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PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Marriage Equality USA applauds Washington Governor Gregoire's support for the freedom to marry

San Francisco · January 4, 2012 — Marriage Equality USA applauds today's statement from Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, announcing her support for equal marriage rights for all loving couples in Washington State.

"2012 is already building on the tremendous progress towards equality in 2011. Today's historic announcement from Governor Gregoire shows the momentum from marriage equality in New York and victories around the country is spreading rapidly from coast to coast," said Stuart Gaffney, Marriage Equality USA Media Director.

"We are optimistic the Evergreen State will now be joining the Empire State in establishing the freedom to marry for all," said John Lewis, Marriage Equality USA Legal Director. "New Year's Day rang in civil unions in Hawaii and Delaware. Today's announcement continues to build momentum for all loving, committed couples to be treated equally under the law."

"With every passing year, we see support for equal marriage rights growing rapidly. A recent poll showed 55% of Washingtonians would vote against a ballot initiative that attempted to repeal a marriage equality bill," added Stuart Gaffney.

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Founded in 2001, Marriage Equality USA is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to secure legally-recognized civil marriage equality for all, at the federal and state level, without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation. For more information go to www.marriageequality.org.

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