



## Kennedy Would Move House ENDA Version

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Senator Ted Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat who is the lead sponsor on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, told the Associated Press this week that when ENDA moves in that chamber it will be the same version, stripped of protections for transgendered Americans, that passed the House last November.

"The best opportunity for progress is ... to follow along on the action of the House of Representatives, and then look down the road to a new day after we have a good Democratic Congress and a Democratic president," Kennedy said, indicating that while he was disappointed that the measure does not include protections based on gender identity and expression, "the fact is that the House of Representatives has taken action."

Kennedy's Massachusetts colleague, out gay Democratic Representative Barney Frank, triggered a firestorm last September when he advised advocates the measure would not pass if transgender protections remained in the bill as originally introduced. **This week, two advocacy groups that led the battle against moving a non-inclusive bill, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), reiterated their opposition in comments to AP.**

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), which also drew fire last fall for failing to stand with more than 300 groups that joined NGLTF and NCTE in opposing the amended ENDA, signaled it will stay its solitary course.

"We will continue this work until all members of our community no longer fear being fired for who they are," AP quoted HRC's Brad Luna as saying.

Some advocates opposed to the Frank version of ENDA noted that Kennedy's statement did not reflect a new position and that he said nothing about the timing of moving the bill.

Republicans in the Senate have warned they might try to filibuster the measure to kill it, and even if it did pass, President George W. Bush has made clear it would face his veto.