

Charlie Oppler

2021 President

Bob Goldberg

Chief Executive Officer

ADVOCACY GROUP

Shannon McGahn

Chief Advocacy Officer

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader McCarthy:

The National Association of REALTORS®, representing 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries supports H.R. 5, “The Equality Act,” particularly its inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited bases for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act.

As stewards of the right to own, use, and transfer private property, our livelihood and business as REALTORS® depend upon an open housing market that is free from discrimination. Discrimination in housing transactions limits the property rights of sellers and buyers and the ability of REALTORS® to conduct business. More fundamentally, housing discrimination is repugnant to our shared sense of fairness and decency. For over half a century, the Fair Housing Act has helped level the playing field by protecting housing providers and consumers from the adverse impacts of discrimination based on race, color, religion, and national origin, and later, sex, familial status, and disability.

In 2009 and in 2013, REALTORS® adopted policy affirming that the right to buy or rent housing of choice should not be abridged due to a homeseeker’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Our commitment to equal housing opportunity is enshrined in NAR’s Code of Ethics, which commits REALTORS® to provide equal professional service to all without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity, in addition to the other prohibited bases for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act.

REALTORS® celebrated the Supreme Court’s decision last June in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, in which it held that the prohibition on discrimination “because of sex” under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 included discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We also applauded HUD’s quick action to implement the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.



By enacting the Equality Act, Congress can codify what is effectively the law of the land.

As NAR continues to work to ensure the American Dream is available and accessible to all Americans, we stand ready to work with Congress to support and promote the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Oppler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Oppler
2021 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc:U.S. House of Representatives