

**Hello Mr. President my name is Beverly Senkowski.**

**On a personal note, I am here today to celebrate my legal marriage. I stand here as a spouse having been with my spouse for over 12 years. I stand here as a mother of a beautiful little girl. I stand here to support the proclamation of marriage and the celebration of marriage. As a person, a spiritual person, and as a citizen I celebrate civil marriage and religious marriage. I am happy to say I was married in my church, I am a faith based person and I believe in the value of a healthy marriage.**

**I ask today that the mayor and the city council understand that their constituents need their support and understanding as we fight to keep our marriages, our security, our legal protections for our family, for ourselves, and for our children and for our futures. I ask as an LGBT leader, I am President of Central California Alliance, and I am here today on behalf of the board of directors. I ask that the Mayor's office remember that we are tax paying citizens of Fresno and that City Council remembers that we are those also and that today we seek inclusion in our government and we seek your representation in our struggles. Thank you for your time today.**