

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2834

To include under Federal laws granting rights and responsibilities to married couples other couples in other legal unions similar to marriage, including domestic partnerships and civil unions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2013

Mr. HOLT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To include under Federal laws granting rights and responsibilities to married couples other couples in other legal unions similar to marriage, including domestic partnerships and civil unions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Benefits
5 Equality Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of title 1, United States
8 Code, is amended to read as follows—

1 **“§ 7. ‘Marriage’ as including civil unions and domes-**
2 **tic partnerships; ‘spouse’ as including**
3 **members of such unions**

4 “In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress,
5 the term ‘marriage’ includes a marriage, a domestic part-
6 nership, a civil union, or any other similar legal union be-
7 tween 2 individuals that is recognized by a State, the Dis-
8 trict of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United
9 States, or a federally recognized Indian tribe, and the
10 word ‘spouse’ refers to either member of such a legal
11 union.” .

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item for section 7
13 in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 is
14 amended to read as follows:

“7. ‘Marriage’ as including civil unions and domestic partnerships; ‘spouse’ as including members of such legal unions.”.

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