



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 14, 2021

The Honorable David N. Cicilline
United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for H.R. 5 and S. 393—The Equality Act

Dear Representative Cicilline and Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of H.R. 5 and S. 393, the Equality Act. On March 23, 2021, the Long Beach City Council unanimously voted to support this legislation. Long Beach views this legislation as critical to strengthen existing protections for everyone.

Under current Constitutional provisions, individuals may be discriminated against due to their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth, and/or related medical condition often rooted in sex-based stereotypes. Discrimination also often relates to more than one characteristic. Individuals who are LGBTQ+, or are perceived to be LGBTQ+, have been subjected to a history and pattern of pervasive discrimination in both the private sector and government actors, including housing and public assistance. This discrimination inflicts a range of tangible and intangible harms, sometimes including serious physical injury or death.

The Equality Act would bestow equal Constitutional rights to the LGBTQ+ community by prohibiting discrimination based on sex, including gender identity and sexual orientation. The Act would protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in the workplace, financial market, housing market, health care, courtroom, and all other protected areas of society.

The City is a leader in advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion and consistently receives a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. For these reasons, the City supports the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District