



May 3, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of March for Life Action and the millions of pro-life Americans who march to end abortion, I am writing to voice our opposition to H.R. 5, the misnamed “Equality Act.” Language contained in the legislation could be used to force health care professionals and hospitals to perform abortions, regardless of if this would violate their conscience. In addition, the pro-life protections in current federal and state law would also be put at risk. When a vote is taken on the House floor March for Life Action will score a “yes” vote negatively in our scorecard for the 116th Congress.

The Equality Act’s broad definition of a public accommodation to include health care providers applies explicitly to all health care providers, including individuals and entities who object to abortion, and implicitly, possibly applies to non-physical entities like state governments that determine health care coverage under Medicaid. As such, this provision puts in jeopardy both longstanding federal conscience laws providing for protections for abortion-objectors, and even the Hyde Amendment, prohibiting taxpayer funding for abortion.

Generally, any time “sex discrimination” has been added to federal law, Congress has secured rules of construction to ensure that it does not require the funding of abortion or override conscience laws. Instead, the legislation’s exemption of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as a defense makes the legislation even more dangerous for doctors, nurses, health insurers, hospitals and clinics.

For these reasons, March for Life Action will score against the legislation in our annual scorecard for the First Session of the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

Thomas McClusky
President, March for Life Action