



# The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

## Now that the Freedom to Marry is a Reality For Every American, Texas Must Not Stand In the Way

For Immediate Release:

June 26, 2015

Contact: Dwight Clark 210-733-6604

Senator Jose Menendez released the following statement in response to this historic ruling by the United States Supreme Court on the Freedom to Marry:

"Every loving and committed couple deserves the same opportunity to marry that my wife Cehlia and I had nearly 20 years ago. It's a blessing in life when you find the person you want to spend the rest of your life with and now the government can no longer stand in the way."

"Today, the Supreme Court ruled that every American should have the right to marry whomever they choose. States can no longer discriminate against your right to marry simply because you are a same-sex couple. This is truly a historic moment for our country."

"Gay and lesbian couples want to get married for the same reasons that everyone else can - because they love their significant other. As the state of Texas implements the historic Supreme Court's ruling we must remember that love conquers all and not deny anyone the opportunity to marry."

"Many County Courts in Texas are moving swiftly to adopt marriage equality. Bexar County Clerk Gerry Rickhoff has already developed a new gender-neutral marriage license and will be ready to grant licenses today. He has even offered to stay open late to accommodate couples."

"The state of Texas and other county clerks must follow Bexar County's lead and not hinder anyone's right to marry. Clerks and state leaders who act swiftly to end marriage discrimination can know that momentum, history, and public opinion are with them. The movement for the freedom to marry has been transformative in helping Americans understand who gay people are. Since approving a ban on marriage for gay and lesbian couples in 2005, Texans have opened their hearts and changed their minds."

"I'm especially happy for our longtime friends Mark Phariss and Vic Holmes and Nicole Dimetman and Cleo DeLeon. Marriage is an important institution in America. It forms the bedrock of our society. Gay and Lesbian couples who are committed to and love each other deserve to participate in this sacred institution - just like my wife and I did all those years ago."

###

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
512-463-0126  
Fax 512-463-2114  
1-888-279-0648

E-MAIL: [jose.menendez@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:jose.menendez@senate.state.tx.us)

Committees: Criminal Justice • Higher Education  
Intergovernmental Relations

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 W. Nueva St., Suite 809  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 733-6604  
Fax: (210) 733-6605