



Celebrating June as Pride Month

Throughout the United States, June is annually celebrated as Pride Month for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community. This celebration originated from commemoration of the Stonewall Riots of 1969 which are credited with initiation of the gay rights movement.

Well over 120,000 members of Wisconsin communities identify as being part of the LGBTQ+ population. In 2014, the first year gay marriage was allowed in Wisconsin, marriages increased by nearly 3,000 and divorces dropped by 500.

This past Friday, our nation took an enormous step forward in LGBTQ+ rights and became the 25th country to legalize same-sex marriage but there is still a long way to go to ensure that all members of the community are treated with the respect and dignity they are warranted.

In more than half of the nation, employees can be fired, tenants can be evicted, and service can be refused to anyone for being a member of the LGBTQ+ community. In Wisconsin, we have a nondiscrimination law that covers sexual orientation but does not protect from discrimination that is based on gender identity. We still have a lot of work to do.

Words cannot express how happy I am for the progress the United States made this week. We are moving forward in living up to our ideals as a nation with liberty and justice for all.