



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EQUALITY ILLINOIS ROLLS OUT MAYORS FOR
THE FREEDOM TO MARRY CAMPAIGN**

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest organization advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality, joined with the national marriage equality group Freedom to Marry to roll out the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry campaign, which will officially be announced at the U.S. Council of Mayors meeting on Friday in Washington, D.C.

“It has been said that all politics is local, and nothing proves that point more than local mayors speaking out in favor of equality as a way to influence the conversation at the state and federal levels to make marriage equality a priority,” Randy Hannig, Director of Public Policy for Equality Illinois, said. “We thank the early supporters of the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry campaign for lending a hand in our work towards full marriage equality, and we look forward to working with more city leaders from across the state on this project.”

The Mayors for the Freedom to Marry campaign is launching with 70 mayors from cities all across the country who vowed to support full marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. Locally, Equality Illinois has taken the lead in the joint effort to sign on Mayors Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, Elizabeth Tisdahl of Evanston, and Robert Sabonjian of Waukegan as early supporters of the campaign, with more mayors from across the state expressing interest.

Equality Illinois was founded in 1991 to secure, protect and defend full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. It is the state’s oldest and largest LGBT advocacy organization.

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