



Equality Act Passes in U.S. House of Representatives

This critically important legislation would expand federal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as create greater consistency in anti-discrimination laws across the nation.

WILTON MANORS, FL – FEBRUARY 26, 2021 – The [Dolphin Democrats](#), Florida’s oldest LGBTQ+ political organization, celebrates the momentous news that the Equality Act has passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday with a vote of 224-206.

“The Equality Act is bringing us closer to ensuring everyone is treated equally under the law with the respect and dignity they deserve,” said Alfredo Olvera, President of The Dolphin Democrats. “We are grateful for Speaker Pelosi, Congressman Cicilline and our Broward County Congressional delegation for supporting and advancing this legislation on behalf of all Americans.”

While [the vast majority of Americans support legislation](#) protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing, and hundreds of organizations including the Dolphin Democrats have proudly voiced their support for the Equality Act, only three Republicans in Congress voted in support of the Act on Thursday. With the election of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the American people have unequivocally proclaimed that intolerance and inequality have *no place* in this nation – the U.S. Senate must move to decisively and swiftly ensure the Equality Act heads to President Biden’s desk.

“The Equality Act provides long overdue federal civil rights protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, locking in critical safeguards in our housing, education, public services, and lending systems — and codifying the courage and resilience of the LGBTQ+ movement into enduring law,” President Biden said last week. The President pledged to make enactment of the Equality Act a top legislative priority of his administration during his first 100 days.

Equality is fundamental to a healthy society and a vibrant democracy, yet in more than half the states in America, LGBTQ+ people still lack comprehensive protections against discrimination. A [recent study from the Center for American Progress](#) shed light on the appalling fact that more than 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ Americans faced discrimination of some kind in the past year and as many as one-third also report altering aspects of their personal or work lives to avoid experiencing discrimination. For transgender Americans, discrimination is even more commonplace, with more than 3 in 5 individuals of transgender experience reporting discrimination in the past year. With the Equality Act introduced into the U.S. Senate as [S.393](#), Floridians must join together to send a loud message to Republican Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott that *equality cannot wait any longer*.

“It is now our responsibility as voters and citizens of this nation to call Senator Rubio and Senator Scott and ask them to be on the right side of history by supporting this unifying piece of legislation,” said Alfredo Olvera.

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