

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

June 16, 2017

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our dismay that you have broken with tradition and failed to issue a proclamation commemorating June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month this year. This silence comes amidst a series of policy decisions made by your administration that have hurt the LGBT community. While Pride Month celebrations will continue across the country and the world even without a presidential proclamation, the White House's decision to remain silent about Pride Month after eight consecutive years of presidential recognition sends a troubling message to the LGBT community that your administration is not committed to advancing equality for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We urge you to honor your campaign promise to be a "real friend" of the LGBT community by issuing a proclamation and supporting lasting change and progress through policies that advance LGBT rights.

As you may know, President Clinton issued the first presidential proclamation to designate June as LGBT Pride Month in 1999, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the uprising at Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York City—one of the starting points of the modern LGBT rights movement in the United States. President Obama continued this tradition, issuing a proclamation for LGBT Pride Month every year he was in office. You have issued many proclamations so far in your presidency—just last month, you honored minority communities by continuing the traditions of proclaiming May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month. Unfortunately, this month, LGBT Pride Month has been omitted from your list, even while executive departments and agencies like the State Department and the Department of Defense have issued statements commemorating Pride Month. We note that you have issued proclamations designating June 2017 as National Homeownership Month, National Ocean Month, African-American Music Appreciation Month, and Great Outdoors Month.

While we are dismayed by this slight, our more fundamental worry is that you and your administration have embraced policies that threaten to turn the clock back on LGBT rights in this country. These have included withdrawing the Department of Justice from at least one LGBT-related court case, issuing an anti-LGBT executive order purporting to protect religious freedom, and rescinding guidance clarifying protections for transgender students. We urge you to fulfill the promise of equal rights for all Americans by supporting policies and legislation that would

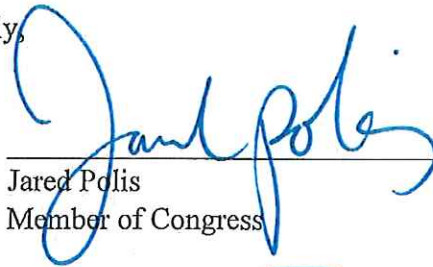
advance LGBT equality. The Equality Act, for example, would bring our country closer to that promise. We would welcome your support for this and several other long-overdue measures. Let us work together to develop laws that protect the rights of every American.

In his final proclamation for LGBT Pride Month last year, President Obama stated, "LGBT individuals deserve to know their country stands beside them." Issuing a presidential proclamation for LGBT Pride Month has been one important way that the White House has demonstrated support for LGBT individuals, but policies and laws can also make a tangible difference in LGBT individuals' lives. As we reflect on the progress our country has made so far, we urge you to show your support for LGBT Americans by issuing a presidential proclamation for LGBT Pride Month and advancing proposals that ensure equality for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sincerely,



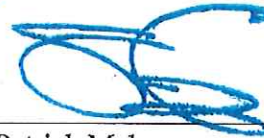
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



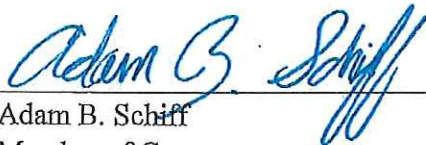
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



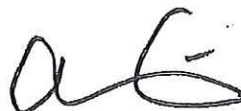
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



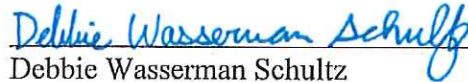
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



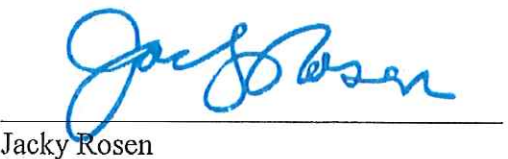
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



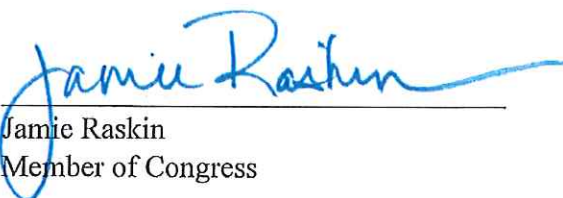
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



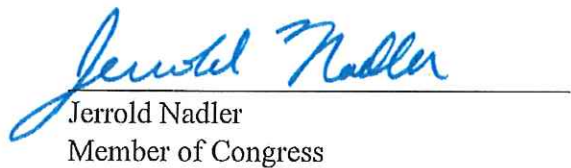
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



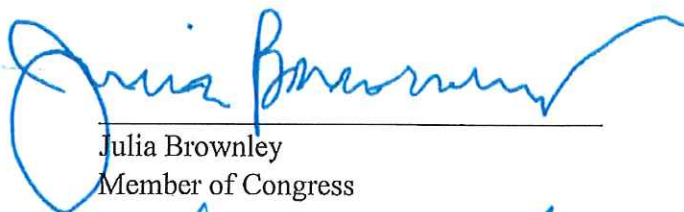
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



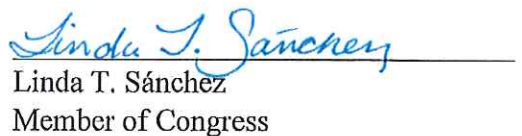
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



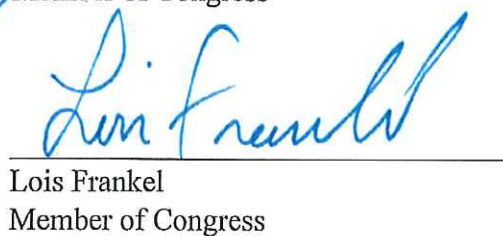
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



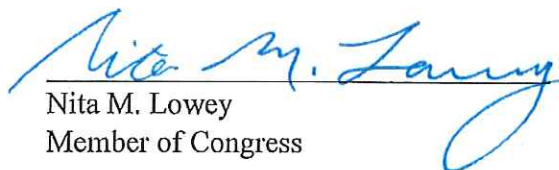
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



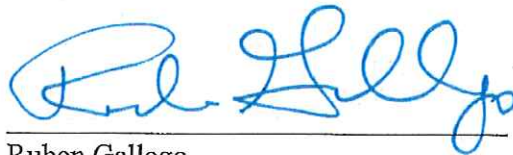
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



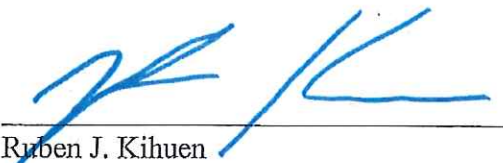
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



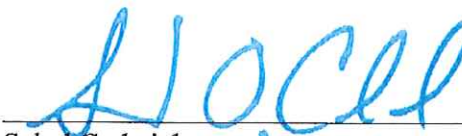
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



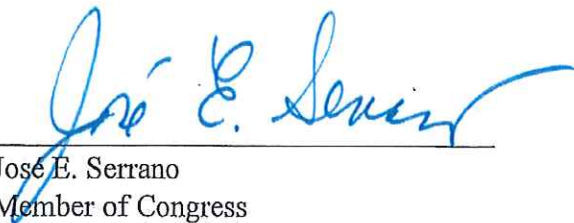
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
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