

## HR5 Sample Letter to Congress

Dear Mr/Mrs. Last Name,

I am part of the Christian school community and am writing to ask you please to vote NO on HR 5, the Equality Act. The legislation mandates a single government-approved view of human sexuality and forbids even an exemption for faith-informed alternative views. A government mandate of this kind poses a threat to the practice of freedom of religion and the diversity of viewpoints, including religious conviction, that is so necessary for American political and cultural debate.

Christian schools teach a consistent message about human flourishing that focuses on God's love for every person. This legislation poses a serious threat to our capacity to share and live according to God's loving standards. Our concern is real: some states have already banned faith-based adoption agencies from performing their calling based entirely on their faith-informed view of marriage. The Equality Act imposes a similar threat to faith-based entities based on sexuality issues. Please don't let the Equality Act sacrifice the common good on the altar of government-imposed viewpoints.

The Equality Act deliberately excludes any religious exemption - unlike dozens of state and local laws on sexual orientation and gender identity which overwhelmingly include such exemptions. It combines this threat with an explicit rejection of recourse to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) when government policy and religious faith are in conflict. RFRA merely gives a religious entity its day in court; it does not guarantee the outcome. By explicitly rejecting even this safety valve, the Equality Act effectively imposes a draconian approach that allows no objection.

For these reasons and so many more, I urge you to consider the threat the Equality Act (HR 5) poses to our nation and to vote "No" when the bill comes before the House.

Thank you for your public service and your consideration of these important points.

Sincerely,