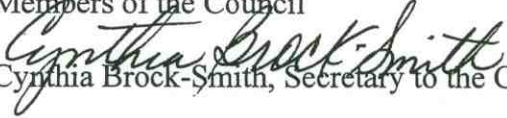


**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20004**

**Memorandum**

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To: Members of the Council  
From:   
Cynthia Brock-Smith, Secretary to the Council  
Date: October 8, 2009  
Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, October 06, 2009. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009", B18-0482

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Catania, Mendelson, M. Brown, Evans, Bowser, K. Brown, Graham, Cheh, Wells and Chairman Gray


The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services

  
Chairman Vincent C. Gray

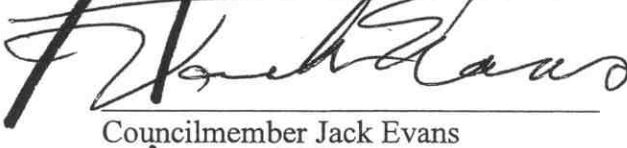
  
Councilmember David A. Catania 1  
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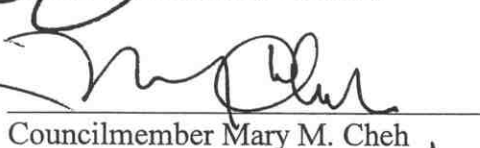
  
Councilmember Phil Mendelson

  
Councilmember Kwame R. Brown 3  
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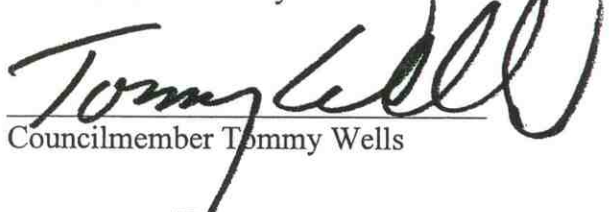
  
Councilmember Michael A. Brown

  
Councilmember Jim Graham 5  
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Councilmember Jack Evans

  
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh 7  
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Councilmember Muriel Bowser

  
Councilmember Tommy Wells 9  
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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 12  
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Councilmembers Catania, Mendelson, Kwame Brown, Michael Brown, Graham, Evans, Cheh, 16  
Bowser, Wells and Chairman Gray introduced the following bill, which was referred to 17  
the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ 18

To amend An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to permit same-sex 19  
couples to marry in the District of Columbia; to ensure that no priest, minister, imam, or 20  
rabbi of any religious denomination and no official of any non-profit religious 21  
22

organization authorized to solemnize marriages shall be required to celebrate any marriage if doing so violates his or her right to the free exercise of religion; to protect religious freedom with respect to doctrine and public accommodations; and to amend the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992 to discontinue the registration of new domestic partnerships after January 1, 2011 and to allow any existing domestic partners to either continue their domestic partnership or convert their domestic partnership into a marriage without paying an additional fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009”.

Sec. 2. Chapter Forty-Three of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1391; D.C. Official Code § 46-401 *passim*), is amended as follows:

(a) A new section 1283a is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 1283a. EQUAL ACCESS TO MARRIAGE.—

“(a) Marriage is the legally recognized union of 2 people. Any person who otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of sections 1283 (D.C. Official Code § 46-401), 1284 (D.C. Official Code § 46-402), and 1285 (D.C. Official Code § 46-403) may marry any other eligible person regardless of gender. Each party to a marriage shall be designated “bride,” “groom,” or “spouse.”

“(b) Where necessary to implement the rights and responsibilities relating to the marital relationship or familial relationships, gender-specific terms shall be construed to be gender neutral for all purposes throughout the law, whether in the context of statute, administrative or court rule, policy, common law or any other source of civil law.”.

