



Action Steps

These are actions that everyone can take – right now – to make sure your Representative knows that you (1) support a transgender-inclusive ENDA, and (2) oppose any bill that leaves some in our community behind.

Every member of Congress needs to hear from constituents at this critical moment, even members who have always voted for LGBT legislation before. We've done a great job letting members know there is real support at the grassroots for a transgender-inclusive bill, but we've got two weeks until the vote – we must keep up the pressure!

This list is not meant to be exhaustive – it's just a sampling of ideas that you can use to connect with your member of Congress. The goal is simple: get your member of Congress on record supporting a transgender-inclusive ENDA, and opposing any amendment that would strip protections for transgender people.

Action Alerts. Sign up to receive action alerts from the Task Force by going to www.theTaskForce.org. As you receive action alerts, send these on to members of other organizations that you are a part of, urging them to get involved by calling and e-mailing their members of Congress.

In-District Meetings. Schedule a meeting with your member of Congress or his/her staff in a district office some time before the end of next week (October 12). Get activists to schedule multiple meetings. If possible, there should be both transgender and non-transgender voices represented. It's important there be a constant, consistent presence at district offices of constituents who care deeply about transgender protections.

Track Down Your Congressperson. It's Columbus Day weekend, and most members of Congress will be home for the three day weekend. Many will host town hall meetings. Some will march in Columbus Day parades. Finding your Congressperson at a public event when they're home is much easier than tracking them down through a scheduler. Take advantage of the long weekend, and try to have a conversation about transgender-inclusion this weekend.

Engage College Campuses. College students are often some of the strongest supporters of transgender protections. Call your campus LGBT center. Find the queer support group. Ask to come speak to a queer studies class. Get them to forward your action alerts around. Ask them to visit the district office of their Congressperson. Invite them to join the One ENDA Facebook group. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5065064220>

Engage Progressive Places of Worship. There are two weekends left before the expected committee vote on ENDA. Contact progressive places of worship that you know to be supportive of LGBT rights. Encourage the pastor/faith leader to call Congress him/herself, and to mention the importance of protecting transgender people from discrimination to their congregation. Ask if you can provide a short statement for the bulletin, alerting congregants to the situation. If you belong to a place of worship, bring action alerts, or forward alerts to a community e-mail list. To find places of worship that are welcoming and affirming of LGBT people, go to www.welcomingresources.org.

Letters to the Editor. Write a positive letter to the editor of your LGBT or other media outlet expressing support for transgender protections. Don't attack members of Congress for support of sexual orientation-only legislation – call on them to fight for full inclusion of transgender people instead, and provide heartfelt reasons (like a personal story) for why it is the right thing to do.

“Catch-Up State” Messaging. At the Task Force, we refer to the states that have passed sexual orientation-only nondiscrimination legislation, but not protections for transgender people, “catch-up” states. There are eight of these states: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Wisconsin, Nevada and Hawaii. If you live in one of these states, make sure your Congressperson knows that ENDA only helps your state if it includes protections for transgender people.

Connect Supportive State Legislators with Congress. Due to the hard work of many statewide and local LGBT organizations, states and cities are passing LGBT protections at a record pace. If you live in a state or city that passed a nondiscrimination law (Oregon, Colorado, Iowa just passed laws this year, for example), talk to state and local legislators who voted for the legislation, and ask them to place calls to your member of Congress. Have them tell the story about how – even if they were worried about casting a vote for fully-inclusive protections – they didn't get attacked for it. Use elected officials who have “been there before” to reassure your member of Congress that a vote for transgender protections isn't just the right thing to do, it's also not politically controversial.

And once you or your members have had conversations with your Representative:

Get It In Writing. See if you can get a copy of a letter your Representative has sent to a constituent expressing support for LGBT protections. Write an e-mail to the staff person you meet with, and save any e-mail response you get that indicates support for our position. E-mail that information LobbyReport@nctequality.org or fax it to Becky Dansky's attention at 202-393-2241.

Fill Out the Lobby Report Form. Below is a form you can use to let the United ENDA lobbyists know about your visit/conversation. It is so important that you fill out this form and get the information up to DC right away. We have less than two weeks to shore up the votes we need to pass ENDA – we need to know what you know, as soon as you know it. Call Task Force staffer Becky Dansky at 202-639-6315 to confirm that the information has been received.

LOBBY VISIT REPORT FORM

Please complete this visit report form for each congressional visit you complete. Return the forms to LobbyReport@nctequality.org or fax to 202-393-2241 as soon as possible after your visit. This allows us to keep track of which members of Congress have been reached and which have not, as well as what members have told you, their constituents. Thank you.

Name of member of Congress: _____ State/ District: _____

Did you meet with the member of Congress or staff? Member Staff Both

What staff did you meet with:

1. Name/Title: _____ 2. Name/Title: _____

3. Name/Title: _____ 4. Name/Title: _____

Date of Visit: _____ Length of Visit: _____

Who were the members of your visit team?

Name/Email: _____ Name/Email: _____

Name/Email: _____ Name/Email: _____

What was the position of the Congressperson on ENDA?

What would you suggest as next steps with this Member of Congress? Were you asked to provide additional information?

Any additional comments (please use an additional sheet if necessary):

What was your congressperson's answer to this question [Be very specific and detailed]: "Will you support the Employment Non-discrimination Act, which provides protections for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans, and oppose efforts to cut anybody out?"

Please return to
LobbyReport@NCTEquality.org
Fax: 202-393-2241