

# Slate

## Why Only Two Republicans in Congress Admit to Supporting Gay Marriage

By Emma Roller February 26, 2013

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Here's a story that's getting a lot of buzz this week, but for all the wrong reasons. A host of "prominent Republicans" signed a legal brief supporting gay marriage. Cool. But of the 82 GOPers on the list, only four currently hold political office, and only two at the federal level. More interestingly, the two lawmakers in Congress who signed the pledge have been the butt of redistricting since the 2010 census in their respective states.

One is Rep. Richard Hanna, a member of both the NRA and the CATO Institute who represents upstate New York's Utica area, but who was just redistricted into a slightly more conservative area. The other is Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who represents the south Miami area in the 27th district but who was drawn out of two urban (and also LGBT) hubs she'd represented since 1989: South Beach and the Florida Keys.

A panel of federal judges in New York handled the state's redistricting after the state legislature failed to agree on new Congressional lines. Meanwhile, Florida faced one of the most contentious redistricting battles of 2011, with the Republican-controlled statehouse facing calls of gerrymandering from (ahem) some members of the media.

This is all to say it may not be a coincidence that the only two GOP congressmen to vocally support gay marriage are two who were also just drawn into more conservative—and therefore less winnable for them—districts.

Read the full list of signees, courtesy of James Richardson, after the jump.