

[Date]

The Honorable [Name of Representative]
United States House of Representatives
[Office No. and Bldg.] House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

OR The Honorable [Name of Senator]
United States Senate
[Office No. and Bldg.] Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman [Name]:

OR Dear Senator [Name]:

As a member of [Name of Church/School], which is affiliated with the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, I want to express my disappointment with the recent passage of the Equality Act (H.R. 5) by the House of Representatives, as well as my hope that the Senate will not pass the bill. We believe that the negative consequences of the bill to our American society, as well as to our church and school ministries, would be immeasurable. However, in examining your own position on the bill, we would ask that you consider our claim that the bill is founded upon several glaring logical fallacies.

False Premise

H.R. 5 claims that the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 includes sexual orientation and gender identity, rather than that prohibition is simply referring to whether a person is male or female. The bill then presents the addition of SOGI language to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as “clarification” of the meaning of the law, rather than as an expansion of non-discrimination protections. We take exception to this interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A study of the history of the law reveals that the only purpose of the inclusion of the word sex was to prohibit discrimination against women. The addition of SOGI language to federal non-discrimination law does not represent a clarification of the law; instead, it is an attempt to radically change the law by protecting new classes on the basis of subjective rather than objective identity.

Equivocation

Non-traditional definitions of sexual orientation and gender identity are built upon the cornerstone of the subjective nature of truth, and in turn the individual nature of truth. However, if truth is indeed subjective, then a person should be equally free to ascribe to the traditional notions of natural heterosexuality as well as of binary gender that is consistent with biology. The Equality Act represents an open attack on such freedom. In other words, while the SOGI affirmation in H.R. 5 is based on subjectivity, the bill codifies SOGI ideology as if it were objective truth with which no person has a right to disagree. This equivocation poses a serious threat to individual freedom as well as to Religious Liberty. It flies in the face of our long-standing tradition of being a pluralistic society. While claiming to foster inclusion, it instead seeks the exclusion of deeply held religious and personal beliefs; while claiming to seek an end to discrimination, it instead would establish and perpetuate a new and far more insidious kind of conscience discrimination.

False Assumption

The validity of non-traditional definitions of sexual orientation and gender identity depend entirely upon the false assumption that traditional definitions are merely human constructs. If this were true, then the LGBTQ cause is a just one. However, we affirm that God is the Author of human gender and of human sexuality. He is the Maker of each individual. He designs each of us with care and with purpose. He assigns our gender at conception and makes it consistent with our biology. In doing these things, He demonstrates His wisdom, His love, and His goodness. God makes no mistakes. If I were the cause of my own existence, then I would have the power to choose my own gender; however, since God is my Maker, He made that choice for me.

“It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” Psalm 100:3

“Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast Thou made me thus?” Romans 9:20

Our Position

ODACS ministries believe strongly in the Biblical teachings regarding human gender and sexual orientation. It is incumbent upon us to acknowledge and to accept God's design in these matters. Efforts to normalize homosexuality and non-binary gender and then to force people to affirm these non-traditional views are nothing new, nor do they represent progress. They have been tried in ancient cultures, and they always ultimately fail, proving destructive to the participants and to the cultures in the process. The promulgation of the myth that homosexual sex can be "safe" defies reason and flies in the face of the federal government's own data; the myth that a person can change from one gender to another safely also flies in the face of common sense and objective observation.

No law, no court, and no decree can ever succeed at eradicating these firmly held beliefs. ODACS ministries must be free to teach children and adults the truth about God's beautiful design and purpose for each human being. To punish any institution or individual for refusing to violate their conscience with regard to these sacred truths is a gross miscarriage of justice, entirely inconsistent with the Constitution, and counterproductive to the best interest of our civil society.

We appreciate your considering our perspective as the debate over the Equality Act continues in the Congress. Thank you for your service to our state and to our nation.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]