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

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

Jun. 25, 2013

Press Release

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