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MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM EQUALITY ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EQUALITY ILLINOIS PRAISES EMANUEL FOR MARRIAGE SUPPORT Mayor Speaks Openly about Marriage Equality for First Time

CHICAGO - Lending another politically powerful voice to the debate over marriage equality, Mayor Rahm Emanuel today publicly declared his support for full marriage equality for same-sex couples in Illinois. In an interview with CNN, Mayor Emanuel called marriage equality a "significant issue" and expressed his hope that Illinois will soon follow New York in extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Reacting to the news, Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois said, "We commend Mayor Emanuel for his support of full marriage equality for same-sex couples. Supporting marriage equality is not about political courage but about standing up for what's right, and we thank the mayor for reaffirming that fact."

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Equality Illinois was founded in 1991 to secure, protect and defend full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. It is the State's largest LGBT advocacy organization.