



"And such were some of you..."

Breaking Update: What is So Bad About The 'Equality Act'?

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As you may have already heard, the Equality Act (H.R. 5) has passed the US House of Representatives and has been sent to the Senate on Monday, March 1st, 2021. President Biden has communicated that he will sign the bill into law and his administration has communicated the law is needed to reduce discrimination against the LGBT community.ⁱⁱ

What is the bill all about and why are so many from different vantage points speaking out against it?

There are many parts of the 'Equality Act'—removal of religious freedom protections against adopting trans ideologyⁱⁱⁱ, removal of the significant scientific reality of biological sex as the basis of bodily identity, and expansion beyond anything yet seen of transgender ideas being embedded into a deeply significant portion of law—The Civil Rights Act of 1964. At the same time, this bill also seeks to codify abortion [obliquely referred to as "(with respect to sex) pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition"] and criminalize conscience rights of medical professionals who object by using the Civil Rights Act law to do so.

I will detail a few of the problems with the bill below:

- **While claiming to reduce discrimination, this bill works against the community it claims to protect.** Let me explain why.

Transgender philosophy and practice threaten to **eliminate** several letters of the LGBTQ identities. Currently, children in many school settings who have atypical interests are being encouraged to identify as the opposite sex. This produces the erasure of LGB identities from youth up. LG identities will be meaningless if otherwise lesbian and gay persons are directed toward transgenderism.

For example, biological girls interested in sports are sometimes told by trusted adults (teachers, psychologists, school advisors) that they might be a boy in a girl's body. Biological boys interested in ballet, piano or art, are being encouraged that they may be a female in a boy's body. The transgender ideological movement is essentially erasing boys who might have dealt with gay identity and girls who might have developed lesbian identity.

- Rather than helping children become comfortable in their own bodies, this bill would slap anyone who encourages kids to thrive, identify with their own bodies, and not be judged according to **rigid gender stereotypes** as using 'conversion therapy.'
- **Erasing women.** This bill's outcome would be to eliminate private spaces reserved for sex specific individuals. Women's sports is just one example. Title IX's equal funding to women would be invaded by biological men identifying as women. As far as sports, biological males with larger lungs, bones, hearts, dominate in women's wrestling, track, etc. What about women's

business groups, prisons, business loans for women owned businesses, not to mention restrooms, locker rooms and changing rooms?

Imagine an adult biological male, with beard, lurking in the women's bathroom at a major theme park and a mom with young daughters complains. You might wonder who was removed from the 'club'. It was the mom. (Southern California)

Imagine a biological male claiming to identify as a woman undressing and then sitting in a women's gym changing room as biological women and girls were expected to use that space. This event actually happened. The woman who complained was the one who lost her gym membership. **Safety for women is being erased.** This is happening to some degree in men's spaces too.

- **Expansive definition of spaces or businesses impacted**--Accommodations in this bill include a broad range of spaces and services. Specifically mentioned in the bill are these—senior housing, any services that receive federal grants or funding, any public services, foster care placement, jury selection, adoption placement, employment law, healthcare, housing, education, and many more.

Imagine a real scenario where a biological male, who identifies as a female demands a Christian college house the person with a biological female roommate? There have been such demands before, but they were balanced by other rights, such as religious freedom. Imagine a biological male demanding to be placed in a women's shelter alongside battered women? Both situations have already happened—Oregon and Alaska.

“(with respect to gender identity) an individual shall not be 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.” H.R. 5.

- Equality Act **checks 1st Amendment rights at the door.** Specifically stated, this bill would not allow religious freedom to balance other freedoms. Religious Freedom Restoration Act to restore much of the legal meaning of the 1st Amendment to the US Constitution would be removed as a basis of balancing rights of all concerned.

“The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 ([42 U.S.C. 2000bb](#) et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.”.

- **What might this do to Biblical views of identity and gender? What about scientifically based ideas of sex type and gender?** Biblically, our bodies matter. Scientifically, they matter. Reality of the DNA sex type chromosomal markers in almost every cell of the human body points to and is organized around one's design as male or female. Biology, physiology, theology, medicine, and every other reality-based field would have to fall in line with transgender ideology or face the legal consequences of violating the anti-discrimination federal law of the Civil Rights Act.

- **Parents and children.** Currently, parents of rapid onset gender dysphoria are bullied if they do not celebrate their daughter or son as the opposite sex. It matters not if the child has other primary issues that are left untreated like autism or depression. If these kids accept the solutions offered them by trusted adults at school, then the transgender pathway becomes the answer. The trans pathway often includes puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, surgeries to remove healthy body parts, and so on. Unneeded scar tissue does not just impact the skin, muscles, and organs, it impacts their hearts and minds. This is already difficult for parents to address with their beloved child, now they would have to embrace these ideas and pathways or come under violation of the law without any protections from RFRA. (Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters, Abigail Shrier; Dr. Lisa Littman’s “Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria” Brown University study)^{iv}
- Research over decades showed that **watchful waiting** for a gender dysphoric child was quite successful with over eight out of ten children accepting their bodies, if allowed to go through natural puberty. (86%-93%). A summary of biological, psychological, and social science outcomes can be found in this massive research effort by Dr. Paul McHugh and Dr. Lawrence Mayer of John’s Hopkins.^v

“The hypothesis that gender identity is an innate, fixed property of human beings that is independent of biological sex — that a person might be “a man trapped in a woman’s body” or “a woman trapped in a man’s body” — is not supported by scientific evidence.”^{vi}

- Recent research shows that instead of better mental health outcomes, **individuals who ‘transitioned’ medically have a greater frequency of mental health problems.**^{vii}
- **Trans pathway for kids**—mutilation, sterilization, poor mental health, suicidality (19 times higher than the general population of Sweden).^{viii} These are **permanent** changes that children cannot conceive of. It has been stated that 90% of children who begin this pathway continue, yet their brains are not fully developed until into the mid-20’s. Why should this pathway be placed into federal law and any who simply disagree consigned to the place of violating anti-discrimination and civil rights law?
- Last year, the **UK High Court ruled for protecting children under 16 from the dangerous trans-medical path.** They ruled that minors cannot consent.^{ix} The US should have a similar protection for children rather than remove protections.

This bill is so far reaching and offensive that legal groups are at the ready to file lawsuits. This bill is bringing lesbian feminists alongside conservative Christians to reject this bill. It is being condemned by some feminist groups, secular news outlets, some individuals who have transitioned, others who have detransitioned, parents—both liberal and conservative, conscience rights groups in medical fields, and others.

Please let your Senator know that you would like them to vote against the Equality Act- H.R. 5. Again, there are plenty of reasons--religious freedom, children's health and welfare, LGB rights, parents' rights, etc.--all of which are targets of this bill.

The Equality Act is antithetical to equality.

ⁱ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5/text>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/19/statement-by-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-on-the-introduction-of-the-equality-act-in-congress/>

ⁱⁱⁱ HB 5, Section 9 Miscellaneous, SEC. 1107. CLAIMS. ““The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 ([42 U.S.C. 2000bb](#) et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.”.

^{iv} <https://www.restoredhopenetwork.org/transgender-articles>

^v <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/executive-summary-sexuality-and-gender>

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} <https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/08/03/transitioning-procedures-dont-help-mental-health-largest-dataset-shows>

^{viii} Dhejne C, Lichtenstein P, Boman M, Johansson A, Långström N, Landén M. Long-term follow-up of transsexual persons undergoing sex reassignment surgery: cohort study in Sweden. PLoS One. 2011;6(2):e16885. [PubMed]

^{ix} <https://cmda.org/uk-high-court-rules-puberty-blockers-experimental-minors-cannot-consent>