

OFFICE OF REP. SYLVIA GARCIA
April 2rd, 2019

Statement for the Record
Hearing on H.R. 5 the Equality Act
House Judiciary Committee

“Today, I am extremely proud today to be in the Judiciary Committee to hear your testimony on why we must pass the Equality Act. No one should ever be treated as less than equal in the eyes law. We’ve made a lot of progress over the years, but the reality is that many still face discrimination because of who they are and the people they love. In Texas, the absence of clear protections in our public policy creates barriers for LGBTQ Texans that adversely affect them throughout their lives, leading to greater levels of poverty and lower access to health care. The discrimination and inequality faced by the LGBTQ community is heartbreaking and entirely un-American, but with the Equality Act we can do something about it.

The Equality Act will greatly extend civil rights for the LGBTQ community, providing consistent and explicit protections from discrimination for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, and education. In Texas, that means having explicit protections for LGBTQ people for the first time in our history. Updating federal law to extend protections to the 28 states that provide no explicit protections for LGBTQ communities will tear down barriers to success and lead to better outcomes for our family members, neighbors, and loved-ones. This is long overdue for nearly 1 million LGBTQ Texans and is why I am proud to join my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in taking this further step of making the Equality Act the law of the land.”