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## **LGBT Advocacy Groups Stand With Civil Rights Counterparts in Disappointment at Supreme Court Ruling on Voting Rights**

Jun. 25, 2013

WASHINGTON, June 25 ? Today, the Supreme Court struck down a central part of the Voting Rights Act, invalidating crucial protections passed by Congress in 1965 and renewed four times in the decades since. The sharply divided decision will significantly reduce the federal government?s role in overseeing voting laws in areas with a history of discrimination against African-Americans.

We, America?s leading LGBT advocacy organizations, join civil rights organizations ? and indeed, all Americans whom this law has served to protect ? in expressing acute dismay at today?s ruling. Not only had Congress repeatedly reaffirmed the need for this bedrock civil rights protection, but authoritative voices from across America had filed amicus briefs urging the court not to undermine the law: the NAACP; the American Bar Association; the Navajo Nation; the states of New York, California, Mississippi and North Carolina; numerous former Justice Department officials charged with protecting voting rights; dozens of U.S. senators and representatives; and many others.

These varied and powerful voices attest to the self-evident reality that racial protections are still needed in voting in this country. As recently as last year?s elections, political partisans resorted to voter suppression laws and tactics aimed at reducing the votes of people of color.

Voting rights protections, which have long served our nation?s commitment to equality and justice, should not be cast aside now. The court has done America a grave disservice, and we will work with our coalition partners to undo the damage inflicted by this retrogressive ruling.

All Out  
Believe Out Loud  
Center for Black Equity  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers

The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals  
Courage Campaign  
Equality Federation  
Family Equality Council  
Freedom to Marry  
Freedom to Work  
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
Gay Straight Alliance Network  
Get Equal  
GLAAD  
Harvey Milk Foundation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Immigration Equality Action Fund  
Lambda Legal  
Movement Advancement Project  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)  
The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance  
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates  
PFLAG - Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO  
The Trevor Project  
Trans Advocacy Network  
Transgender Law Center  
Trans People of Color Coalition (TPOCC)  
Unid@s  
Press Release

<http://www.gsanetwork.org> <sup>[1]</sup>

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[1] <http://www.gsanetwork.org>