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## WHAT IT MEANS

The Supreme Court victory in *Windsor* striking down the discriminatory federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) affirms that all loving and committed couples who are married deserve equal legal respect and treatment from the federal government. The demise of DOMA marks a turning point in how the United States government treats the relationships of married same-sex couples for federal programs that are linked to being married. At the same time, a turning point is part of a longer journey, not the end of the road. There is much work ahead before same-sex couples living across the nation can enjoy all the same protections as their different-sex counterparts.

### Keep in Mind:

Supreme Court victory in *Windsor* striking down the discriminatory federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) affirms that all loving and committed couples who are married deserve equal legal respect and treatment from the federal government.

### DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA)

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was passed by Congress in 1996. It defined marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. DOMA also provided that states that had laws recognizing same-sex marriages could not be required to recognize those marriages for federal purposes. DOMA was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013.

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