

By Laurie Higgins Cultural Affairs Writer for the Illinois Family Institute May 17, 2019

Banning Christianity: U.S. House Passes Faux-Equality Act



The U.S. House of Representatives just passed the disastrous and dishonestly titled Equality Act that if passed into law will not merely gut First Amendment protections but effectively ban Christianity and any other religions that teach that homoerotic acts and cross-sex impersonation are immoral.

This proposal (H.R. 5) passed Friday afternoon by a vote of 236 to 173 (with 23 not voting). The Illinois Congressional delegation voted along party lines. Congressman Darrin LaHood (R-Peoria) was absent but has told us that he was a "no" vote.

Here are the 8 traitorous U.S. House Republicans who voted with the Democrats in favor of the faux-equality act: Reps. Susan Brooks (Ind.), Mario Diaz-Balart (Fla.), Brian Fitzpatrick (Pa.) Will Hurd (Texas), John Katko (N.Y.), Tom Reed (N.Y.), Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) and Greg Walden (Ore.).

They sold their souls and our religious liberty, assembly rights, and speech rights for a mess of pottage in the form of their re-election bids. Either self-serving desire to preserve their position was their motivation, or they have no understanding of either equality or the differences between conditions like race and sex and conditions like homoeroticism and opposite-sex impersonation.

The <u>National Review exposes</u> how radical and dangerous the Equality Act is: Douglas Laycock, a law professor at the University of Virginia, has been a longtime supporter of same-sex marriage.... Laycock has also been a longtime supporter of enacting a federal gay-rights non-discrimination law,

but he doesn't support the Equality Act, a bill just approved by the House of Representatives that would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, because it would "crush" conscientious objectors.

"It goes very far to stamp out religious exemptions," Laycock tells National Review in an email. "It regulates religious non-profits. And then it says that [the Religious Freedom Restoration Act] does not apply to any claim under the Equality Act. This would be the first time Congress has limited the reach of RFRA. This is not a good-faith attempt to reconcile competing interests. It is an attempt by one side to grab all the disputed territory and to crush the other side...." Laycock says that religious schools would probably be viewed as "public accommodations" under the Equality Act even if they refuse all federal funding."

If passed and signed into law, the Equality Act would require that federal law recognize disordered subjective feelings and deviant behaviors as protected characteristics. Federal law would absurdly recognize homoeroticism and cross-sex masquerading as conditions that must be treated like race and biological sex, which are objective, 100 percent heritable conditions that are in all cases immutable, and carry no behavioral implications.

Once the law is enjoined to protect two groups based on their subjective, internal sexual feelings and volitional sexual behaviors, we open a Pandora's Box of evils that will inevitably result in conflicts between the spanking new legal rights of those who embrace sexual deviance as "identity" and 1. the First Amendment rights of those who reject sexual deviance, 2. the moral right of businesses to require restrooms, locker rooms, and showers to correspond to biological sex, 3. the right of businesses to fire or refuse to hire a person who chooses to masquerade as the opposite sex, and 4. the right of public schools to fire or to refuse to hire a person who chooses to impersonate the opposite sex.

There is nothing intrinsically unjust about treating people differently based on their volitional choices. There is nothing unjust about treating biological women as different from biological men who impersonate women. And it is manifestly just and proper for an organization or business to fire people like Thomas Donnelly (see photo), a defense and national security Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and BDSM aficionado who now masquerades as a woman named "Giselle."

Just as the legal prohibition of discrimination based on homoerotic feelings and acts conflicts with the legal prohibition of religious discrimination, so will the legal prohibition of discrimination based on feelings about maleness and femaleness and acts related to those feelings set in motion conflicts with prohibitions of religious and sex discrimination. It is morally and intellectually untenable that subjective feelings and volitional acts supersede both biological sex and religion as a protected class. Pastor and theologian Doug Wilson makes clear the totalizing and totalitarian impulses and goals of LGB and T activists (a schism among whom is growing):



Thomas Donnelly-aka "Giselle"

"[T]he sexual revolutionaries are not interested in anything shy of total and complete victory."

And that is what the faux-equality act is about: total and complete victory over theologically orthodox Christians, which necessarily means eradicating their freedom to speak freely, assemble/associate, and exercise their religion.

Dr. Robert A. J. Gagnon, Professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University, provides a troubling list of effects that will ensue from the passage of the pernicious Equality Act—which speaking in the strident voice of cultural regressives, Dr. Gagnon facetiously calls the "Get the Homophobic and Transphobic Bigots Act." According to Dr. Gagnon, the faux-equality act will mandate:

- 1. Nationwide "LGBTQ" indoctrination in school curricula and in workplaces, where you and your children will regularly learn and relearn that anyone who is not a cheerleader for all things "gay" and "transgender" is a hateful, ignorant, and indecent bigot who has no place in society (note that Christian teachers in public schools will be forced not only to listen to such presentations but also to make them for students).
- 2. State social services to take your children away from you if you oppose your child's "right" to transition to a person of the other sex or enter homosexual sexual relationships.
- 3. Affirmative-action hiring of people who identify as "transgender" and "gay" throughout industry and academia.
- 4. Speech that embraces the faux gender identity of "transgenders" under penalty of fines and imprisonment.
- 5. "Transgender female" (i.e., male) access to female restrooms, showers, locker rooms, dressing rooms, shelters, dormitories, and sports.
- 6. Use of all commercial talents (photographers, artists, bakers, wedding planners, printers, etc.), including forced speech (lettering, messages) to promote transgenderism and homosexual intercourse, under pain of fines and imprisonment.
- 7. The firing of white-collar employees who express any religious or secular views deemed "hateful" by "LGBTQ" radicals, even if that view is expressed outside the workplace, say (for example) in social media.
- 8. Loss of federal financial aid, science grants, and ultimately accreditation for Christian colleges and universities that maintain "discriminatory" policies toward LGBTQ behavior and relationships, whatever short-term, bait-and-switch exemption is offered to get the bill passed.
- 9. Doctors and Catholic hospitals to perform "sex-change" operations on children and to treat all "trans" patients not as their real biological sex but as the sex that they pretend to be.
- 10. Law enforcement agencies, courts, and medical research studies to categorize "trans-persons" by their pretend sex.
- 11. Censorship, with punitive penalties imposed if at all possible, on all speech and publications that make homosexual and transgender persons "feel unsafe" (essentially all speech critical of homosexual intercourse and transgenderism).

Just slapping the word "equality" onto legislation does not transform it magically into something good or make it about equality. The Equality Act—like the ERA—is not about equality. The Equality Act—like the ERA—serves the tyrannical interests of the "LGBTQQAP" community. And both will be used to deny the rights of women and Christians.

You have been amply warned. Now, do something.

Source: https://illinoisfamily.org/homosexuality/banning-christianity-u-s-house-passes-faux-equality-act/