

## Rep. Ellen Tauscher Votes for Historic Civil Rights Legislation to End Employment Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation

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Washington, DC &ndash; Today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3685, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The bipartisan legislation prohibits employment discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans by making it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or otherwise discriminate against employees simply based on sexual orientation. In 31 states, this type of discrimination would remain perfectly legal if a federal standard is not put in place.

This bill was endorsed by numerous organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, NAACP, American Bar Association, AFL-CIO, UAW, AFSCME, NEA, NTEU, and National Council of La Raza.

This bill has been introduced in every Congress since 1975, but today&rsquo;s vote marks the first vote ever taken on the floor on this important legislation by the House of Representatives.

Rep. Tauscher released the following statement.

&ldquo;Freedom from discrimination in the workplace is a civil right that should be afforded to all Americans. The exclusion of gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans from this basic protection amounts to pure bigotry. I am proud that the Congress has acted on this long overdue legislation, and I will continue to support efforts to eradicate discrimination of any kind, including that based on gender identity.&rdquo;

Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher

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