

Prevailing Word Church, Lytle, TX Regarding the Equality Act

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Summary: H.R.5 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)
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Passed House (05/17/2019)

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Equality Act

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in a wide variety of areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

The bill expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services.

The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Protections against discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin shall include protections against discrimination based on (1) an association with another person who is a member of such a protected class; or (2) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, that an individual is a member of such a protected class. The bill prohibits the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 from providing a claim, defense, or basis for challenging such protections.

The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

What's wrong with protecting sexual orientation and gender identity against discrimination? Our response:

While paragraph 3 of the Equality Act Summary states that “religion” is a category that should receive protection against discrimination, this same summary later states that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 cannot be used to challenge the protections the Equality Act would provide, including for sexual orientation and gender identity. As Bible believers, we do not believe that any sexual behavior that goes against the law of God, for example, LGBTQ lifestyles, heterosexual unions outside a marriage contract or covenant, adultery, and polygamy, should be protected or benefitted by any government entity. We do believe that all citizens of our nation deserve the individual freedoms and rights given to us by our constitution, including proper justice whenever and wherever it is due according to moral laws at all levels. True Christian love for our nation and our fellow men and women means standing for Biblical righteousness in our laws because righteousness exalts a nation; it means proclaiming Biblical truths that lead to right standing with God and eternal life. Therefore, we love people but denounce sin – all sin in all of us – and we cannot support the Equality Act in its current form because it goes beyond “race” (ethnicity), color, and (biological) sex – all of which are naturally apparent and “assigned” to us at conception. In addition, it appears that protection of religious beliefs will be weakened or altogether removed when those beliefs clash with a contrary belief about sexual orientation and gender identity. This bill is now in the Senate and we ask you to call this number and tell your Senators to vote against the Equality Act.

(202) 224-3121

Proverbs 14:34 – Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.