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On Behalf Of:  
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Measure: SJR33

We lived in Hillsboro OR from 2002 to 2004 on a work visa for my spouse and a dependent spouse visa for me. At that point we had been legally married since 1991. Everything was fine, and we moved to Duvall, WA until 2009. When our visa was up, we went back to the UK with every intention of returning to the United States at a later date. While we were in the UK my spouse transitioned and changed her name and all legal documents to reflect her female status. At the same time we pursued an application for a new visa, and again we received a work visa for my spouse, under her new name, and a dependent spouse visa for me, and we returned to Oregon in December 2011. So the Federal Government was happy to recognize our married status in line with international recognition of marriage.

We moved back to Oregon, where we discovered that we were NOT a married couple, because same sex marriage was not recognized under State law, even though we had married as husband and wife. Basic Rights Oregon was at that time working for equal rights on many levels and in early 2012 my wife and I joined the campaign for equal rights, and eventually the petition to recognize same sex marriage. It was hard work and took a lot of time and effort; I was verbally and physically abused on the street while trying to collect signatures. When the two appeal decisions that allowed same sex marriage at national level the petition was abandoned, and I protested very strongly. I said that the language was still in the State constitution and at some point would come back to haunt us. I was assured that such a thing couldn't happen because it was a supreme court ruling, but guess what happened? In 2016 an anti-lgbtq2 president was elected, who selected two very conservative judges to the Supreme Court, which Court proceeded to run a coach and horses through so-called "settled law" and suddenly the language in the Oregon State Constitution looks very dangerous. Although I no longer live in Oregon, I put my heart and soul into the campaign for Equal Marriage and support this amendment to remove the hateful language therein.