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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**DHCF Stands in Solidarity with Duval County DEC's Objection to the Suspension of Marriage Ceremonies**

**ORLANDO** – The Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida (DHCF) refutes the decision made by The Honorable Ronnie Fussell in his declaration that no further marriage ceremonies be held in the Duval County Courthouse. The DHCF further extends its disappointment to the other twelve counties in Florida that have refused to extend the full color of the law to all people who are legally entitled to a matrimonial ceremony to honor their union. To deny access to a public building where said ceremony should take place, by an administrative act prompted by personal biases toward the LGBT community is capricious and discriminatory.

The DHCF celebrates a new era in Florida --- as it joins 35 other states in the U.S. to permit same-sex couples to wed. It will take its first step to ensure the LGBT community enjoys the full rights and protections of the law by signing the Duval County Democratic Executive Committee's petition. This petition asks The Honorable Ronnie Fussell to respectfully adhere to Florida Statutes Section 28.24 (23) and (24), which state that the marriage oath and solemnizing matrimony are duties of the Clerk of Court. As the Clerk of the Court, The Honorable Ronnie Fussell must adhere to Florida's landmark decision regarding Marriage Equality.

The Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida welcomes one of the most significant changes in Florida that impacts the lives of same-sex Latino couples. It stands in solidarity with the LGBT community who has fought for the freedom to marry and now has a protected right that permits our courts to honor and respect their union.

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