



## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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February 25, 2021

Dear Representative,

We write on behalf of the nation's mayors to register our strong support for the Equality Act and to urge the House to pass H.R. 5 this week and by a wide margin.

Although LGBTQ Americans have experienced great strides forward in recent years with marriage equality and other legal victories, they still lack federal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the workplace, housing, schools, and public accommodations throughout the country. The Equality Act will update federal law to include express and enduring nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ Americans in key areas of life including employment, housing, education, and public spaces.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long history – dating back to 1984 – of opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and supporting LGBTQ rights. We have been active on this as a matter of policy, legislation and in the courts. In 2019 we adopted policy specifically endorsing the Equality Act. That year we also established the LGBTQ Alliance of The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

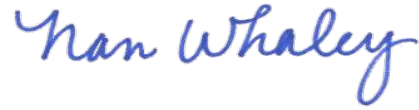
The bill's sponsor, Rhode Island Representative David Cicilline, was a strong leader on these issues in the Conference of Mayors when he was Mayor of Providence and he continues to be an outstanding leader on them in the U.S. House of Representatives. All Americans deserve to be treated fairly and equally under one federal law, rather than a patchwork of state and local anti-discrimination laws. Passage of the Equality Act will accomplish this.

In every state a majority of Americans support common sense protections for the LGBTQ community. There is broad support for the Equality Act across the political spectrum. It's time for Congress to fulfill its responsibility and pass a federal law making clear that no one should face discrimination because of who they are, who they love, or where they live.

Sincerely,



Mayor Greg Fischer  
Louisville, KY  
President



Mayor Nan Whaley  
Dayton, OH  
Vice President



Mayor Steve Benjamin  
Columbia, SC  
Past President



Mayor Elizabeth Kautz  
Burnsville, MN  
Past President



Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor of Chicago  
Chair, Criminal and Social Justice Committee



Tom Cochran  
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