

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. CP10-0726

In Support of the Uniting American Families Act

Introduced by Councilmember Linkhart

WHEREAS, a driving goal under U.S. immigration law is family unification and the ability of families and individuals to reside legally in the U.S., engaging fully in our country's rich civil traditions and form of government; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Denver respects the proper legal rights of all immigrant groups and families, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) family structures; and,

WHEREAS, current U.S. immigration law discriminates against a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident and his or her foreign-born partner by not allowing the sponsorship of the foreign GLBT partner for immigration benefits, although an opposite-sex couple would have the right to do so; and,

WHEREAS, this form of discrimination and unfair treatment under the law has devastating and life-altering consequences for bi-national GLBT families; and,

WHEREAS, currently pending in the United States Congress is the Uniting American Families Act (H.R. 1024/S.424), reintroduced in 2009, by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and co-sponsored by Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) and many others. The purpose of this bill is "to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships"; and,

WHEREAS, In order to qualify as a permanent partnership under the proposal, a GLBT couple must undergo a lengthy process to demonstrate many of the same requirements that heterosexual couple must show, including lifelong commitment, financial interdependence, exclusivity, inability to be married, and lack of familial blood connection; and,

WHEREAS, The Uniting American Families Act would bring U.S. immigration law in line with the 19 other countries that already recognize same sex partnerships for immigration purposes: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council expresses our strong support for the passage of the Uniting American Families Act or other laws that will end discrimination for bi-national same-sex partners under the immigration laws and will allow gay and lesbian residents of the City of Denver fair and equal access to immigration benefits through their permanent partnerships.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver Congressional Delegation; Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Honorable Diana DeGette; Honorable Harry Reid, Speaker of the United States Senate; Honorable Mark Udall, United States Senator; Honorable Michael Bennet, United States Senator and Honorable Joseph Biden, Vice-President of the United States and President of the United States Senate.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL_____2010

PRESIDENT