



Advocacy Update

Sent June 26, 2013

Supreme Court Decisions

This was a big week for the Supreme Court! After Section IV of the Voting Rights Act was [struck down yesterday](#), everyone was anxiously awaiting today's decisions on LGBT equality. The Supreme Court this morning released its decisions striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to same-sex couples, and allowing gay marriage to resume in California.

The Reform Movement welcomed today's decisions. Movement leaders such as WRJ's Executive Director [Rabbi Marla J. Feldman released a statement](#), writing that "Today's Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality is a significant victory for the protection of Americans' civil rights. No longer will lesbian and gay couples remain invisible to the federal government; no longer should there be doubt about the legal legitimacy of these partnerships."

Immigration Reform Vote This Week!

The Senate is voting on immigration reform THIS WEEK! Now is your chance to make your voice heard and take action to fix the enormous challenges posed by our nation's broken immigration system. We can no longer delay comprehensive immigration reform.

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) reflects many of [WRJ's legislative priorities](#) on immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants here today, a renewed commitment to clearing systemic backlogs, a plan for processing future flow of immigrants, and a reasonable approach to enforcement. Of particular interest to the Reform Movement, this legislation also contains [important protections for J-1 cultural exchange visa holders such as our international camp staff](#). WRJ has supported our camps through the years through its YES Fund and individual sisterhoods' camp scholarships; supporting this legislation is one more way we can help our camps.

[Urge your Senators to vote for the comprehensive immigration reform bill \(S. 744\)](#). The Capitol Switchboard can be reached at [202.224.3121](tel:202.224.3121), or you can [message them now](#).

Fund for Alberta Flood Victims

On June 21, more than 100,000 residents of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and many more throughout the province of Alberta, were forced to flee their homes ahead of rising flood waters. Although the rivers have crested and since begun to recede, there have been three confirmed deaths, tens of thousands remain without power, and cleanup and rebuilding estimates have topped \$1 billion.

The Union for Reform Judaism and Canadian Council for Reform Judaism have been monitoring the situation closely and have opened a fund to assist victims of this natural disaster. To contribute to the Reform Movement's relief effort, please visit www.urj.org/relief. Checks can be sent to the Union for Reform Judaism (Attn: Alberta Flooding Relief), 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017 or to the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, 3845 Bathurst St. Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3H 3N2.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home