



Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

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May 15, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, I am writing in support of the "Equality Act" (H.R. 5). H.R. 5 expands civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit and financing, and jury service.

Just as our organization first supported gay marriage 25 years ago, today we recognize the need to ensure the fundamental rights of all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Unfortunately, current federal law lacks uniformity in providing consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ persons. The Equality Act will update our civil rights protections – including the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Jury Selection and Services Act, among others – to add protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Although 25 years ago we were one of the first national civil rights organizations to endorse gay marriage, today we join over 330 national, state, and local organizations and 200 businesses in proclaiming that it is time to ensure the full right of LGBTQ+ persons to share the same protections from discrimination that all Americans expect from our laws.

We urge swift passage of the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

David Inoue
Executive Director