



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

SERVICES, INC.

March 16, 2021

Senator Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin:

The American Psychological Association (APA), the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States, with more than 122,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students as its members and affiliates, writes in strong support of the Equality Act, S. 393 / H.R. 5. This comprehensive civil rights legislation would prohibit discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community in the areas of employment, education, credit, jury service, federal funding, housing, and public accommodations. In addition, the Equality Act fills critical gaps in federal anti-discrimination laws for all Americans.

APA strongly [supports](#) the Equality Act. We have adopted multiple research-based policy statements supporting the rights of LGBTQ and nonbinary people and have included for the hearing record a [2020 resolution that promotes federal legislation protecting against discriminatory treatment \(PDF, 128KB\)](#) of these individuals. Nearly 70% of Americans support [discrimination protections for LGBTQ people](#). APA is among more than 250 social justice, child welfare, religious, and health organizations that have signed on to support the Equality Act.

This support is in keeping with APA's 35+ year history as a strong advocate for full equal rights for LGBTQ people, a position that is strengthened by scientific research. APA has supported legal benefits for same-sex couples since 1997 and civil marriage for same-sex couples since 2004. The Equality Act is the much-needed and logical next step in extending full protection to the LGBTQ community.

We urge the Senate to pass the Equality Act now.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
Chief Executive Officer

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5500
(202) 336-6123 TDD



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