

**John A. Kitzhaber, MD**  
**Governor**



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201  
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519  
Email: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)  
Website: [www.oregon.gov/OCBA](http://www.oregon.gov/OCBA)

**June 21, 2014**  
**OCBA Statement on Marriage Equality**

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) supports the right to marry for all Oregonians. We believe marriage and family are about love and commitment, working together, bettering the community, raising children, and growing old together. We believe in an Oregon that supports strong families and values freedom. And we believe that marriage matters. To all Oregonians. We believe extending the freedom to marry to all couples is the right thing to do.

We know many people in loving and committed same-sex relationships who are active participants in improving our state and our communities, and we've seen how important marriage has been for them and their families.

Ultimately, this is not a political issue. This is an issue of basic fairness. No one should be told it's illegal to marry the person they love. Treating others as one would want to be treated includes allowing marriage for same-sex couples who are truly committed to each other.

The Commission on Black Affairs is united in our belief that allowing marriage licenses for same-sex couples strengthens families and strengthens the state we love.