



Texas Baptists needs our help regarding making our voice known about **The Equality Act**. Texas Baptist has provided a template letter we may use for inserting your names onto your letterhead, etc. We need your help to protect our religious liberties. Please review the template below and prepare your letter to let your voice be heard regarding The Equality Act.

March ___, 2021

The Honorable [Ted Cruz/John Cornyn]

United States Senate

- 517 Hart Senate Office Building for Sen. Cornyn
- 127A Russell Senate Office Building for Sen. Cruz
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. [Cruz/Cornyn]:

My name is _____ and I reside in _____, Texas. I am pastor [or other title] of _____ Church also located in _____, Texas. I am writing to voice my opposition to H.R. 5, also cited as the "Equality Act" which passed the House of Representatives on February 25, 2021.

Our congregation affirms the dignity of every human being and the right to equal protection under the law. However, in its current form, the Equality Act endangers the rights of faith-based organizations and their affiliated hospitals, schools, foster agencies, and charities to operate according to their sincerely held religious beliefs. It is possible to both expand protection against discrimination and protect these faith-based organizations, their affiliates, communities, and buildings. The Equality Act offers no such protection of religious freedoms.

Specifically, under Sec. 9. Miscellaneous. of the proposed Equality Act, Section 1107 states, "The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to" claims arising under the Civil Rights Act or Fair Housing Act. Section 1107 removes key protections for faith-based organizations and forces them to choose between discontinuing services or violating their religious beliefs. The Equality Act should be amended to remove this section and keep the protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in place.

I urge you to vote against the Equality Act in its current form and ask you to encourage your fellow senators to vote against the Equality Act as well. Thank you for your time in considering this letter and for your tireless efforts to protect the religious liberties of your constituents and all Americans.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name]