



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 29, 2015

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House Votes to Update Marriage Statutes to be More Gender-Neutral *HB 2478 will update Oregon's marriage laws to be more inclusive of all Oregon families*

Today, the Oregon House voted to pass [House Bill 2478](#), which will update Oregon statutes referring to marriage to make them more gender-neutral and inclusive of all Oregon married couples and families.

Last year, federal Judge Michael McShane issued a ruling barring the state of Oregon from denying the rights and responsibilities of marriage to same-gender couples. Because of this court case, Oregon joined many other states and the District of Columbia and recognized the freedom to marry the person you love regardless of their gender.

After the court ruled, it became evident that statutory references relating to marriage that were specific to gender existed throughout the Oregon Revised Statutes and that would need to be updated to align with the court's ruling.

HB 2478 replaces the phrase "husband and wife" with the words "spouses married to each other" throughout the Oregon Statutes.

It addresses statutes that deal with real property, tax and estate, civil rights in reference to marriage, parental obligations and even the dissolution of a marriage.

"There are thousands of ordinary loving couples in Oregon, like my husband Jim and I, who have been getting married since Judge McShane's ruling" said Rep. Rob Nosse (D-Portland), who co-carried the bill. "Our laws should reflect much needed updates for these families, including my own."

House Bill 2478 passed by 38-17 and will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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