



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose M. Serrano

Serrano Statement on Marriage Equality Vote

JOSÉ M. SERRANO December 2, 2009

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New York, NY- Senator José M. Serrano (D-Manhattan/Bronx) expressed disappointment that a marriage equality bill (S.4401) did not pass on the Senate floor today.

"I am deeply saddened and disappointed by the result of today's vote on marriage equality. This issue is a part of the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the United States, and I maintain that State government must take action.

"There have always been some on the wrong side of history who believed that expanding freedom and liberty would somehow be detrimental to our society - they were always wrong. Expanding civil rights to all will serve to make our society more whole and complete. Now that we are faced with the civil rights issue of our time, we cannot allow ourselves to be on the wrong side of history on this extremely important issue.

"We should fully embrace the diversity of our nation, for that is our strength. Our diversity is what makes us the greatest nation on earth, and I am certain that as a nation we share a fundamental commitment to equal rights.

"Every instance in which freedoms in American society have been extended it has resulted in our country becoming stronger and more unified. Indeed, extending liberty through

marriage equality is the epitome of the American ideal in its most organic form."

Serrano, a co-sponsor of the bill, and a staunch advocate for marriage equality, is hopeful that the issue will soon be re-addressed in the Senate.

"I will continue to be a voice in the fight for equal rights for same-sex couples. The passage of a marriage equality bill will enhance our communities and, indeed, our humanity."

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