

A RESOLUTION

22-483

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 1, 2018

To declare the sense of the Council that the Congress of the United States must pass the Equality Act without delay to ensure that federal civil rights laws are fully inclusive of protections against discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, federally funded programs, and federal jury service.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Supporting Passage of the Equality Act Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

- (1) Women and LGBTQ individuals commonly experience discrimination, harassment, and violence in many facets of their lives, and such mistreatment is often more egregious for certain demographics, such as women of color and transgender individuals.
- (2) The District is committed to eradicating discrimination in all its forms.
- (3) The District has one of the strongest and most comprehensive state human rights acts in the country.
- (4) The Human Rights Act of 1977, effective December 13, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-38; D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*), covers 20 protected traits and explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sex, gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation.
- (5) Twenty-two other states prohibit discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and 20 states prohibit discrimination in employment and housing based on gender identity. Twenty-one other states prohibit discrimination in public accommodations based on sexual orientation and 19 states prohibit discrimination in public accommodations based on gender identity.
- (6) This patchwork of state laws breeds confusion, creates vulnerability, and inhibits participation in public life.
- (7) On May 2, 2017, the Equality Act was introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2282) by Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) and in the Senate (S. 1006) by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Cory Booker (D-NJ). The Equality Act was introduced with 241 original cosponsors — including Congressman

Eleanor Holmes Norton — the most congressional support that any piece of pro-LGBTQ legislation has received upon introduction.

(8) The Equality Act would amend existing federal civil rights laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and jury selection standards to explicitly add gender identity and sexual orientation to the traits protected against discrimination in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, federally funded programs (including education), and federal jury service. The bill also prohibits discrimination based on sex in public places like restaurants, stores, banks, health care providers, and transportation, and in all federally funded programs and activities.

(9) The Equality Act is currently pending in the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice and in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) Individuals have the right to live free from discrimination in all aspects of their lives, including in employment, education, housing, credit, public accommodations, federally funded programs, and federal jury service; and

(2) Congress must pass the Equality Act without further delay to ensure that federal civil rights laws are fully inclusive of protections from discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, federally funded programs, and federal jury service.

Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the President of the United States, the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.