



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**Statement by Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Re: New York State Assembly Passage of Marriage Equality Bill**

Last night the timeless call for equality was answered in force by the members of the New York State Assembly. The Assembly's vote brings us one step closer to true marriage equality here in New York State, and marks a great victory in the ongoing battle for justice.

I want to gratefully acknowledge Assembly Speaker Silver for his courageous leadership in bringing this vote to fruition. I would also like to deeply thank Assembly Members Deborah Glick, Dick Gottfried, Matthew Titone, and especially Danny O'Donnell, the bill's sponsor, for their hard work and courage in rallying support behind this legislation. And I want to congratulate those members of the Assembly, both Democrat and Republican, who in a display of brave commitment took a bold stand for what they knew to be right.

Thanks too to Governor Spitzer for being an invaluable champion of this effort and for his leadership in Albany. We also owe a great debt to the Empire State Pride Agenda and the many other advocates and activists, including Marriage Equality NY, who have long fought to see this day.

Our efforts now turn to the State Senate, which we will push to reach for the same standard of justice set last night. And while some have suggested this to be an impossible task, the LGBT community here in New York has a long history of accomplishing the impossible.

No amount of opposition can stand against the strength of our commitment and the righteousness of our goals. Standing united as elected officials, advocates and activists across the State, we are confident that we will soon see the day when true marriage equality becomes a reality.

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