

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 28, 2016

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

We write as cosponsors of H.R. 3185, the Equality Act, to request that you hold a hearing on this legislation in the House Judiciary Committee. As you may know, this bipartisan legislation has the support of 175 Members of the House, and would ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals are protected under the law.

While many states have adopted numerous LGBT civil rights laws, there is currently no uniform federal standard that protects all LGBT Americans from discrimination. The current patchwork of LGBT state laws has not only created an enormous amount of confusion and uncertainty, but it has impacted the safety and lives of LGBT Americans.

The Equality Act amends existing federal statutes to provide explicit, consistent protections for sexual orientation and gender identity in the areas of credit, education, employment, federal funding, housing, jury service, and public accommodations. By amending existing code, we extend the exact same protections to LGBT people, no more and no less, than exist for the protected classes of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

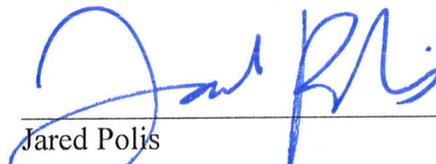
All Americans deserve equal protection under the law. We request that as the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to which this legislation has been referred, you recognize the vital importance of this issue by holding a hearing on the Equality Act, to be followed by the opportunity for passage by the Judiciary Committee and ultimately, by the House of Representatives.

We look forward to working with you on moving this historic legislation.

Sincerely,

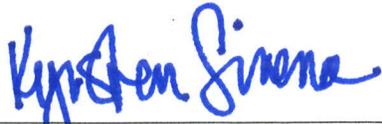


David N. Cicilline

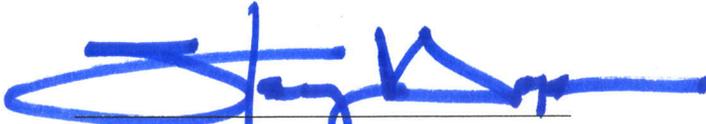
  
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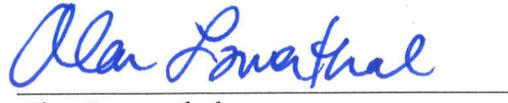
Jared Polis

  
Mark Pocan

  
Kyrsten Sinema

  
Mark Takano

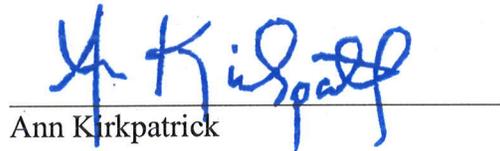
  
Steny H. Hoyer

  
Alan Lowenthal

  
Alma S. Adams, Ph. D.

  
Ami Bera, M.D.

  
Andre Carson

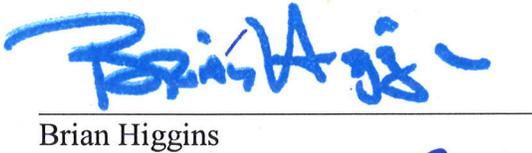
  
Ann Kirkpatrick

  
Barbara Lee

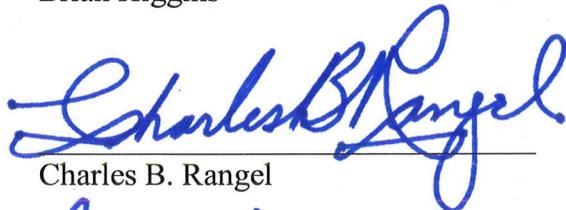
  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.

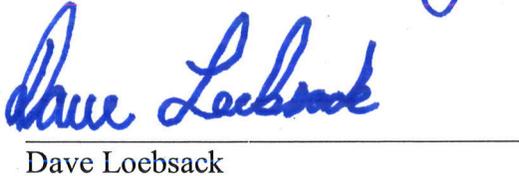
  
Bonnie Watson Coleman

  
Brian Higgins

  
Carolyn B. Maloney

  
Charles B. Rangel

  
Daniel T. Kildee

  
Dave Loebsack

  
David E. Price

Debbie Dingell  
Debbie Dingell

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Alcee L. Hastings  
Alcee L. Hastings

Denny Heck  
Denny Heck

Derek Kilmer  
Derek Kilmer

Diana DeGette  
Diana DeGette

Donald Norcross  
Donald Norcross

Earl Blumenauer  
Earl Blumenauer

Ed Perlmutter  
Ed Perlmutter

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eleanor H. Norton  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eliot L. Engel  
Eliot L. Engel

Elizabeth H. Esty  
Elizabeth H. Esty

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frederica S. Wilson  
Frederica S. Wilson

Gerald E. Connolly  
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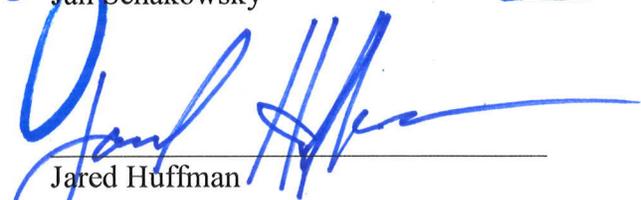
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Jackie Speier  
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James P. McGovern

  
Jan Schakowsky

  
Janice Hahn

  
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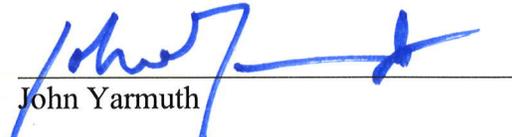
  
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Jim Himes

  
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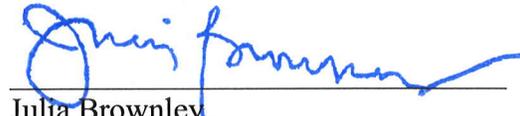
  
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John Yarmuth

  
Joseph Crowley

  
Joseph P. Kennedy

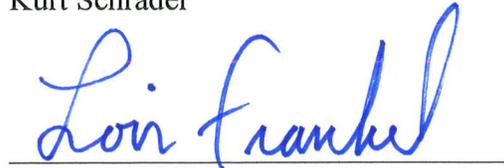
  
Juan Vargas

  
Julia Brownley

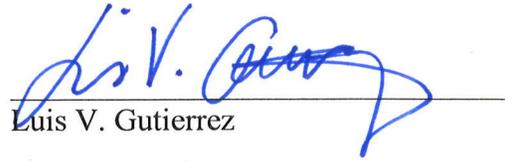
  
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Kurt Schrader

  
Lois Capps

  
Lois Frankel

  
Louise M. Slaughter

  
Luis V. Gutierrez

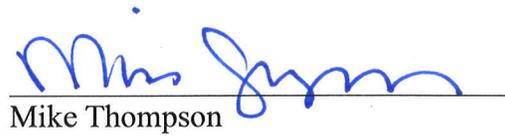
  
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Michael M. Honda

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham

  
Mike Doyle

  
Mike Quigley

  
Mike Thompson

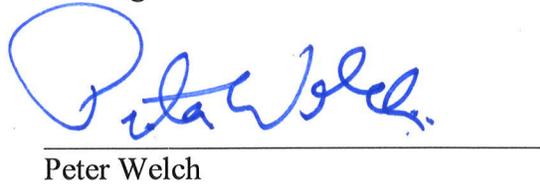
  
Niki Tsongas

  
Patrick E. Murphy

  
Paul Tonko

  
Pete Aguilar

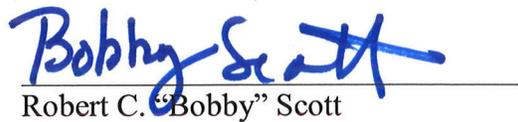
  
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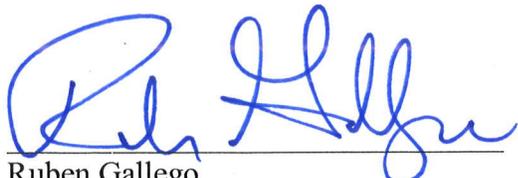
  
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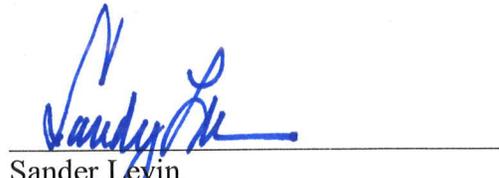
  
Raúl M. Grijalva

  
Rick Larsen

  
Robert A. Brady

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

  
Ruben Gallego

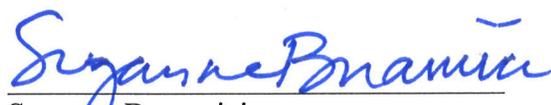
  
Sander Levin

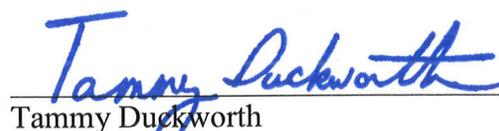
  
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Seth Moulton

  
Steve Israel

  
Suzan DelBene

  
Suzanne Bonamici

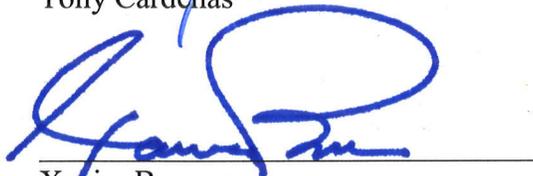
  
Tammy Duckworth

  
Ted W. Lieu

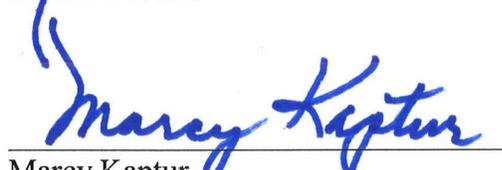
  
Theodore E. Deutch

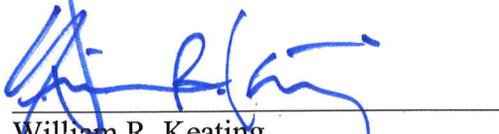
  
Tony Cárdenas

  
Tulsi Gabbard

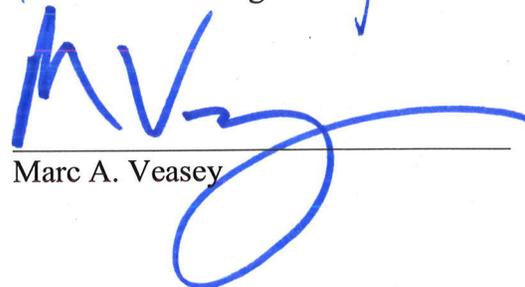
  
Xavier Becerra

  
Susan Davis

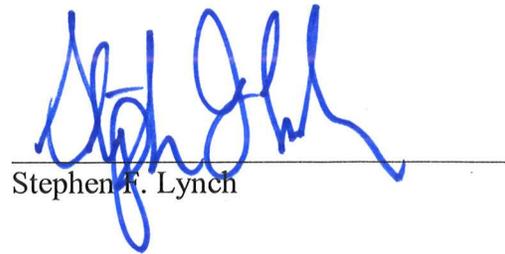
  
Marcy Kaptur

  
William R. Keating

  
Eric Swalwell

  
Marc A. Veasey

  
Robert J. Dold

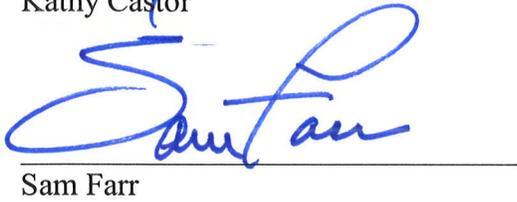
  
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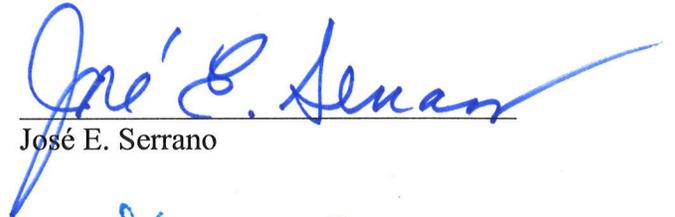
  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

  
Richard M. Nolan

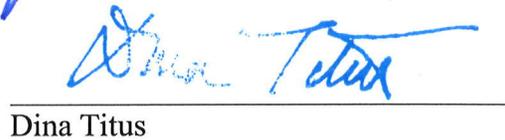
  
Kathy Castor

  
Adam B. Schiff

  
Sam Farr

  
José E. Serrano

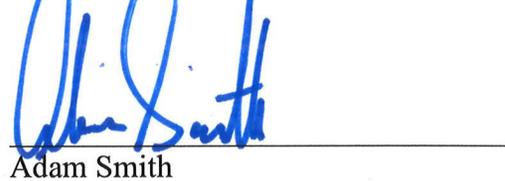
  
Bill Foster

  
Dina Titus

  
Raul Ruiz, M.D.

  
Brenda L. Lawrence

  
Gwen Moore

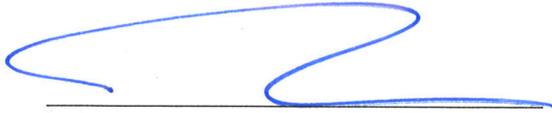
  
Adam Smith

  
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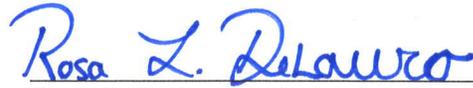
John K. Delaney



Michael E. Capuano



Karen Bass



Rosa L. DeLauro

CC:

The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader