

The Stonewall Democrats of Dallas express enthusiastic support and urge the passage of H.R. 5 titled, **The Equality Act**. We strongly recommend that members of the 117th Congress vote in support of this vitally important and timely legislation. The Act's purpose of prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation is long overdue, particularly in states like Texas where discrimination of LGBTQ+ people is still broadly legal ("ACLU Texas").

"Now is the time to bend the arc of the moral universe further toward justice by codifying critical civil rights at the federal level in our housing, education, public services, criminal justice, banking, and lending systems for LGBTQ+ people", said Todd Hill-Jones, President of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Unfortunately over the last four years under the Trump Administration, there was assault after assault on equal rights and protections for LGBTQ+ people at the federal and state level. As a result, and as the Southern Poverty Law Center ("The Year in Hate and Extremism 2019") points out, the amount of organizations spewing lies, hate, and misinformation about LGBTQ+ people has intensified. This will not change unless we act now and send a clear message about who we are as a nation, and pass this important civil rights legislation.



*The Stonewall Democrats of Dallas was founded in 1996 by local activists. Our membership numbers in the hundreds including former and current elected officials. We are one of the largest political organizations in Dallas County and one of the largest chapters of Stonewall Democrats in the United States.*

