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  
Jared Polis  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Mark Pocan
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<td>Alma S. Adams, Ph. D.</td>
<td>Ami Bera, M.D.</td>
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Richard M. Nolan
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José E. Serrano
Dina Titus
Brenda L. Lawrence
Adam Smith
Nita M. Lowey
Doris Matsui
CC:
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader