

Contacting Senators, Writing Letters to the Editor, and Signups for Human Rights Campaign Phone & Text banks

Contacting Senators Baldwin & Johnson

The following link will send letters to our Senators in support of the Equality Act on your behalf. You can use their default letter, or you can customize the message.

<https://secure.transequality.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=141>

Contact information if you want to call or write to the senators yourself:

Senator Tammy Baldwin

Mailing Address: 709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone Number: (202) 224-5653
Web contact form: <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback>

Senator Ron Johnson

Mailing Address: 328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone Number: (202) 224-5323
Web contact form: <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/email-the-senator>

Writing Letters to the Editor

Pages 2 – 5 in this document provide templates and guidelines for writing letters to the editor in support of the Equality Act.

Signups for an HRC Phonebank or Textbank

Human Rights Campaign conducts virtual phonebanks & textbanks each week in support of the Equality Act. The following are links to sign up for the phone or text banks. There are different time slots for each day to choose from.

- Tuesday phonebanks: <https://www.mobilize.us/hrc/event/378407/>
- Saturday phonebanks: <https://www.mobilize.us/hrc/event/389382/>
- Wednesday textbanks: <https://www.mobilize.us/hrc/event/391209/>

The following is the page that describes the many different HRC events you can participate in.

- Mobilize: <https://www.mobilize.us/hrc/>



OP EDS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Op Eds and letters to the editor can effectively amplify your message of support for the Equality Act. Think of them as your opportunity to write a quick and concise column for your local newspaper.

Things to consider when submitting an op ed or letter to the editor:

Timeliness

Editors regularly publish letters and op eds that pertain to current events. Editors typically prefer letters anchored in the here and now because it gives the reader a tangible sense of how an issue like the Equality Act impacts them. Applying emphasis to the imminent vote on the Equality Act in Congress or a recent related event in your community (e.g. Pride, recent state legislation) will go a long way in getting your letter published.

Brevity

Most publications cap their letter to the editor submissions to 250 words or less. Op Eds are typically between 500 and 700 words. Make your points brief and arguments concise -- consider the impact of every sentence you write. Don't waste valuable real estate on phrases like "I'm writing to you because of x."

Make it Personalized and Local

Making your submission relatable to the publication's readers increases your chances of getting published and maximizes the impact of your argument. Consider adding relatable details about yourself, your community, and why the Equality Act is personally important to you and your loved ones.

Call to Action

Our mission is to pass the Equality Act, and all of us, including your readers, can play an active role in that. Now that you've communicated *why* we need the Equality Act, your readers should know *how* to pass it - for example by calling their Senator and telling them to support the Equality Act.

Social Media

Publications generally make their letters to the editor available online, where their impact can be expanded exponentially. Once your letter is published, share it with the EqualityTime coalition, so we can also share the letter on social media.

Submitting Your Work

Newspapers and other publications routinely ask for letters to the editor submissions. The easiest way to submit a letter is to find instructions in the Opinions section of your newspaper.



Personalizing Equality Act Letter to the Editor Templates

On pages 4 and 5, you will find templates that were written with consideration for maximum impact and reach. Consider keeping this language and adding details that make your submission timely, personal, relatable, and compelling. Remember to keep your submission under 250 words or the word count limit of the target publication, whichever is less.

EXAMPLE: Personalizing Your Letter to the Editor Template

TEMPLATE: VALUES

Last week, Arizona repealed a discriminatory and antiquated ban on LGBTQ-inclusive classroom curriculum. As a mom of an LGBTQ teenager, I couldn't be happier, and I applaud our state's leaders for getting this done. The fight for my son's future, however, is far from finished

No one's civil rights should depend on the state or zip code they live in. Yet, in 30 states, including Arizona, LGBTQ people are at risk of being fired, refused housing or denied services simply because of who we are.

This is why we need the Equality Act -- a federal bill that will add LGBTQ people to existing civil rights laws and strengthen protections for all people -- including women, religious minorities, and people of color. The legislation would provide clear, consistent protections nationwide in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.

Arizonans share the bedrock value that every person deserves to be treated equally under the law. In a few short weeks, Arizona's members of Congress will vote on the Equality Act. We all have a role in making sure this critical bill passes, and all we have to do is take 5 minutes to call our congressional representatives and urge them to pass this bill.

The time is now to advance this critically important legislation and help ensure LGBTQ people can go to work, raise their families, and live their lives free from discrimination. So, let's pick up the phones and get to work!

-Jesse Ayala, Mesa

TIMELINESS:

Anchor your letter in something current. This can also include the timing of the Equality Act vote in Congress.

PERSONALIZE IT:

Add details about yourself, your community, and why the Equality Act matters to you to make your letter compelling.

CALL TO ACTION:

We all play a role in passing the Equality Act. Alternative call to action can be: "I call on our members of Congress to pass the Equality Act."

TEMPLATE
LANGUAGE



TEMPLATE: VALUES LETTER

No one's civil rights should depend on the state or zip code they live in. Yet, in 30 states, LGBTQ people are at risk of being fired, refused housing or denied services simply because of who we are. The harsh reality is that discrimination is a real and persistent problem for LGBTQ people across the country. Nearly two-thirds of LGBTQ Americans report having experienced discrimination in their everyday lives.

This is why we need the Equality Act -- a federal bill that will add LGBTQ people to existing civil rights laws and strengthen protections for all people -- including women, religious minorities, and people of color. The legislation would provide clear, consistent protections nationwide in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.

Americans share the bedrock value that every person deserves to be treated equally under the law. The time is now to advance this critically important legislation and help ensure LGBTQ people can go to work, raise their families, and live their lives free from discrimination.

TEMPLATE: STRONG SUPPORT LETTER

Despite significant steps forward, LGBTQ Americans lack basic legal protections in states across the country. The patchwork nature of current laws leaves millions of people subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their families, and their day-to-day lives. Around 50 percent of LGBTQ Americans — approximately 8 million people — live in states that still lack statewide legal protections, leaving their residents and visitors at risk of discrimination because of who they are or whom they love.

This is why we need the Equality Act -- a federal bill that will add LGBTQ people to existing civil rights laws and strengthen protections for all people -- including women, religious minorities, and people of color.

There is broad, bipartisan support for this legislation. A growing majority of Americans -- 70 percent -- support passing these protections, including a majority of Republicans. This legislation was introduced with unprecedented support from hundreds of lawmakers, with support from both sides of the aisle.

TEMPLATE: COMMON SENSE LETTER

Our nation's civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion. But federal law does not provide clear, consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The need for these protections is clear—nearly two-thirds of LGBTQ Americans report having experienced discrimination in their everyday lives.



This is why we need the Equality Act -- a federal bill that will add LGBTQ people to existing civil rights laws and strengthen protections for all people -- including women, religious minorities, and people of color. The legislation would provide clear, consistent protections nationwide in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service.

At the end of the day, every person should be judged on their merits, not their sexual orientation or gender identity -- that is the American way.