



LGBT Legislative Update



Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52)

“I believe that every loving, committed couple deserves the freedom to marry. The ability of an individual to care for another person or to be a good parent is not determined by sexual orientation. I've been an advocate of marriage equality for more than a decade, and I will continue to fight for equal rights in Congress. I look forward to the day when we accept that all people are created equal and deserve to be treated equally under the law.”

Expanding Protections Against Discrimination

- A long-time supporter of marriage equality, Scott joined with colleagues to file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court explaining why **DOMA is unconstitutional**; he is also a cosponsor of H.R. 2523, the **Respect for Marriage Act**, which would repeal DOMA in its entirety.
- Scott also joined a number of his colleagues as an **original cosponsor of ENDA**, H.R. 1755, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, and called on President Obama to sign an executive order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees in the workplace.
- Scott cosponsored H.R. 312, the **Juror Nondiscrimination Act**, introduced by his colleague, Rep. Susan Davis, to prohibit someone from being removed from a jury because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Scott coauthored a **letter to the Boy Scouts of America**, acknowledging the contribution the Boy Scouts have made in producing leaders who strengthen communities through virtues of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance and encouraging them to adopt a resolution that would have ended the BSA's current ban on gay Scouts and gay Scout leaders.
- He also coauthored a letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, expressing concern with the timeline to evaluate current **blood donation** criteria for gay men and urging the agency to move more swiftly in revising the current ban.

Promoting a Safe Environment In Our Communities and Schools

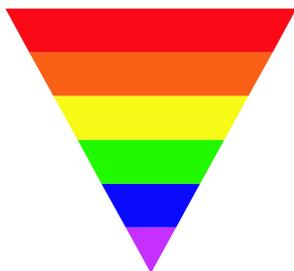
- Scott not only urged House leadership to bring to the floor an **LGBT-inclusive version of the Violence Against Women Act**, but he was proud to help secure the bill's passage.
- A firm believer that every child deserves a safe learning environment, Scott cosponsored H.R. 1199, the **Safe Schools Improvement Act**, directing schools to collect data regarding bullying and harassment incidents and ensuring that schools have effective anti-bullying policies.
- Additionally, Scott signed on as a cosponsor of H.R. 1652, the **Student Nondiscrimination Act**, prohibiting public school students from being discriminated against under any federally assisted educational program on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- And to raise awareness about suicide among LGBT youth, Scott cosponsored a resolution acknowledging May as **Mental Health Awareness Month**.

Protecting the Rights of LGBT Servicemembers and Their Families

- Scott was an early supporter of H.R. 683, the **Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act**, which ensures that LGBT spouses of veterans and servicemembers are afforded the same benefits as their heterosexual counterparts.
- When Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki granted a waiver so that a veteran's same-sex spouse could be laid alongside her at a **national cemetery**, Scott coauthored a letter commending the secretary for this action and encouraging him to continue efforts to extend this right to all LGBT veterans.
- Scott is an original cosponsor of H.R. 2839, the **Restore Honor to Service Members Act**, which would ensure servicemembers discharged solely on their sexual orientation have their records corrected to reflect their honorable service and to allow them access to all benefits normally given to our veterans.

Defending LGBT Rights Internationally

- In early February, Scott coauthored a letter calling on the **Ukraine** legislature to reject proposed laws that would blatantly discriminate against LGBT communities by restricting basic freedoms of assembly, speech, and association.
- Additionally, Scott coauthored a letter to Secretary John Kerry, encouraging the **State Department** to expand international service access to LGBT communities to address inappropriate and/or abusive behaviors by foreign government officials.



Scott is a proud member of the **Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus**. Comprised of members of Congress who are strongly committed to achieving the full enjoyment of human rights for LGBT people in the U.S. and around the world, the mission of the bipartisan caucus is to promote LGBT equality. The caucus has been working toward the extension of equal rights, the repeal of discriminatory laws, the elimination of hate-motivated violence, and the improved health and wellbeing for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.