



Seventh-day Adventist® Church

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Dear Senators Collins, Baldwin, and Portman:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America would like to express our profound appreciation for your commitment to the protection of this nation's historical and treasured religious freedoms in the context of the codification of same-sex marriage recognition.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church holds a traditional understanding of marriage as divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman. We recognize, however, that societal trends have departed from our Church's understanding of marriage, sexuality and family.

We are grateful for the members of Congress and their staff who have constructively engaged with us and with other faith institutions to ensure that the Respect for Marriage Act acknowledges that "reasonable and sincere people" can have "decent and honorable religious or philosophical" reasons to maintain traditional convictions about marriage.

The Adventist Church applauds you and your fellow Senators for the significant religious freedom protections included in the Respect for Marriage Act, including the protection of churches from being required to facilitate same sex marriages and the prevention of retaliation against religious organizations for their views on marriage.

Thank you for partnering together on legislation that reflects bipartisan commitment to religious freedom and diversity.

Melissa Reid
Director of Government Affairs
Seventh-day Adventist Church – North American Division