



Press Release: May 10, 2012

Contact:

John Haigney, Executive Managing Director

BiasHELP, Inc.

Tel: (631) 479-6015

BiasHELP applauds President Barack Obama's historic announcement supporting the right of same-sex couples to marry. Coming only days after Vice President Joe Biden announced that he was "absolutely comfortable" with Marriage Equality and Arne Duncan, the Secretary of Education, stating essentially the same thing, the President's announcement puts his administration definitively on the right side of history. Recent Gallup polling on the issue indicates that a majority of Americans now support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

BiasHELP has worked tirelessly for nearly fifteen years fighting for the rights of GLBT people. This decision (added to New York State's recent Marriage Equality law) gives hope to us and thousands of Gay and Lesbian Long Islanders. It's now easier to believe that the great words from the preamble to the constitution, "We The People," might one day apply to everyone.

The President's announcement was couched in personal terms reflecting both his experience with friends and staff who are in committed same-sex relationships and his role as Commander in Chief of a military where Gay and Lesbian soldiers, who are fighting for all of us, are not able to commit to a marriage with a loved one. This is the most convincing and human way to make the argument for Marriage Equality. More and more Americans (and certainly Long Islanders) have GLBT friends and work colleagues and are sensitive to the daily sacrifices made by men and women in the military. For many of them, who are not yet convinced that Marriage Equality is a basic civil right, the President's statement might help them to see that fundamental fairness is at the heart of this struggle.

The President's statement will have little (practical) political impact, at least at the moment, because the states and the courts are the main battlefields in the struggle for Marriage Equality. But the positive symbolic impact of his statement should not be underestimated. President Obama's support for Marriage Equality will help shape public opinion, will increase acceptance and will, hopefully, make the daily lives of many GLBT Long Islanders a lot easier. The President did the right thing.