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Dear friends:

I am humbled to be selected by the Dover City Council as the recipient of this Pride Month Award, and regret that I am unable to be with you to accept in person.

As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and a Co-Chair of the Equality Caucus, I believe that every person, regardless of race, sex, religion, or gender identity, deserves the same pathway to the American Dream. Too often, though, members of the LGBTQ+ community face a lack of legal protections, experience violence and harassment, and face discrimination at disproportionate rates—particularly queer folks of color and those in the transgender community.

It was 52 years ago at the Stonewall Inn when our march for equality was catapulted into the national spotlight. Since then, LGBTQ+ Americans across the country have come out and told their stories, many at great personal risk. The societal benefit, however, has been enormous. Marriage equality is the law of the land, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal in dozens of states, and the Equality Act becoming law is in sight.

As the first openly LGBTQ+ Member of Congress from New Hampshire, I am proud to be your voice in the fight for equal rights under the law for all. While we have made great progress, we cannot become complacent. Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, particularly anti-trans, continues to emerge around the country, and it is up to us to use our voices for those who are not able to use theirs.

Pride is a time to celebrate our community and the progress we've made. It is also a time to rededicate ourselves in the fight for full equality and acceptance. Thank you for this terrific honor here in one of New Hampshire's most welcoming communities, and I look forward to continuing our work in our quest for equality.

Happy Pride!

Sincerely,


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress