



The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 500,000 Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) members nationwide, I am urging you to cosponsor and support Senator Ted Cruz's (R-Texas) State Marriage Defense Act. This legislation, in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Windsor*, affirms the right of states to define marriage for their citizens.

Prior to the Defense of Marriage Act becoming law in 1996, the states determined who could be married. The State Marriage Defense Act ensures this matter is reserved to the states without interference from the federal government.

In addition, the State Marriage Defense Act clarifies who qualifies as a "spouse" for federal agencies since the *Windsor* decision. The bill states that, for federal benefits, the government must look to the states where the couple resides and not the place where their wedding was performed or celebrated. This legislation is important, because it ensures consistency among the federal agencies.

For the aforementioned reasons, CWALAC respectfully urges you to cosponsor and support the State Marriage Defense Act. This legislation is needed to ensure that states have the ability to continue to define marriage for their citizens as determined by *Windsor* and to clarify for federal agencies the confusion surrounding who is entitled to benefits.

Sincerely,

Penny Young Nance
Chief Executive Officer and President
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee