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February 24, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear General Holder:

We write to commend you for your statement yesterday announcing that the U.S. Department of Justice believes that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional and will no longer defend it in court.

Since its enactment, DOMA has been an unfortunate obstacle to equal access to the benefits of civil marriage for same-sex couples, unfairly discriminating against Americans on the basis of their sexual orientation and who they wish to marry. With this important statement, the Obama Administration and the Department of Justice have taken a significant step forward in the pursuit of individual liberty and equality for all.

As an organization that supports equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples, the Anti-Defamation League has actively opposed legislative efforts to refuse to recognize legal same-sex marriages. It is our hope that the judicial and legislative branches will soon reach the same conclusion that you have now reached – that the arguments offered to defend DOMA cannot withstand serious constitutional scrutiny.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Sugarman".

Robert Sugarman
National Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abraham H. Foxman".

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director