

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 613

Condemning Secretary Ben Carson's bigoted comments regarding transgender people and decrying the Department of Housing and Urban Development's continued effort, under Secretary Carson's leadership, to single out and discriminate against LGBTQ individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mrs. LAWRENCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

RESOLUTION

Condemning Secretary Ben Carson's bigoted comments regarding transgender people and decrying the Department of Housing and Urban Development's continued effort, under Secretary Carson's leadership, to single out and discriminate against LGBTQ individuals.

Whereas the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for safeguarding and serving the most vulnerable among us;

Whereas the Secretary of HUD, Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., made statements to HUD employees in San Francisco regarding transgender people;

Whereas in those statements, Secretary Carson referred to transgender women as “big, hairy men” and accused them of pretending to be women to access women’s shelters;

Whereas those statements are incredibly disrespectful and reflect bigoted, outdated thinking that is both offensive and counterproductive to the mission of the agency;

Whereas the Washington Post has reported that Secretary Carson has “repeatedly mocked transgender people in internal meetings in Washington”;

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Secretary of HUD, an agency with more than 8,000 employees, to ensure a welcoming work environment that fosters productivity on behalf of the American people;

Whereas the Secretary’s comments and cavalier attitude toward those that HUD is supposed to help has created a divisive and demoralizing atmosphere which does not best serve the American people;

Whereas a HUD employee was reportedly applauded as she walked out in protest from Secretary Carson’s remarks;

Whereas these most recent comments are not the first actions that Secretary Carson has taken that show a basic disrespect toward LGBTQ people;

Whereas, in 2015, then-Presidential candidate Carson said,
 “I do not appreciate using our military as a laboratory
 for social experimentation. The last thing we need to be
 doing is saying, ‘What would it be like if we introduced
 several transgender people into this platoon?’ Give me a
 break. Deal with the transgender thing somewhere else.”;

Whereas, in 2016, then-Presidential candidate Carson said,
 “Boys who say, ‘I feel like a girl today, I want to go into
 the girl’s lavatory’—that is such a bunch of garbage. If
 we continue to cater to that, where will it lead? Where
 will it lead us to be? I mean, it’s beyond ridiculous that
 you take the most abnormal situation and then you make
 everyone else conform to it . . . when we start trying to
 impose the extra rights based on a few people who per-
 haps are abnormal, where does that lead?”;

Whereas, in 2017, HUD removed resource documents de-
 signed to help emergency homeless shelters and other
 housing providers comply with HUD nondiscrimination
 policies regarding LGBT service recipients;

Whereas despite repeated interactions with Congress, both in
 hearings and otherwise, HUD left this guidance in limbo
 for nearly two years before finally announcing, with flim-
 sy justification, it would not repost or replace it at all;

Whereas, in May of 2019, Secretary Carson testified in front
 of the Financial Services Committee of the House of
 Representatives that HUD had no intention of elimi-
 nating the crucial Equal Access Rule one day before
 HUD proposed a new rule that would essentially gut it;
 and

Whereas Secretary Carson seems committed to ensuring that LGBT individuals are unable to exercise even the basic rights afforded to all Americans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) believes that every American, regardless of
3 religion, race, gender identity sexual orientation, or
4 any other classification, deserves access to safe and
5 secure shelter;

6 (2) questions the ability and commitment of
7 Secretary Carson to effectively lead the Department
8 of Housing and Urban Development and its thou-
9 sands of dedicated employees; and

10 (3) strongly condemns Secretary Carson's big-
11 oted comments regarding transgender people and de-
12 cries HUD's continued effort, under Secretary Car-
13 son's leadership, to single out and discriminate
14 against LGBTQ individuals.

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