## Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 75265, Washington, DC 20013 (202) 667-5139 www.glaa.org

## Testimony on Bill 20-475, "Domestic Partnership Termination Recognition Amendment Act of 2013"

Delivered before the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety December 19, 2013

Good morning, Chairman Wells. I am Rick Rosendall, President of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, which has fought for LGBT equality in the District since 1971.

We support Bill 20-475, the Domestic Partnership Termination Recognition Amendment Act of 2013. It amends the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992 to allow persons in a domestic partnership in another jurisdiction to obtain a judicial decree to terminate that domestic partnership in the District of Columbia. A judicial decree, as opposed to an administrative action, is needed for the termination to be given full faith and credit by other states.

This change is essentially a cleanup measure required to account for the variety of different laws in different jurisdictions regarding our relationships. It will allow someone seeking to enter into a new domestic partnership or marriage in the District to terminate a prior relationship from another state, without establishing residency in that other state as some state laws require.

A young couple recently came to us and described their need for this bill. We appreciate their raising the issue. We thank Councilmember Graham for introducing it, and Councilmembers Wells, Barry, Evans, Cheh, Orange, Bonds, Alexander, Grosso, McDuffie, and Chairman Mendelson for co-sponsoring.

Thank you.

[Addendum: We support amending the bill to make it applicable to civil unions and other similar relationships, not just those called domestic partnerships.]