

Dear Representative _____,

I am your constituent, and I am writing about an issue of fairness and equality for all Illinois families.

Soon you will be asked to vote on the **Illinois Religious Freedom and Civil Unions Act, Senate Bill 1716**. The bill would grant civil unions to same-sex couples who aren't allowed to marry, as well as to straight couples who can't afford to get married (such as seniors who might suffer from reduced Social Security benefits).

These committed couples are denied the basic dignity and rights afforded married couples under Illinois law. After building a life together, these couples should have the ability to make emergency medical decisions, funeral arrangements, as well as to inherit a deceased partner's property.

I do not think Illinois should treat these people as strangers in the eyes of the law. I ask you to consider how this issue may affect your constituents and the State as a whole.

Please vote YES in support of the civil union bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Additional comment: _____