



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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May 15, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) I am writing to express our strong support for the Equality Act (H.R. 5) which you will be voting on this week. The Equality Act would provide explicit non-discrimination protection for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. It also makes clear that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) cannot be used as an excuse to block these important protections.

A recent [report](#) based on a survey by NPR and others, found that at least one in five LGBTQ people reported being personally discriminated against because of their sexuality or gender identity when applying for jobs (20%), when being paid equally or considered for promotion (22%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (22%). The survey also shows that 90 percent of LGBTQ people believe there is discrimination against their community in America, and one-third (33%) of them say that a big problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies. In our history, civil rights laws have shown to be 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 same protections under federal law as others receive based on their race, religion, sex and national origin.

CHN, an alliance of national groups representing human service providers, faith organizations, labor, civil rights, policy experts and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people, strongly supports ensuring workplace equality by protecting LGBTQ workers from employment discrimination, including discriminatory hiring, firing, promotion, wages and benefits, and protection from retaliation for reporting these practices. We also call for non-discrimination in areas that include education, adoption, and foster care. We believe strongly that the Equality Act represents a necessary step forward to ensure that all people are protected from discrimination.

Thank you for voting for passage of the Equality Act (H.R. 5).

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Weinstein  
Executive Director