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May 15, 2019

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to vote YES on the Equality Act, H. R. 5. Votes associated with 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, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Jury 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 key sources of support and encouragement for LGBTQ students.

Most states lack non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation and gender identity. This patchwork of laws makes LGBTQ citizens vulnerable to discrimination and sends the message that they are second-class citizens.

Discrimination against LGBTQ citizens violates our core American values of equality and fairness. 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.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association