

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 208

Expressing the sense of the Congress that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals should be protected from discrimination under the law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. CAPPES, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WAT-

SON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. MCNERNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 7 states “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.”;

Whereas many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals experience discrimination throughout the scope of their lives including in acquiring credit, seeking jobs, accessing public accommodations, attending school, receiving services, renting a home, and performing their civic duty as a juror;

Whereas Americans of every age, every faith, every political party, and every socio-economic background recognize discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals to be a serious problem;

Whereas religious liberty and nondiscrimination laws have long co-existed;

Whereas existing Federal law and recent executive actions provide some protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender workers, students, and Federal program recipients;

Whereas the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and Washington (plus the District of Columbia) prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and housing, and New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and housing;

Whereas the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington (plus the District of Columbia) prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, and Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public accommodations;

Whereas the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington (plus the District of Columbia) prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, and Wisconsin prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in education;

Whereas more than 100 cities in States without explicit nondiscrimination laws have adopted ordinances barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas 89 percent of Fortune 500 companies have proactively adopted nondiscrimination policies inclusive of sexual orientation and 66 percent of Fortune 500 compa-

nies have adopted non-discrimination policies inclusive of gender identity;

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals may still be legally discriminated against in many jurisdictions in the areas of credit, employment, education, housing, jury service, and public accommodations; and

Whereas discrimination based on who a individual is or whom the individual loves is antithetical to a society based on the protection of human and civil rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of House of Representa-
2 tives that—

3 (1) this resolution may be cited as the “Equal-
4 ity for All Resolution of 2015”,

5 (2) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender indi-
6 viduals are valuable, contributing members of society
7 and that discrimination on the basis of sexual ori-
8 entation and gender identity is a serious problem,

9 (3) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender indi-
10 viduals deserve equal treatment under the law and
11 existing Federal protections are inadequate to en-
12 sure nondiscrimination protections,

13 (4) the Congress should pass legislation that
14 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual ori-
15 entation and gender identity in areas including cred-
16 it, employment, education, federally funded pro-

1 grams, housing, jury service, and public accommoda-
2 tions, and

3 (5) the Congress encourages each State—

4 (A) to simultaneously adopt laws that pro-
5 hibit discrimination on the basis of sexual ori-
6 entation and gender identity in credit, employ-
7 ment, education, federally funded programs,
8 housing, jury service, and public accommoda-
9 tions, and

10 (B) to reject laws that undermine non-
11 discrimination protections.

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