# **JODE AND LISA LAYTON-BRINKER**

### **MARRIED 4 YEARS • TOGETHER 6 YEARS**

#### **JODE AND LISA**

Lisa is a first responder in mid-Missouri. They've been together 6 years, and their family includes 3 children.

#### **HOW THEY MET**

After locking eyes at a friend's party,
JoDe and Lisa struck up a conversation
that carried on all night. A year later,
JoDe secretly arranged for a sailboat and
dinner to celebrate their anniversary. Lisa
reciprocated the gesture by proposing.
They were married in a beautiful backyard
ceremony attended by a close-knit group of
family and friends.

#### WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

As an emergency first-responder, Lisa worries that if she is seriously injured or killed at work, her family will not be cared for. This is because the benefits available to surviving spouses of different-sex married first-responders who are injured or killed in the line-of-duty would

not be available for her spouse

since Missouri refuses to recognize their marriage.







## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Diane Balogh, 314-669-3425, dbalogh@aclu-mo.org Robyn Shepherd, 212-519-7829, rshepherd@aclu.org