



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

*April 27, 2007*

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Release # 039-2007

**Statement by Speaker Christine C. Quinn  
Re: Governor Spitzer's Introduction of Marriage Equality Bill**

Governor Spitzer has taken a stand today in the fight for civil equality. I commend the Governor for his leadership, for his belief in the principles embodied in both our State and Federal Constitutions, and for keeping his word to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. By introducing this legislation, he is making it clear that discrimination in any form is unacceptable.

I will join the Governor every step of the way in his efforts toward making marriage equality a reality. There is little doubt that we will face serious opposition. But in the history of every movement, there have been times when the victory seemed out of reach. With the Governor's leadership, and the commitment of other public officials and advocates, we will prevail.

I urge every member of the State Legislature to put equal rights above politics and to end discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people by giving marriage rights to everyone.

The Spitzer administration is also to be commended for its decision to respect out-of-state marriages of gay state employees in the area of spousal benefits. This means that same-sex spouses will now be eligible for the same medical, life insurance and long-term care benefits that are granted to all other spouses of state employees.

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