

IT'S TIME TO PROTECT LGBTQ ELDERS FROM HOUSING DISCRIMINATION



Right now there is no federal law explicitly protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people from discrimination in housing, as a result, LGBTQ elders remain especially vulnerable.

WHY WE NEED THE EQUALITY ACT



The Equality Act would explicitly protect LGBTQ individuals from housing discrimination.

The Equality Act would also protect LGBTQ individuals from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, access to credit, public education, federal funding, and jury service, directly benefiting LGBTQ elders, some of whom have faced a lifetime of stigma and discrimination, especially in housing.



BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE AND WELCOMING HOUSING FOR LGBTQ ELDERS



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION. LGBTQ elders face discrimination in the sale and rental of housing, and in mortgage lending, which adversely impacts access to housing. Providers may exclude same-sex couples from receiving special renting incentives or from renting studios and one-bedrooms (when applying for non-federally subsidized housing). What's more, older heterosexual couples are favored over older same-sex couples in housing applications.

The Equality Act would amend the Fair Housing Act to provide explicit protections based on gender identity and sexual orientation.



PRONOUNCED POVERTY. Older LGBTQ couples, especially older lesbian couples, experience higher rates of poverty (9.1%) than older heterosexual couples (4.6%).

Ensuring availability of safe, affordable and accessible housing is a crucial step towards equal economic opportunity. The Equality Act would bar discrimination in access to credit.



LACK OF ACCESS TO CULTURALLY COMPETENT PROVIDERS. Social isolation, health disparities, and financial insecurity can mean that LGBTQ elders are more reliant on long-term care and the support of the aging network. But they can be reluctant to use these resources, and too many hide their identities due to fear of discrimination and mistreatment from providers and other older adults.

The Equality Act would bar discrimination in public accommodations and in federally funded aging services and supports.



ISOLATION FROM SUPPORT NETWORKS. LGBTQ elders are often disconnected from their families of origin, feel isolated from the LGBTQ community, and are 3-4 times less likely to have children than heterosexual, cisgender couples. As a result, LGBTQ elders are at greater risk for homelessness.

Explicit protections against housing discrimination would be one less barrier to achieving housing stability.



PASSING THE EQUALITY ACT IS A CRITICAL STEP TO ENSURING ACCESS TO WELCOMING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LGBTQ ELDERS.

Contact your Members of Congress and ask them to support this legislation.



U.S. Capitol Switchboard:
(202) 224-3121



U.S. House of Representatives: house.gov
U.S. Senate: senate.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
thetaskforceactionfund.org [@lgbtqtaskforce](https://twitter.com/lgbtqtaskforce)
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