

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 419

Encouraging the celebration of the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-  
ESTER, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. JACKSON LEE,  
Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. JOHN-  
SON of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr.  
GALLEGO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TAKANO, Mr.  
MOULTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs.  
WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia,  
Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms.  
NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. POCAN) submitted the following resolu-  
tion; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging the celebration of the month of June as  
LGBTQ Pride Month.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Original  
LGBTQ Pride Month Resolution of 2017”;

Whereas the Honorable Barney Frank, Member of Congress  
from 1981 to 2013, is recognized as an honorary cospon-  
sor of this resolution;

Whereas Members of this Congress support the rights, free-  
doms, and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
transgender, and queer (LGBTQ);

Whereas in the summer of 1963, Bayard Rustin organized the March on Washington as an openly gay African-American man;

Whereas in August of 1966, the “Screaming Queens” of the Gene Compton’s Cafeteria riot in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco were recorded as one of the first transgender riots that erupted after police harassment and continued as protestation against police brutality and improper policing of the LGBTQ community;

Whereas those who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, were pioneers of the LGBTQ movement, including two transgender women of color, Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, who were brave visible leaders in the uprising at Stonewall Inn;

Whereas the LGBTQ Stonewall and Compton’s Cafeteria protestors were subject to police harassment and invidious discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas these decisive moments in history were followed by the creation of LGBTQ rights organizations in every major city in the United States within years of the uprisings;

Whereas these uprisings have been followed by many positive progressive historic moments;

Whereas in December of 1973, the board of the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses;

Whereas in 1974, Elaine Noble became the first openly LGBTQ candidate elected to a State legislature in the

United States when she won a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives;

Whereas in 1975, the Civil Service Commission eliminated the ban on the employment of homosexuals in most Federal jobs;

Whereas, on January 8, 1978, Harvey Milk made national news when he was sworn in as an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors;

Whereas in October of 1979, 75,000 people participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to demand equal civil rights;

Whereas in 1980, Democrats took a stance in support of gay rights at the Democratic National Convention;

Whereas in 1982, Wisconsin became the first State to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation;

Whereas in 1983, after initial refusal from lead organizers to allow an openly LGBTQ person to speak, Audre Lorde was selected by black LGBTQ groups to speak at the 20th anniversary commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 March on Washington;

Whereas in October of 1987, thousands of activists took part in the National March on Washington to demand that President Reagan address the AIDS crisis;

Whereas in 1987, Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts became the first Representative to voluntarily come out as an openly gay Member of Congress;

Whereas in 1988, Urvashi Vaid co-founded the Creating Change Conference, the largest annual LGBTQ convening in the United States organized by the National LGBTQ Task Force;

Whereas, on May 20, 1996, the Supreme Court of the United States decided, in *Romer v. Evans*, that a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing the enactment of non-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in that State was unconstitutional;

Whereas at the turn of the century in 2000, Vermont became the first State in the country to legally recognize civil unions between same-sex couples;

Whereas, on June 8, 2000, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled, in *Rosa v. Parks*, that a transgender person had recourse under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act's prohibition on sex discrimination after being denied a loan for dressing in traditionally feminine attire;

Whereas, on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, that under the 14th Amendment, States could not criminalize the private, intimate relationships of same-sex couples;

Whereas, on August 5, 2004, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals determined, in *Smith v. City of Salem*, that transgender employees are protected from workplace discrimination under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

Whereas in 2008, Latino trans man Diego Miguel Sanchez became the first openly transgender individual to be appointed to the Democratic National Committee's Platform Committee;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, Stu Rasmussen of Silverton, Oregon, became the first openly transgender person to be elected mayor in the Nation;

Whereas in 2009, Diego Miguel Sanchez became the first openly transgender congressional senior staffer on Capitol Hill, appointed by Rep. Barney Frank;

Whereas, on October 28, 2009, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The bill expanded existing Federal hate crimes laws to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;

Whereas, on January 4, 2010, Mayor Annise D. Parker was sworn in as the first openly lesbian mayor of Houston, and the largest city in the United States to have an openly LGBTQ mayor;

Whereas, on November 2, 2010, Victoria Kolakowski was elected as the first openly transgender woman in California to serve as a trial court judge for the Alameda County Superior Court;

Whereas, on November 17, 2010, Phyllis Frye was appointed into the City of Houston Municipal Courts as the first openly transgender judge in Texas;

Whereas in December of 2010, Congress approved and President Obama signed the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas in October of 2011, The Girl Scouts of America opened membership to a seven-year-old transgender girl;

Whereas 2012 marked the first year that all 50 States in the United States had at least one openly LGBTQ elected official;

Whereas, on April 20, 2012, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that discrimination based on gender identity is “sex discrimination” for purposes of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

Whereas, on November 6, 2012, Rep. Mark Takano became the first openly gay person of color elected to Congress;

Whereas, on January 3, 2013, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin was sworn in as the first openly gay United States Senator;

Whereas, on January 3, 2013, Kyrsten Sinema was sworn in as the first openly bisexual Member of Congress;

Whereas, on March 11, 2013, a transgender inclusive version of the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized;

Whereas, on June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled, in *United States v. Windsor*, that section three of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional and that the Federal Government cannot discriminate against married lesbian and gay couples for the purposes of determining Federal rights, benefits, and obligations;

Whereas, on November 20, 2013, President Obama posthumously presented Bayard Rustin with a Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas, on June 9, 2014, Laverne Cox became the first openly transgender person on the cover of *Time* magazine;

Whereas, on June 17, 2014, Darrin P. Gayles was the first openly gay African-American man to be confirmed as a Federal Judge;

Whereas, on July 10, 2014, Laverne Cox became the first openly transgender individual to be nominated for an Emmy award;

Whereas, on July 21, 2014, President Obama took action to protect LGBTQ workers by signing an Executive order prohibiting Federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas, on June 8, 2015, triathlete Chris Moiser became the first transgender athlete to earn a spot on the United States national team;

Whereas, on June 9, 2015, the United States military's equal opportunity policy was updated to protect LGB servicemen and women from harassment and discrimination;

Whereas, on June 23, 2015, New York City's Stonewall Inn received a landmark designation by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission so that the bar cannot be torn down or developed without approval;

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States in *Obergefell v. Hodges* decided by a vote of 5–4 that the 14th Amendment requires all States to license marriages between same-sex couples and to recognize all marriages that were lawfully performed out-of-State;

Whereas, on July 23, 2015, H.R. 3185, with the short title of the Equality Act, was introduced in the 114th Congress by Rep. David Cicilline with bipartisan support, which amends our Nation's Federal civil rights laws to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination in employment, housing, credit, education, public accommodation, federally funded programs, and jury service;

Whereas, on July 17, 2015, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that discrimination based on sexual orientation is “sex discrimination” for purposes of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

Whereas, on October 31, 2015, the Obama administration announced that it would approve the spouses of refugees who are approved for resettlement in the United States, including same-sex spouses who come from countries where legal unions are not possible;

Whereas in the first 10 weeks of 2016, according to a Human Rights Campaign tally, more than 200 bills across 34 States were introduced that are considered anti-LGBTQ, and the threat to the civil liberties of LGBTQ people has increased on the State level since the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality;

Whereas, on May 13, 2016, the Departments of Justice and Education released joint guidance to help provide educators the information they need to ensure that transgender students attend school in an environment free from discrimination based on sex;

Whereas, on May 18, 2016, Eric Fanning was sworn in as Secretary of the Army, marking the first time a branch of the military was led by an openly gay person;

Whereas, on June 30, 2016, the Department of Defense announced an immediate policy change allowing transgender service members to serve openly without fear of retribution;

Whereas, on July 5, 2016, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, known as the National PTA, adopted a resolution on the Recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning as a protected class;



Whereas, on July 28, 2016, Human Rights Campaign national press secretary Sarah McBride spoke at the Democratic National Convention, making her the first transgender person to address a major party convention;

Whereas, on June 24, 2016, President Obama designated the first national monument to LGBTQ rights at the site of the Stonewall uprising;

Whereas, on November 8, 2016, Kate Brown of Oregon became the first openly bisexual person to win a gubernatorial election;

Whereas, on January 30, 2017, The Boy Scouts of America announced that they would open membership to transgender boys;

Whereas, on April 4, 2017, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled, in *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College*, that lesbian, gay, and bisexual employees are protected from workplace discrimination under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

Whereas the inclusion of our transgender brothers and sisters into United States society continues to expand every day, with an understanding that we will remain steadfast in pursuing the goal of complete equality, respect, and tolerance for all, regardless of the gender a person is assigned at birth: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2            (1) recognizes that lesbian, gay, bisexual,
- 3            transgender, and queer (LGBTQ rights) are human
- 4            rights and are protected by the Constitution;

1           (2) recognizes that all Americans should be  
2 treated fairly and equally regardless of sexual ori-  
3 entation or gender identity;

4           (3) acknowledges the struggle of the Stonewall  
5 and Compton's Cafeteria protestors and countless  
6 other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer  
7 people for equality;

8           (4) encourages the celebration of LGBTQ Pride  
9 Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all  
10 people in the United States to learn about the dis-  
11 crimination and inequality that has faced, and con-  
12 tinues to face, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
13 and queer people; and

14           (5) agrees that the United States must continue  
15 to strive to ensure that the promise of equality is re-  
16 alized for all Americans.

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