrace of the force of love in the world. I applaud Rep. Blumenauer for his principled stand in changing his position on same gender marriage. I will vote for him even more happily in the next election."

Reverend Thomas Disrud, Acting Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland: "Today Congressman Earl Blumenauer came out in support of marriage equality for all people. I applaud the congressman for this stand. Marriage equality is the civil rights issue of our times and it will take many people of goodwill standing on the side of love to make this dream a reality. Bless you Earl Blumenauer."

Reverend Chuck Currie of the United Church of Christ in Portland: "The General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorsed marriage equality in 2005 and we commend Representative Blumenauer for his change in position."

Reverend Nathan Meckley of the Metropolitan Community Church: “I am thrilled to hear of Congressman Blumenauer’s public change of stance. I applaud his ability for fearless moral courage and to be one more public voice speaking out for full inclusion.”

Reverend Susan Maginn of Wy’East Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Portland: “I know that God lives wherever Love lives. When we are doing God's work, then we are standing on the side of Love. Any act that is anti-loving has nothing to do with God. Any act to limit someone based on sexual orientation is an attempt to limit Love and therefore has nothing to do with God. Nothing. When we are doing God's work, we are uncovering Love from the private corners of the world. When we are doing God's work, we are uncovering Love as it gasps for breath under the waste of injustice. Let us dig deep so that Love can come out into the open and finally bless us all.”

Reverend Katherine Jesch, a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister from Portland: “It was a relief to hear that Rep. Blumenauer has finally changed his mind about the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and propose a real defense for marriage equality for all people. Hopefully, his new found courage will inspire more of his colleagues to follow his leadership and do the right thing.”

Standing on the Side of Love is a campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and promotes respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe that no person of any immigrant status, race, religion, gender and sexual orientation, ability level, or political view should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence.

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