



April 30, 2019

House Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to VOTE YES on the Equality Act (H.R. 5). Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA members believe that LGBTQ citizens must be safe from all forms of discrimination. The Equality Act would:

- Explicitly provide consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity by amending federal laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.
- Help educators cultivate nurturing and supportive school environments where LGBTQ students, who are more likely than other students to be bullied and harassed, experience a greater sense of acceptance and safety.
- Safeguard LGBTQ educators, often sources of support and encouragement for students.

Aside from violating core American values of equality and fairness, discrimination against LGBTQ citizens sends the message that they are second-class citizens. More than half the states lack fully inclusive non-discrimination protections, leaving millions of people subject to potential discrimination in their daily lives. The Equality Act would correct this inequity.

We are at a watershed moment in our nation; surveys by a number of organizations, including the Public Religion Research Institute and the Harris Poll, indicate overwhelming support for a federal law to protect LGBTQ citizens from discrimination.

The Equality Act is an important step in our nation's continuing march toward fairness for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Thank you for providing this opportunity for the National Education Association to express our support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association