



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EQUALITY ACT

Endorsed February 28, 2016

WHEREAS the National Bar Association (“NBA”) was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the NBA from its inception has fought to achieve and ensure the equal treatment of African Americans, and those who have been disenfranchised within our legal system and greater society;

WHEREAS the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that the United States Constitution recognizes the fundamental right of same-sex couples to marry and to have their marriages recognized by the States, as well as recognizes the equal dignity of same-sex couples;

WHEREAS at least 31 states still lack clear, fully inclusive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people, meaning that despite Obergefell, LGBTQ people can get legally married but still be at risk of being denied services or be fired from employment or evicted from housing;

WHEREAS state officials in Arkansas, Indiana, Georgia, and other states have enacted or considered so-called “religious freedom” laws that would allow discrimination against LGBTQ individuals;

WHEREAS the Equality Act of 2015 (H.R. 3185 and S.1858), introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative David Cicilline, would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and sex from discrimination in the areas of as public accommodations, public education, employment, housing, federal funding, credit and the jury system;

WHEREAS the Equality Act of 2015 also includes a clarification which states that the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) cannot be used to discriminate against people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NBA supports passage of the Equality Act of 2015 and subsequent iterations;

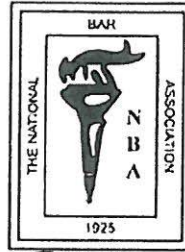
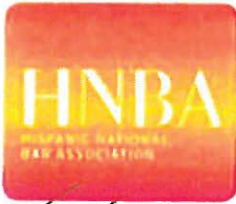
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NBA categorically opposes legislation or other governmental actions that would permit individuals or businesses to assert religious conviction to justify discrimination;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NBA authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other minority bar association members, members of the U.S. Congress, the press, and to whomever else suited to receive the information in order to affect this Resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the NBA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors.





Pedro Torres-Diaz
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

2/28/17

Date



Cyndie Chang
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

2/28/17

Date



Kevin Judd
President, National Bar Association

2/28/17

Date



Jennifer H. Weddle
President, National Native American Bar Association

2/28/17

Date