

RESOLUTION

Subject: Support for the Equality Act
Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, there already exist federal civil rights laws protecting individuals from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and disability; and

WHEREAS, discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity is still legal in the majority of places in the U.S., leaving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals without equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, only 21 states explicitly protect LGBTQ individuals from discrimination, which means that individuals are vulnerable to being fired from a job, evicted from their home, or being otherwise discriminated against simply because of their immutable identity; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented that LGBTQ populations have poorer health outcomes due in part to discrimination, which often enters healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS, the AMA, American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and other leading medical organizations have policies that oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, many Kentuckians, including Kentuckians in the medical profession and the patients we serve, identify as LGBTQ and are thus directly affected by discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Equality Act (HR5), a bill first introduced in 2015 and re-introduced in 2019, would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the federal Civil Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public education, federal funding, and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Equality Act passed the full U.S. House of Representatives in May 2019, but is currently being blocked in the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Senators, Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, possess considerable power and influence within the U.S. Senate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association write a letter of support to U.S. Senators from Kentucky in favor of passing the Equality Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the KMA oppose discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.