NANCY PELOSI: 28 YEARS FIGHTING FOR LGBT EQUALITY

"As the most powerful woman in Congress, Nancy Pelosi has driven LGBT causes further than any other person in Washington." – *The Advocate, February 2012*

Nancy Pelosi, the first woman Speaker of the House, has been a transformative leader in the Congress for LGBT rights. Pelosi spearheaded the passage of a fully-inclusive hate crimes bill, signed by President Obama, and led the efforts to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which discriminated against gay and lesbian servicemembers.

As Democratic Leader, Pelosi fought efforts by House Republicans to defend the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) in federal courts, and forcefully backed President Obama's decision to halt the federal government's defense of the DOMA law. Ahead of the historic *Windsor* decision in June 2013, Pelosi led more than 100 Members of Congress in filing amicus briefs in every case that challenged the discriminatory law that reached the appellate court level.

An outspoken advocate for marriage equality for decades, Pelosi was the first national elected leader to call for the inclusion of a marriage equality plank in the 2012 Democratic National Convention platform.

In September 2014, Pelosi joined Congressman Jared Polis in filing a discharge petition to force Speaker John Boehner to allow a vote on the fully-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, bipartisan legislation which had already passed the United States Senate.

In the spring of 2015, Pelosi led more than 200 Members of the House and Senate in filing an amicus brief in support of marriage equality at the Supreme Court. Leader Pelosi said, "Now is the time for the Supreme Court to affirm that every American has the right to marry the person they love."

In May 2015, Pelosi joined Congressman Ted Lieu of California in introducing the first federal bill to ban the practice so-called LGBT “conversion therapy.” And in July, Pelosi joined House and Senate leaders to introduce the Equality Act, comprehensive LGBT civil rights and non-discrimination legislation.

Since her election to Congress, Pelosi has been a staunch advocate for federal efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. In her first speech to the Congress in 1987, Pelosi came to the House floor to lay out her commitment to fight AIDS.