



The LCMS Kansas District

Rev. Justin A. Panzer, District President

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February 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill called the "Equality Act" by a vote of 224 to 206. It will now head to the Senate for further debate and vote.

Although the name of the legislation sounds good and pleasing, it is anything but that. It would strike biological sex from the 1964 Civil Rights Act, replacing it with "sexual orientation and gender identity." Belief in traditional marriage, the act would legislate, is a specific example of illegal discrimination.

Without reservation, everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. However, in many ways, the Equality Act does the opposite and needs to be opposed. Instead of respecting differences in beliefs about marriage and sexuality, the Equality Act would discriminate against people of faith. The Equality Act would: punish faith-based organizations, such as charities and schools who serve everyone in their communities, simply because of their beliefs; force girls and women to compete against boys and men for limited opportunities in sports, and to share locker rooms and shower spaces with biological males who identify as women; risk mandating taxpayers to fund abortions; force people in everyday life, and especially health care workers, to support gender transition; and expand what the government considers a "public" place, forcing even some parish halls to host functions that conflict with our beliefs as Christians in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

What can you do? I encourage you to contact our two Kansas United States Senators immediately and ask them to vote "no." Your communication by phone or by email will be the quickest. Be respectful. Be kind. Be brief. Tell them why you are opposed to this legislation through the points that I have listed above. We need to speak out against this with our voices together.

Senator Jerry Moran

Phone: (202) 224-6521

Connect: <https://www.moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/connect>

Senator Roger Marshall

Phone: (202) 224-4774

Connect: <https://www.marshall.senate.gov/>

Isaiah 5:20-21, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! ²¹Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!"

Together we pray: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy!

In the service of Christ,

President Panzer