

Senate Judiciary Committee
Jan 29th, 2025 SB 2264
Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on SB 2264.

The Hemjokost Center hosted the exhibit [At Last: The 10th Anniversary of Marriage Equality](#). This ran from August of 2023 to August of 2024. It also hosted a celebration night that I both attended and spoke at, with many other speakers giving passionate testimony to the struggle of their life. Many were elders who never thought they’d be able to get married.



These were LGBTQ+ folks who had lived through our HIV epidemic and weren't even sure they'd be here today. One speaker said that they looked around in the 80s and there were no old gay men. There was no life for LGBTQ+ individuals to really live.

And the feelings in that room were of reverence and appreciation that we've come far from that time when they were kids decades ago. That LGBTQ+ acceptance had grown to the point that they could live their life, be happy, and even get married.

What this bill does is codify that within the state century code and to recognize marriage as a union between people rooted in love and beauty. While certain religious individuals disagree with this, I want the committee to understand that many faiths see same sex couples as holy under God and their union as deserving of recognition.

I'm not sure there is much data I can provide to show this century's code change will drastically improve lives, but it will have an impact on minority stress. I've seen the relief in a room full of elders who fought their whole life to prove love is love.

I know the purview of many of our lawmakers, so I ask, when do we get to heal? When is it enough? When can we build trust back and start to live together in peace. Celebrate with each other the beauty of our own ideas and convictions? Show kids today that we can grow beyond the hate of yesterday. I urge a “do pass” on this bill, so when I'm old, I can share joy with young adults who are my age now.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler