



Tell Congress you're watching – you want a transgender-inclusive ENDA passed this year!

Background

Last week, leadership in the House of Representatives announced they were moving forward with a nondiscrimination bill that would no longer include protections for transgender people. The outcry from the LGBT community was united and intense.

On Monday, the House leadership announced that it would put off taking action for a short period of time. That gives us a short window of opportunity to make sure that every single member of Congress has heard from his/her constituents, urging him/her to both (1) support a transgender-inclusive ENDA, and (2) specifically oppose any effort to pass a non-inclusive ENDA.

Call Your Member of Congress

- Step 1:** Contact your Representative today by calling **(202) 224-3121**. *If you do not know who your Representative is, you can call this number, give them your zip code, and they will tell you his/her name before transferring you.*
- Step 2:** Call your member of Congress and say: "Hello, my name is _____ and I live in your district. I am calling to ask the representative to support the Baldwin amendment to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The Baldwin amendment adds gender identity protections back into ENDA and it is critically important to me that all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are protected by this legislation. I only support passage of H.R. 3685 if the Baldwin amendment passes. Thank you."
- Step 3:** If your Representative says s/he supports the bill or is a cosponsor, please follow up with: "Thank you. I urge you to fully support ENDA (H.R. 2015) as introduced, and to oppose any effort to weaken the bill, including by stripping or modifying any of the transgender protections."

Additional Talking Points

Why ENDA Must Contain Explicit Protections for Gender Identity

- ENDA should protect the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community from unequal treatment in the workplace, especially those of us who are most vulnerable to discrimination.
- The LGBT community is one community, and we want to move forward, together, in one bill.

- Including explicit protections against discrimination based on gender identity not only helps transgender people; it also strengthens ENDA for the rest of our community by ensuring that an employer cannot fire or refuse to hire a gay employee for an “effeminate” walk or a lesbian employee for dressing “too butch.”
- Despite advances in protecting transgender people on the state and local level, as well as in the private sector, it remains perfectly legal in 39 states to fire someone solely based on his or her gender identity.
- Recent national surveys have found that 65% of people believe it should be illegal to discriminate against transgender people in employment.

About the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

- This legislation would address discrimination in the workplace by making it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or refuse to promote an employee simply based on his or her sexual orientation or gender identity. It would reinforce the principle that employment decisions should be based upon a person’s qualifications and job performance.
- ENDA closely follows the model of existing federal civil rights laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensuring that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are treated in the same way as other groups protected under law – no better, no worse.
- Most of America’s smartest business minds understand that a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity has nothing to do with their job performance. That is why 200 Fortune 500 companies include gender identity in their nondiscrimination policies.
- Federal law has also been outpaced by the actions of state and local leaders. Thirty-seven percent of the country, including eleven states and more than 90 cities and counties, have passed protections for the transgender community.