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September 15, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I write to urge you to support two critical pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening the support and protections of LGBT Latinos in the United States.

### **The Equality Act (H.R. 3185, S. 1858)**

As you may know, our nation's civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion. Currently, federal law does not provide consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The Equality Act would provide consistent and explicit anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. The Equality Act was introduced by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Cory Booker (D-NJ), as well as Representative David Cicilline (D-RI).

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (H.R. 1779, S. 262)**

Another issue that requires your attention deals with extending protections for LGBT youth who might find themselves homeless and vulnerable. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act would provide needed resources for runaway and homeless youth shelter and services, and would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in all Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY).

On behalf of the 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to champion these issues in the 114th Congress. Your support of these two critical bills will help build support for their passage and continue advancing the work toward full equality for all Americans. For more information, please don't hesitate to have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation, at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org) or by phone at (202) 833-6130.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President