

Senate Resolution No. 49

Introduced by Senators Leno, Galgiani, and Lara

Relative to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month

WHEREAS, Our great state and nation consistently and diligently strive to promote the egalitarian principles of equality and justice where all people have inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, California's and America's diversity is one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS, To achieve a just and fair society, we must teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the common good in all of us; and

WHEREAS, Our great state protects its residents from discrimination and harassment based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental ability, medical condition, sex, including gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have made important and lasting contributions to our great state and nation in every field of endeavor, including, but not limited to, business, medicine, law, humanities, science, literature, politics, education, music, philanthropy, sports and athletics, arts, and culture, that enrich our national life; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people come from all walks of life, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, economic status, physical or mental ability, medical condition, sex, or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in the history of the United States, a sitting President and Vice President, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, affirmed their support for the fundamental right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Former Vice President Dick Cheney and former First Lady Laura Bush have also affirmed their support for marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), affirming that all loving and committed couples who are married deserve equal treatment and respect from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that Proposition 8 sponsors had no standing to appeal the federal trial court's decision that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, thereby restoring marriage equality in California; and

WHEREAS, Married same-sex couples now enjoy the same rights and privileges granted to other married couples, including joint tax filings, military benefits, family and medical leave, and the ability to sponsor their foreign spouse; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," allowing servicemen and women to serve their country openly and proudly; and

WHEREAS, More lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are being elected to public offices across the country, playing in professional sports leagues, occupying the highest positions in business, and serving as role models for all; and

WHEREAS, While our great state and nation have progressed in our journey toward dignity, understanding, and mutual respect for all, we still have a long way to go in eradicating the prejudice and discrimination that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families encounter, and to this end, we continue working for the passage of the inclusive federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), comprehensive immigration reform, and increased awareness of the difficulties facing the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, To build a stronger and better state and nation, we must continue to help advance the cause of equality for all people; and

WHEREAS, Friends and allies of the LGBT community have shown considerable support and commitment to the struggles of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Each year, June marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion that gave birth to the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has proclaimed June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month and reaffirmed his administration's goal of eliminating prejudice everywhere it exists and celebrating the great diversity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, their families and friends, and all those committed to justice and equality celebrate, during the month of June, the rich culture, the notable achievements, and the outstanding services that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans make to our great state and nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate proclaims June 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, urges all residents to join in celebrating the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and encourages the people of California to work to help advance the cause of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Members of the Legislature and to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 49 read and adopted by the Senate June 23, 2014.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate