

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy

We are endorsers of the *Promise to America's Children* that makes clear in 10 critical principles that children's minds and bodies should be nurtured and that their relationships with their parents should be safeguarded. We are concerned that our children are increasingly targeted for adults' sexual messages, images, and themes at younger ages than ever before. They are exposed to content in schools, through both policies and curriculum, that promotes politicized information about sexual orientation and a destructive gender ideology.

By altering the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include two additional protected classes, sexual orientation and gender identity, the "Equality Act" politicizes children's medicine and education with ideologies about gender identity and sexual orientation. Furthermore, the Equality Act asserts the power and funding of the federal government to spread adults' sexual messages, images, and themes to children nationwide—regardless of state or local school district policy.

While we believe that all people, no matter who they are, have inherent dignity and should be treated with respect, the Equality Act actually creates greater inequality, hurting not only women, people of faith, religious organizations, employers, and medical professionals, but especially children and their parents.

There is strong disagreement among doctors about the push for "transitioning" children, even children who haven't yet reached puberty, with actual physical interventions—such as halting the natural onset of puberty, the unnatural use of feminizing or masculinizing hormones (which leads to sterilization), or even surgery to alter or remove healthy body parts (such as double-mastectomies on 13-year-old girls). Under the Equality Act's expansion of public accommodations in Title II and the addition of gender identity in Title VI, doctors who think it is bad medicine to treat gender dysphoria with physical interventions into a child's body could be punished for "discrimination." Counselors would be prohibited from helping children become comfortable with their bodies. There is no evidence that these interventions help and they become more dubious when one considers that 80 to 95 percent of children with gender dysphoria no longer feel distressed by their bodies after puberty—if they are not pushed into transitioning interventions by adults.

The Equality Act will have a tremendous impact on K-12 education. The changes in Title VI will lead to the loss of privacy and safety in single-sex spaces as well as athletic opportunities and scholarships for females that were made possible as a result of Title IX. Changes to Title IV could lead to the imposition of curriculum that will impact every public school in the nation, requiring controversial ideas about gender to be taught as early as pre-K and included in every aspect of curriculum, not limited to sexual education. The introduction of transgender policies and ideology in schools creates confusion among young children who are encouraged to question

whether they could be “trapped in the wrong body” and who are too young to understand the implications of physical interventions on the body.

Furthermore, the Equality Act would harm children by driving wedges between them and the loving protection of their parents. If the Act passes, more and more parents will find themselves on the wrong side of law and policy if they object to their children being taught destructive ideas about their bodies or to physical interventions to affirm “gender identity.” It is outside the bounds of Congressional authority to cement controversial ideologies into law that harms kids and undermine parents’ relationships with their children.

Tragically, the Equality Act is a deeply broken proposal filled with nothing but broken promises to our children. As supporters of the Promise to America’s Children, we urge you to safeguard the children of this great nation and take to heart the concerns we have listed regarding the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

Jessica Anderson
Executive Director
Heritage Action for America

Victoria A. Jakelsky
State Director
NJ Parental Rights, Team Protect Your
Children

Doreen Denny
Vice President of Government Relations
Concerned Women for America Legislative
Action Committee

Jamison Coppola
Government Affairs Director
American Association of Christian Schools

Colleen Holcomb
President
Eagle Forum

John Stonestreet
President
The Colson Center

Michelle Cretella, M.D.
Executive Director
American College of Pediatricians

April Readlinger
Executive Director
CanaVox

Dr. Elana Yaron Fishbein
Founder and President
No Left Turn in Education

Jeffrey Barrows, DO, MA (Ethics)
Senior VP Bioethics and Public Policy
Christian Medical Association

Craig DeRoche
President and CEO
Family Policy Alliance

Jonathan Imbody
Director
Freedom2Care

Mike Farris
President and CEO
Alliance Defending Freedom

Kevin McGary
Founder
Every Black Life Matters

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission