



DENISE W. MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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- STATEMENT -

SECRETARY MERRILL PRAISES U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING UPHOLDING MARRIAGE EQUALITY NATIONWIDE

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today released the following statement in response to today's 5-4 ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges* legalizing same-sex marriage in every state in the country.

"Today is a great day to be an American. This Supreme Court ruling is a huge step forward for human rights not only in our country, but as an example to the entire world. This decision is another extension of civil rights in the United States that started with the Declaration of Independence and has continued through the Emancipation proclamation, women's suffrage, the Civil Rights act and the Voting Rights Act. In Connecticut we have long recognized that adults have the right to marry the partner of their choice, and love knows no boundaries. Now same sex couples from Connecticut can travel anywhere in the country and have their marriages recognized, as well as receive federal marriage benefits here at home. This ruling is a ringing confirmation of the fact that ordinary people – when civically engaged – really can change our society. And as the song says, there is no stopping us on the road to freedom."