



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

John Mirisch, Mayor

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Equality Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I respectfully urge you to cosponsor the Equality Act (S.1858/114th Congress) when it is reintroduced by Senators Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin and Cory Booker. The Equality Act, if enacted, would provide equal treatment under the law for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people. It will provide them with anti-discrimination protections under a host of categories including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces, services, federally funded programs and jury service.

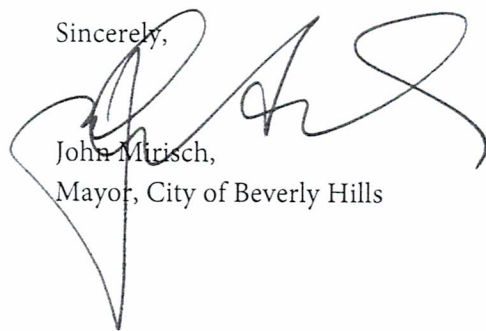
This bill amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation. The legislation expands the categories of public accommodations to include commercial and retail establishments that provide goods and services.

The Equality Act prohibits programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance from denying benefits to, or discriminating against, persons based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In addition, the legislation prohibits employers with 15 or more employees from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity, subject to the same exceptions and conditions that currently apply to unlawful employment practices based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility based on the person's gender identity. This includes restrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms. Finally, this measure amends the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and jury selection standards to add sexual orientation and gender identity as classes protected against discrimination under such laws.

It is important to note that the Equality Act does not confer “special rights” but “equal rights” to the LGBTQ community. This will ensure that every person, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is treated with the respect and dignity that we all deserve in a modern and civilized society. No one in this great nation should be subject to discrimination in either the workplace or public space based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mirisch', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Mirisch,
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills