



May 15, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

We write on behalf of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (“Lambda Legal”) in support of H.R.5, the “Equality Act,” which will provide clear, immediate, comprehensive, and national protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity that are long overdue and critically important for the approximately 11.3 million American adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”). Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the nation’s oldest and largest legal organization dedicated to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT individuals through impact litigation, policy development and advocacy, and public education.

It is difficult to overstate the need to address the widespread discrimination still faced by LGBT people throughout their daily lives and in all corners of the United States. By passing the Equality Act, Congress will explicitly provide both effective protections and remedies for anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, education, healthcare services, access to credit, jury service, public accommodations and federally funded programs and services. By doing so, Congress also will make a powerful statement in principle regarding the equal place LGBT of all backgrounds deserve within our American family.

In addition to supporting the Equality Act, we urge you to vote “no” on the motion to recommit during the floor debate on Friday. The Equality Act in its current form will advance federal protections in a wide range of areas and strengthen legal protections for LGBT people and others, and is supported by over two hundred companies, hundreds of members of Congress and more than 500 statewide and national organizations, including social justice, religious, medical and child welfare organizations. We strongly oppose any effort to weaken the Equality Act, and urge you to vote “no” on the motion to recommit.

For these reasons, Lambda Legal gives its strongest possible support to the Equality Act and respectfully urges you to support its passage. We would be pleased to provide any further information that might be of assistance to you.

Respectfully submitted,

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