

CONSERVATIVE PARTY of NEW YORK STATE
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2019 Legislative Memo...

In Opposition to HR 5 – The Equality Act

Introduced by Congressman David N. Cicilline (D-RI) and 240 Co-Sponsors including Congressman John Katko (NY-24)

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. The bill expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services. The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

As a matter of principle, the Conservative Party does not condone nor promote any form of discrimination, however, the Conservative Party does promote religious freedom, the rights of parents to have the final say in their child's medical care and the ability to compete in athletics against members of their same sex.

This federal bill seeks to undermine all of the above in the name of “equality” [which is anything but equal](#). It is not about civil rights, [rather it is about civil tyranny](#).

Women had to fight for the right to vote, to take out loans and own property under their name only, to work at certain jobs and various other opportunities taken for granted in 2019, which is why [feminists and conservatives have joined forces to oppose this misnamed proposal](#). Congresswoman Debbie Lesko spells out her concerns [regarding HR 5 here](#).

[Doctors have serious concerns](#) on how the “Equality Act” could do harm to children.

The “Equality Act” would and [has given the advantage to transgender males](#) over females in sports, possibly costing scholarships to females who could have won.

The most egregious portion of this bill is that it would undermine current pro-life laws, including conscience protections for health care providers. By redefining “sex” to mean “pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition,” the bill could mandate that no hospital, doctor, employer, or government can “discriminate” against a woman by not allowing “services” that are unique to women, i.e. abortions. Lawsuits could be brought against all kinds of reasonable abortion regulations, potentially overturning laws like the Hyde Amendment that prevent taxpayer funds from paying for abortion through Medicaid, and upsetting conscience protection laws.

As we noted, the Conservative Party is absolutely opposed to discrimination. This bill - HR 5 – actually discriminates against women, men and religious institutions in the name of equality. There is no equality in this proposal, just lots of pandering that could ultimately cause far more harm than good.