

House Rules Committee,

I am a 28 year old resident of Beaverton OR. My partner and I have been together for 12 years this month. We have been committed to one another for over a decade. We have supported each other through both undergraduate and graduate school, the birth and upbringing of our two daughters, and negotiating the job market which have collectively delayed our ceremonial wedding arrangements. We have recently started the planning of our engagement proceedings; however, we have come to an impediment in the much awaited process. My partner and I are both non-religious and would find much discomfort in utilizing a sectarian officiant to solemnize our wedding ceremony. We have discovered that in the State of Oregon, the authority to solemnize a wedding is given to only sectarian officials; otherwise we may pay an additional fee of \$105 for a judge to sign our marriage license. From an equality standpoint this is unacceptable. We demand the same rights given to those believing in a higher power and expect nothing less than fair and equal treatment from our secular government. As an Oregonian nonbeliever/atheist/agnostic, I am asking you to please support HB 3483 allowing non-religious persons to solemnize marriages. There should be no religious test for gaining equal access to our government or equal treatment under the law. Please vote in favor of HB 3483 in the Rules Committee so that it can move on for consideration by the full House.

Thank you,
Sean McCoy