

TED CRUZ ON LGBTQ RIGHTS

Highlights:

- Ted Cruz has been a longtime opponent of marriage equality.
 - Cruz equated support for marriage equality with “liberal fascism.”
 - Cruz said support for gay marriage was an “unrelenting assault.”
 - Cruz opposed recognizing same-sex marriages.
 - Cruz opposed the right to marry for same-sex relationships.
 - Cruz supported restricting recognition of marriages.
 - Cruz supported a constitutional amendment to overturn a Supreme Court ruling requiring the recognition of same-sex marriage.
- Ted Cruz opposed federal protections for the LGBTQ community.
 - Cruz opposed the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which included protections for LGBTQ individuals.
 - Cruz opposed updating federal survivor benefits to include same-sex spouses.
 - Cruz opposed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.
 - Cruz opposed the Student Non-Discrimination Act.
- Ted Cruz opposed recognizing rights for transgender individuals.
 - Cruz supported banning transgender individuals from women’s sports.
 - Cruz supported banning transgender women from receiving maternal and infant-related resources.
- As Texas Solicitor General, Cruz was silent during the Texas v. Lawrence case.
 - The Supreme Court overturned a Texas law that banned sexual intercourse by same-sex couples.

Cruz Opposed Marriage Equality

CRUZ SAID THAT GAY MARRIAGE ACTIVISM PUSHED OUT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

2015: Cruz Told The Iowa Faith And Freedom Coalition Summit That They Had Seen “Religious Liberty Under Assault At An Unprecedented Level” In The Past Month. According to Dallas Morning News, “The nine speakers at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition included top tier candidates who were united in their support of religious freedoms, their opposition to abortion and the belief that the nation needs a strong new leader. [...] Sen. Ted Cruz received a standing ovation at the outset and told the crowd, ‘In the past month we have seen religious liberty under assault at an unprecedented level.’ He said Democrats and the media reacted with ‘hysteria’ to the Arkansas and Indiana efforts to pass a religious freedom law that critics said would have allowed business owners to discriminate against gays.” [Dallas Morning News, [4/25/15](#)]

Cruz Said “There Is A Liberal Fascism That Is Going After Christian Believers”

Cruz Told Attendees That, “Today’s Democratic Party Has Decided There Is No Room For Christians In Today’s Democratic Party” And That There Was A “Liberal Fascism” Going After Christians. According to The Hill, “Sen. Ted Cruz (R Texas) on Saturday said Democrats had gone to extremes in their persecution of Christians. ‘Today’s Democratic Party has decided there is no room for Christians in today’s Democratic Party,’ he said at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition summit in Waukegan, Iowa. ‘There is a liberal fascism that is going after Christian believers,’ the 2016 GOP presidential candidate continued. ‘It is heartbreaking,’ Cruz argued. ‘But it is so extreme, it is waking people up.’” [Hill, [4/25/15](#)]

Cruz Said That Democrats Were “Radicalized For Legalizing Gay Marriage”

Cruz Said That The Democratic Party Was So “Radicalized” For Legalizing Gay Marriage That There Was No Longer Room For Religious Liberty. According to The Hill, “Cruz said same sex marriage had produced rabid zealotry in Democratic ranks. This ideology, he argued, was excluding people of faith. ‘Today’s Democratic Party has become so radicalized for legalizing gay marriage in all 50 states that there is no longer any room for religious liberty,’ he said.” [Hill, [4/25/15](#)]

CRUZ SAID HE OPPOSED MARRIAGE EQUALITY

2022: Cruz Called The Supreme Court’s Decision To Legalize Same-Sex Marriage “Clearly” Wrong. According to the Dallas Morning News, “Sen. Ted Cruz is joining a multitude of conservatives in continuing to say the 2015 Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage was ‘clearly’ wrong and an overreach, stoking concerns that the reversal of Roe vs. Wade could impact other past decisions. In a clip posted to his podcast YouTube channel on Saturday, the Texas Republican discussed the ‘vulnerability’ of the Obergefell vs. Hodges ruling with conservative commentator Liz Wheeler. ‘Obergefell, like Roe vs. Wade, ignored two centuries of our nation’s history,’ Cruz said in the clip. ‘Marriage was always an issue that was left to the states.’ Before the decision, 37 states and Washington D.C. had legalized same-sex marriages while Texas and nine other states had constitutional provision that barred recognition of the unions. Cruz argued it should have remained for the states to decide. ‘In Obergefell, the court said, ‘No, we know better than you guys do, and now every state must, must sanction and permit gay marriage,’ Cruz said in the clip.” [Dallas Morning News, [7/18/22](#)]

2014: Cruz Opposed Marriage Equality, Saying He Supported “Traditional Marriage.” According to Huffington Post, “It seems Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has taken up a new cause in Congress -- defending states’ right to regulate marriage. Amid a wave of court decisions striking down anti-gay marriage laws in states, the Texas Republican introduced a bill to the Senate Wednesday to amend U.S. law ‘with regard to the definition of ‘marriage’ and ‘spouse’ for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.’ [...] ‘I support traditional marriage. Under President Obama, the federal government has tried to re-define marriage, and to undermine the constitutional authority of each state to define marriage consistent with the values of its citizens,’ Cruz said in a statement. ‘The Obama Administration should not be trying to force gay marriage on all 50 states. We should respect the states, and the definition of marriage should be left to democratically elected legislatures, not dictated from Washington. This bill will safeguard the ability of states to preserve traditional marriage for its residents.’ [...] Cruz warned of the dangers of gay marriage a month after the Supreme Court decision in a July 2013 interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network. ‘If you look at other nations that have gone down the road towards gay marriage, that’s the next step where it gets enforced,’ he said. ‘It gets enforced against Christian pastors who decline to perform gay marriages, who speak out and preach biblical truths on marriage.’” [Huffington Post, [2/13/14](#)]

- **Cruz: “Traditional Marriage Is An Institution Whose Integrity And Vitality Are Critical To The Health Of Any Society. We Should Remain Faithful To Our Moral Heritage And Never Hesitate To Defend It.”** According to a Ted Cruz press release, “‘Traditional marriage is an institution whose integrity and vitality are critical to the health of any society. We should remain faithful to our moral heritage and never hesitate to defend it.’” [Ted Cruz Official Press Release, [10/6/14](#)]

2015: Cruz Described The Ongoing Shift Toward Legal Recognition For Same-Sex Couples As An “Unrelenting Assault On Traditional Marriage,” And Castigated Judges Who Have Struck Down Prohibitions For “Ignoring Their Oaths, Ignoring The Constitution And Legislating From The Bench.” According to the Des Moines Register, “U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz cast himself as a leading Republican opponent of same sex marriage during an appearance before a crowd of evangelical Christians in Des Moines on Monday. Cruz, R Texas, described the ongoing shift toward legal recognition for gay couples as an ‘unrelenting assault on traditional marriage,’ and castigated judges who have struck down prohibitions for ‘ignoring their oaths, ignoring the Constitution and legislating from the bench.’” [Des Moines Register, [3/9/15](#)]

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST CODIFYING THE RIGHT TO MARRY

2022: Cruz Voted Against Codifying The Right To Marry, Regardless Of Sexual Orientation Or Race And Against Prohibiting Individuals Acting Under State Law From Refusing To Recognize A Same-Sex Or Interracial Marriage. In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted against the Respect for Marriage Act, which would “codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race. Specifically, it would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to, or any rights based on, a marriage between two individuals on the basis of the individuals’ sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions. The

bill would also replace the current federal definition of marriage, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, to define a marriage as valid if it is between two individuals and valid in the place where the marriage was entered into and would be considered valid in a U.S. state. As amended, it would specify that no provisions in the bill may be construed to diminish or abrogate religious liberty and that religious organizations and their employees would not be required to provide services for the celebration of a marriage, consistent with First Amendment protections. It would also specify that the bill would not authorize federal recognition of polygamous marriage and that it would not impact any benefits, status or rights that do not arise from marriage.” The vote was on passage. The Senate passed the amended bill by a vote of 61-36, thus the bill was sent back to the House for final concurrence. The House concurred with the Senate amendment and sent the bill to President Biden for final signage. The bill ultimately became law. [Senate Vote 362, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 6487](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

- **The Bill Would Not Require States To Legalize Same-Sex Marriage, But Instead Required States To Recognize Out-Of-State Legal Marriages.** According to CNN, “While the bill would not set a national requirement that all states must legalize same-sex marriage, it would require individual states to recognize another state’s legal marriage.” [CNN, [11/30/22](#)]
- **If Obergefell v. Hodges Were To Be Overturned, And If A State Were To Outlaw Same-Sex Marriage, The Respect For Marriage Act Would Mandate Such State To Recognize Same-Sex Marriages That Were Conducted In Other States.** According to CNN, “So, in the event the Supreme Court might overturn its 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision that legalized same-sex marriage, a state could still pass a law to ban same-sex marriage, but that state would be required to recognize a same-sex marriage from another state.” [CNN, [11/30/22](#)]

Cruz Effectively Voted Against The Legislation At Least Three Times

2022: Cruz Effectively Voted Against The Baldwin Substitute Amendment That Would Codify The Right To Marry, Prohibit States From Refusing To Recognize A Same-Sex Or Interracial Marriage, And Clarify That The Bill Would Not Diminish Religious Liberty And Would Not Mandate Religious Organizations To Provide Marriage Services.

In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted against the “motion to invoke cloture on the Schumer, D-N.Y., for Baldwin, D-Wis., substitute amendment no. 6487 to the bill that would codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race. The bill would prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to, or any rights based on, a marriage between two individuals on the basis of the individuals' sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. It would allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions. The bill would also replace the current federal definition of marriage, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, to define a marriage as valid if it is between two individuals and valid in the place where the marriage was entered into and would be considered valid in a U.S. state. The Baldwin substitute amendment would add language to specify that no provisions in the bill may be construed to diminish or abrogate religious liberty and that religious organizations and their employees would not be required to provide services for the celebration of a marriage, consistent with First Amendment protections. It would also specify that the bill would not authorize federal recognition of polygamous marriage and that it would not impact any benefits, status or rights that do not arise from marriage.” The vote was on cloture. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 61-35, thus the bill was advanced. [Senate Vote 358, [11/28/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/28/22](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 6487](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

2022: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Codifying The Right To Marry, Regardless Of Sexual Orientation Or Race.

In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted against the “motion to proceed to the bill that would codify the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation or race.” The vote was on a motion to proceed. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 53-23, thus the bill was advanced. [Senate Vote 357, [11/17/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/17/22](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

2022: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Codifying The Right To Marry.

In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted against the “motion to invoke cloture on the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to proceed to the bill.” The vote was on cloture. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 62-37, thus the bill was advanced. [Senate Vote 356, [11/16/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/16/22](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

Cruz Opposed Allowing Individuals Whose Right To Marry Was Denied To Sue For Declaratory And Injunctive Relief

2022: Cruz Voted Against Allowing The U.S. Attorney General Or Harmed Individuals To Sue In Federal Court For Declaratory And Injunctive Relief Against People Who Violate The Right To Marry Or Refuse To Recognize Same-Sex Or Interracial Marriage. In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted against the Respect for Marriage Act, which would “allow the U.S. attorney general or a harmed individual to bring a civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief against an individual who violates these provisions.” The vote was on passage. The Senate passed the amended bill by a vote of 61-36, thus the bill was sent back to the House for final concurrence. The House concurred with the Senate amendment and sent the bill to President Biden for final signage. The bill ultimately became law. [Senate Vote 362, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 6487](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

2022: Cruz Voted For An Amendment That Would Have Removed A Provision That Provided Individuals With The Ability To Sue Against Entities That Refused To Recognize Their Marriage On The Basis Of Their Sexual Orientation Or Race. In November 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted for an amendment to the Respect for Marriage Act, which would “strike a section from the bill that would permit any person harmed by a violation of the bill's prohibition against not recognizing a marriage on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin, to bring civil action in U.S. district court for declaratory and injunctive relief.” The vote was on the adoption of an amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 45-52. [Senate Vote 361, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/29/22](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 6493](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 6487](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 8404](#)]

CRUZ INTRODUCED THE STATE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

2015: Cruz Re-Introduced The State Marriage Defense Act, Which Aimed To Allow States To Adopt Their Own Definitions Of Marriage And Would Block The Federal Government From Applying Its Own Definition Of Marriage Onto States. According to Politico, “Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is calling on his colleagues to pass a bill that would make same sex marriage a state issue. Cruz, along with 11 other Republican senators, re-introduced the State Marriage Defense Act on Tuesday, which aims to allow states to adopt their own definitions of marriage and would block the federal government from applying its own definition of marriage onto states.” [Politico, [2/10/15](#)]

CRUZ CALLED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW STATES TO IGNORE THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING STRIKING DOWN GAY MARRIAGE BANS

2015: Cruz Called For A Federal Constitutional Amendment That Would Allow States To Ignore A Supreme Court Ruling Striking Down Bans On Gay Marriage. According to Politico, “Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal are calling for a federal constitutional amendment that would allow states to ignore a Supreme Court ruling striking down bans on gay marriage. The establishment candidates, like Mitt Romney, are bound to be asked whether they support or oppose such an effort.” [Politico, [1/27/15](#)]

Cruz Opposed The Violence Against Women Act, Which Included Protections For The LGBTQ Community

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST REAUTHORIZING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT WITH NEW PROTECTIONS FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

2013: Cruz Voted Against A Reauthorization Of The Violence Against Women Act That Included Protections For Immigrants, LGBTQ Populations And Native Americans. In February 2013, Cruz voted against the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which, according to Politico, “include[d] protections for illegal immigrants, Native Americans and people in same-sex relationships.” According to The Washington Post, “First authorized in 1994, the bill provides \$660 million over the next five years for programs that provide legal assistance, transitional housing, counseling and support hotlines to victims of rape and domestic abuse.” The Senate passed the measure by a vote of 78 to 22. The House passed the Senate's version of the bill February 28, 2013. The president signed the bill on March 7, 2013 and it became Public Law 113-004. [Senate Vote 19, [2/12/13](#); Politico, [3/7/13](#); The Washington Post, [3/7/13](#); Public Law 113-004, [3/7/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 47](#)]

Cruz Opposed Employment Non-Discrimination Protections For LGBTQ People

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE

2013: Cruz Voted Against The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), Which Barred Employment Decisions On The Basis Of Sexual Orientation Or Gender Identity. In November 2013, Cruz voted against ending debate on a bill that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would [have] prohibit[ed] employers, employment agencies and labor organizations from discriminating against an employee, applicant or member on the basis of his or her perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity. It would [have] prohibit[ed] federal agencies and state and local governments from penalizing or withholding licenses, government contracts, tax exempt status or other benefits from religious organizations exempted from the bill.” The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 64 to 32. The bill died in the House. [Senate Vote 232, [11/7/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/7/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 815](#)]

2013: Cruz Said The ENDA Was “The Wrong Approach.” According to Ted Cruz press release, “U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) released the following statement today concerning the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA): “The decision whether or not to make sexual orientation a protected legal class is a choice best left to the states, and elected legislatures in all 50 states have reached different conclusions on that question. A one-size-fits-all federal statutory right, which would invite abusive lawsuits and which contains insufficient protections for religious liberties, is the wrong approach.” [Ted Cruz Official Press Release, [11/7/13](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO ALLOW RELIGIOUS EMPLOYERS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS IN EMPLOYMENT

2013: Cruz Voted To Allow Employers That Are Closely And Formally Tied To A Church Or Specific Religion To Discriminate Against LGBTQ Individuals In Hiring And Employment. In November 2013, Cruz voted for an amendment that, according to CQ, “would [have] expand[ed] the bill’s religious organization exemption to include employers that are owned or managed substantially by churches, officially affiliated with religions or have a curriculum directed toward the propagation of a particular faith.” The amendment was rejected by a vote of 43 to 55. [Senate Vote 230, [11/7/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [11/7/13](#); Congressional Actions, [Congressional Actions](#), S. 815]

Cruz Opposed Federal Survivor Benefits For Same-Sex Spouses

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST REVISING THE DEFINITION OF A SPOUSE TO INCLUDE SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

2015: Cruz Voted Against Revising The Definition Of Spouse For Veterans’ Benefits. In June 2015, Cruz voted against an amendment revising the definition of spouse for veterans’ benefits. According to Congressional Quarterly, “would revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits to reflect new state definitions of spouse. The amendment would define an individual as a spouse if the marriage is considered valid in the state or place in which the marriage occurred.” The underlying bill was the FY 2016 Defense Authorization. The vote was on the amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 53 to 42; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. [Senate Vote 203, [6/4/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/4/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 1494](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 1463](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 1735](#)]

2015: Cruz Voted Against Protecting All Legally Married Spouses’ Right To Obtain Social Security And Veterans Benefits When Their Spouse Dies. In 2015, Cruz voted against an amendment that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for legislation that would ensure that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security and veterans benefits after the death of their spouse.” The Senate adopted the proposed amendment to the Senate’s FY 2016 budget resolution by a vote of 57 to 43, and later passed the amended resolution. [Senate Vote 121,

[3/26/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/26/15](#); S. Con. Res. 11, [4/7/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 1063](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Con. Res. 11](#)]

Cruz Opposed The Student Non-Discrimination Act

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBTQ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS

2015: Cruz Voted Against The Every Child Achieves Act Of 2015. In July 2015, Cruz voted against banning discrimination and bullying at K-12 schools on account of sexual orientation and gender identity. According to the Washington Post, “In its first vote affecting gay people since the U.S. Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, the Senate Tuesday rejected a federal prohibition against discrimination and bullying in K-12 public schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity.” The underlying legislation was an overhaul of No Child Left Behind. The vote was on passage on the amendment; the amendment was rejected by a vote of 52 to 45; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. [Senate Vote 236, [6/14/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [7/14/15](#); Washington Post, [7/14/15 Congressional Actions](#), [S. Amdt. 2093](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2089](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 1177](#)]

Cruz Opposed Recognition Of Transgender Rights

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST ALLOWING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS

2021: Cruz Effectively Voted For An Amendment That Would Withhold American Rescue Plan Funds To Schools If They Do Not Prohibit Transgender Students From Participating In Women’s And Girls’ Sports. In March 2021, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted for the “motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act with respect to the Murray, D-Wash., point of order that the Tuberville amendment no. 1386 to the Schumer, D-N.Y., substitute amendment no. 891 to the bill violates section 313(b)(1)(d) of the Congressional Budget Act. The amendment would require states and education agencies or institutes of higher education to bar transgender students from participating in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls.” The vote was on a motion to waive. The Senate failed to acquire a 3/5 majority and rejected the motion by a vote of 49-50. [Senate Vote 97, [3/6/21](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/6/21](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 1386](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 891](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 1319](#)]

CRUZ EFFECTIVELY VOTED TO LIMIT MATERNAL AND INFANT-RELATED RESOURCES TO BIOLOGICAL FEMALES

2022: Cruz Effectively Voted To Define “Pregnancy” To Limit Maternal And Infant-Related Program Resources To Women. In August 2022, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted for the “motion to commit the bill to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee with instructions to report it back to the Senate with changes that would include a definition for the term ‘pregnancy’ that limits maternal and infant-related program resources to individuals assigned female at birth.” The vote was on a motion to commit. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 50-50. [Senate Vote 319, [8/7/22](#); Congressional Quarterly, [8/7/22](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 5194](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 5376](#)]

- **The Amendment Was A Challenge To Gender-Inclusive Language Such As “Pregnant People.”** According to the Washington Times, “Senate Democrats defeated a budget-reconciliation amendment Sunday that would have limited federal pregnancy programs to biological females, rejecting the Republican challenge to gender-inclusive terms such as ‘pregnant people.’” [Washington Times, [8/7/22](#)]

Cruz Was Silent On A Case Where Two Gay Men Were Dragged Out Of Their Bedroom And Charged With “Deviate Sex”

AS SOLICITOR GENERAL, CRUZ MAINTAINED HIS SILENCE ON LAWRENCE V. TEXAS

2003: As Texas Solicitor General Cruz Remained “Absolutely Silent” On The Lawrence v. Texas Case Where Two Gay Men Were Dragged Out Of Their Bedroom And Charged With “Deviate Sex.” According to Bloomberg, “As Texas solicitor general when the Lawrence v. Texas case came before the Supreme Court, Cruz was ‘very much in the middle of all this drama,’ said Mitchell Katine, who was local counsel to the two gay men at the center of the case, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner. The two had been dragged out of their bedroom by police and charged with ‘deviate sex.’ Yet ‘Cruz remained absolutely silent,’ Katine said. The case remained assigned instead to a Harris County district attorney.” [Bloomberg, [4/29/15](#)]

- **A Spokesperson Said Cruz Did Not Step In Because Lawrence V. Texas Was A Criminal Case And His Office Primarily Handled Civil Cases, Despite The Fact That Six Of The Nine Cases Cruz Argued Before The Supreme Court Were Criminal.** According to Bloomberg, “Through a spokesman, Cruz said he didn’t step in because the case was criminal in nature and his office primarily handled civil cases. Yet six of the nine cases Cruz argued before the nation’s highest court were criminal in nature. Cruz also was just beginning a new job, and his advisers say he wasn’t in a position to take over. Cruz started the solicitor general’s job Feb. 10, 2003 and the Texas brief was filed on Feb. 17. Yet Dellinger notes that the court argument wasn’t until March 26, which gave ‘plenty of time to prepare.’” [Bloomberg, [4/29/15](#)]
- **Interviews With Former Fellow Law Students, Professors Etc., Suggested That Cruz’s Lack Of Involvement In The Lawrence Case Was Part Of A Broader Narrative About His Relationship With The Gay Community Where He Consistently Opposed Gay Marriage Publically But Stayed Away From The “Front Lines Of The Fight.”** According to Bloomberg, “Interviews with a dozen former fellow law students, professors, lawyers and government officials show that his lack of involvement in the Lawrence case is part of a broader narrative about the Texas senator’s relationship with the gay community: While he has consistently opposed gay rights, he has often stayed away from the front lines of the fight and even courted gay donors. Last weekend Cruz, 44, called on Americans to get on their knees in prayer that the court rules against same sex marriage laws. Cruz told Iowans he’s been a religious liberty advocate for decades, singling out his experience as Texas solicitor general from 2003 to 2008.” [Bloomberg, [4/29/15](#)]