



# **Seattle Human Rights Commission**

**Established 1963**

## **Resolution # 11-01: Support for Washington Marriage Equality Law**

**WHEREAS**, all Seattle residents are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is committed to promoting the principle of non-discrimination and to supporting and strengthening the family; and

**WHEREAS**, the principle of non-discrimination is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, in Articles 2, 7, and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Articles 2, 3, 14, 25 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State, King County, and the City of Seattle have all taken steps to prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in their laws and to address such discriminations; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington in 2009 enacted SB 5688 to amend existing law to make domestic partnerships equal to marriages at the state level in everything but name; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington voters defeated Referendum 71 which would have repealed SB 5688; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission believes that marriage equality is a human right that should be honored and protected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suquamish Tribe of Washington has enacted a law legalizing same sex marriage; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, Washington enacted a Defense of Marriage Act that limits legal marriage to opposite-sex couples and Washington will need to enact a new law repealing the Defense of Marriage Act to guarantee the right to marriage equality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington legislature may consider a bill in 2012 to legalize same sex marriage,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Seattle Human Rights Commission hereby declares its support of legislation that would legalize same sex marriage in the State of Washington in furtherance of human rights standards and the principle of non-discrimination; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Seattle Human Rights Commission further recommends that the Mayor and the Council of the City of Seattle support such legislation

Adopted by the Seattle Human Rights Commission on December 1, 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C Stearns", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Stearns, Chair