



March 5, 2021

Dear members of the Wyoming District,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, who is “the Head over all things for His Church” (Ephesians 1:22). I write regarding H.R. 5, the “Equality Act,” which is currently before Congress. The 2018 Convention of the Wyoming District, in Resolutions 1-03 and 1-04A, encouraged her members to speak publicly to these matters. Let me begin with a brief review of how God teaches us to think about government and law in His Word:

- The authority of government is given by God, who instituted government for the good of all men (Romans 13:1-7).
- God commands government leaders to rule according to His law, since they exercise His authority (Romans 13:1). God’s law is known, even among those who do not have God’s Word, as Natural Law – God’s unchanging law known from the creation and from the conscience (Romans 1:18-32, 2:14-16).
- God’s purposes for government are justice (Romans 13:1-7) and peace (1 Timothy 2:1-4), especially for His church (Ephesians 1:22), on whose behalf He orders all things.
- God commands us to submit to government (Matthew 22:21, 1 Peter 2:13-17), to pray for government leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2), and as far as possible, to live in peace with all men (Romans 12:17-21).
- We have a duty as citizens to use our franchise, our voice, our reputation, and our treasure to advocate for truth and justice, to defend the weak and innocent (Proverbs 31: 8-9), and in general to love our neighbor by acting for his welfare (Luke 10:25-37).

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed the “Equality Act” by a vote of 224 to 206. Soon, leaders in the Senate will begin pressing for its passage into law. H.R. 5 redefines biological sex (male and female) in the 1964 Civil Rights Act by adding “sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Very few federal laws compel the unanimous condemnation of Christians. This would be one such law. Legitimate policy debates begin with agreement on God’s definition of good and evil – Natural Law. They only wrestle over the wisest way “to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good” (1 Peter 2:14). The

"Equality Act," on the contrary, rests on the rejection of God's gracious will for human life.

The "Equality Act" implicitly rejects the First Article of the Creed, that "God has made me and all creatures" (SC First Article). When divinely created sex (male and female) is replaced by man-made constructs, God's Fifth and Sixth commandments are also contradicted. As a result, the law would not only fail to protect human life and the bonds of holy marriage, it would use the power of the federal government to require citizens to commit acts against the Fifth and Sixth commandments.

The love of God constrains us to "help and support [our neighbor] in every physical need" (SC Fifth Commandment). God calls Christians both to teach these words to their neighbors and to act on these words, and so to protect their unborn and vulnerable neighbors from death and bodily harm. Those who remain faithful would face civil, professional, and criminal penalties under the "Equality Act."

The primary evil of the "Equality Act" is the direct harm that it would do to the unborn and to people who are identified under "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" categories. The "Equality Act" would also cause much secondary harm:

- It would make this rejection of Natural Law the law of the land, thereby undermining the basis for lawful government, violating consciences, and encouraging unsuspecting citizens to adopt these evils for themselves.
- It would threaten any charity, business, or school that works to teach and act faithfully on the sanctity of human life and marriage.
- It would force girls and women to compete against boys and men in contradiction of God's created differences (Deuteronomy 22:5) and it would mandate that males and females share locker rooms and shower spaces in violation of godly modesty (Genesis 3:21).
- It would allow taxpayer funding for abortions.
- It would require health-care workers to participate in ungodly medical procedures such as abortion or bodily mutilation.
- It could even interfere directly in the governance of the local congregation or parochial school, requiring it to host functions that openly conflict with Holy Scriptures, hire staff that do not support its doctrine and mission, and implement policies at odds with Christian doctrine.

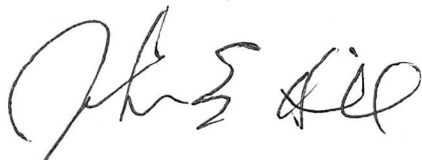
What can you do? First of all, educate yourself so that you are equipped to defend your family and teach others. Be prepared to explain what God's Word teaches about government, citizens, Natural Law, the Fifth Commandment and the sanctity of man's life, the Sixth Commandment and the sanctity of marriage, God's creation of man as male and female, and so on. Your pastor will gladly assist you in this endeavor.

Second, pray that God would open blind eyes and remove the darkness of deceit from our land. Pray for those who are entangled in sins against life, the unborn, marriage, and our createdness as male and female. Pray that God would defend our Christian children and adults from these sins and evil doctrines.

Third, contact both of your United States Senators immediately. Ask them to vote "no," should the "Equality Act" come to the floor. Just as importantly, ask them to deliver a floor speech explaining the evils of the "Equality Act." Your senators are in a unique position to help their colleagues and others who are confused both by the duplicitous language of the law and by an ungodly narrative that fills the airwaves. Communication by phone or by email will be the quickest. Be respectful. Be kind. Be brief. Tell them, through the points listed above, why you are opposed to this legislation. Christians have a duty to speak out with one voice against these evils.

The urgency of this matter arises not from fear, but from love and joy. Christ has overcome sin and death by His own death and resurrection. We Christians do not fear death. We have renounced the devil and all his works and all his ways. We now live and act for our churches and fellow members, our family members, and all those in workplace, neighborhood, and community. We seek the repentance and salvation of those entangled in these sins. Even if we must suffer many things for the sake of Christ and His Word, we have all joy, for Christ is risen, our sins are forgiven, our consciences are at peace, and God's Word will endure forever.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Hill", written in a cursive style.

Rev. John E. Hill

Wyoming

Senator John Barrasso 202-224-6441

<https://www.barrasso.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form>

Senator Cynthia Lummis 202-224-3424

<https://www.lummis.senate.gov/>

Nebraska

Senator Ben Sasse 202-224-4224

<https://www.sasse.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-ben>

Senator Deb Fischer 202-224-6551

<https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Colorado

Senator John Hickenlooper 202-224-5941

<https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>

Senator Michael Bennet 202-224-5852

<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

"Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"? But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless." (Psalm 10:12-14).