

Submitter: COURTNEY HEATH  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SJR33

Laws should be in place to protect the rights of all people, and is especially important for those who are minorities and/or have been historically marginalized. Rights should be inviolate when they do not infringe on the rights and safety of others. There is no objective evidence that rights such as marriage equality and gender healthcare harm the public, and there is plenty of evidence to support that removing these rights from LGBTQ+ individuals does cause measurable harm, on individual, community, and societal levels. There is a slew of benefits that come from being in a recognized marriage, and there is peace of mind knowing that those benefits apply to us. I want to know that if my wife is in the hospital that I have the right to make healthcare decisions for her if needed, and that I can simply be by her side. I want to know that if I should die before my wife that she is entitled to our property and social security benefits so that she can be financially stable. I want to know that a child of ours is equally a child of ours in the eyes of the law. I want to know that we're paying the same amount of taxes as a heterosexual married couple. I want to know that I can be on my wife's health insurance. I want to know that there isn't a teenager right now thinking about suicide because they do not feel right in their own body and they feel they have no support or options. I want to know that this state respects and protects those who are vulnerable.