

**Homophobia and Civil Engagement (The Equality Act)**

* Despite significant steps forward, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer [(LGBTQ) Americans lack basic legal protections in states across the country](https://www.hrc.org/equalityact/). The patchwork nature of current laws leaves millions of people subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their families, and their day-to-day lives.
* Our nation’s civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion. But federal law does not provide consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The need for these protections is clear—nearly two-thirds of LGBTQ Americans report having experienced discrimination in their personal lives.
* The Equality Act would provide consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including [employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.](https://www.hrc.org/equalityact/)
* Decades of civil rights history show that civil rights laws are effective in decreasing discrimination because they provide strong federal remedies targeted to specific vulnerable groups. By explicitly including sexual orientation and gender identity in these fundamental laws, LGBTQ people will finally be afforded the exact same protections as other covered characteristics under federal law

**What can we do?**

The Equality Act passed the House of Representatives on May 17, 2019. As of April 15, 2020, the bill has not been taken up in the Senate.

1. We need the U.S. Senate to act!
2. Tell your Senators to pass for the Equality Act!
3. Your voice is needed to change history!
4. It’s been 50 years since Stonewall and 45 years since the first version of the bill was introduced. Tell your Senators: “I need explicit federal nondiscrimination laws that will protect [all of me, all the time](https://www.thetaskforce.org/allofmeallthetime).”

The Task Force Action Fund has created a template you can fill out to tell your Senate to act on it:

<https://www.thetaskforceactionfund.org/current_action/tell-your-senators-pass-the-equality-act/>

**More on Equality Act**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5/text>

<https://www.hrc.org/equalityact/>