

## WHAT A CHILD'S LIFE WILL LOOK LIKE UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT

House Democrats are poised to pass the Equality Act once again, claiming it will merely amend federal civil rights law to ensure sexual orientation and gender identity are included among the protected classes, even though the Constitution already provides protection for the rights of all American citizens, regardless of their "identity group."

In 2021, the Equality Act could pass the Senate as well, and if so, President Joe Biden is expected to sign it into law. The legislation would end the federal recognition of the two complementary male and female sexes in favor of gender identity.

If enacted, the Equality Act could have a major impact on children and their parents, upending the culture as American families now know it.

The text of the legislation reads: "An individual shall not be denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity. . ."

Boys who identify as, or claim to be, girls could compete on girls' athletic teams, take showers with them in public school locker rooms, and sleep in their hotel rooms when their teams are on the road.

Inside the classroom, the Equality Act could allow for the normalization of gender ideology and abortion in school curricula.

Melanie Israel of the Heritage Foundation explained Monday at the Daily Signal that, under the legislation, parental rights could take a far back seat to mandated school programs: The Equality Act could lead to changes in school curricula, such as texts that affirm and promote controversial sexual orientation and gender identity viewpoints. The Equality Act could also be used to override states that have prohibited sexual orientation and gender identity curricula. Where states have conversely mandated sexual orientation and gender identity curricula, parents and schools do not have access to "opt-out" options. . . .

She elaborated on the possibilities: If the Equality Act were to become federal law and public school curricula become further entwined with sexual orientation and gender identity ideology, Planned Parenthood is well-positioned to further its presence in public schools and take advantage of an additional avenue to promote both sexual orientation and gender identity ideology as well as the organization's hormone treatment services. In other words, additional sexual orientation and gender identity curricula could become yet another marketing tool for America's abortion giant. . . .

Hartzler, a former teacher, said parents who disagree with the mandated gender ideology, with books containing examples of same-sex couples, etc., would be viewed as fueling discrimination.

"It'll just be infiltrated into the entire curriculum, from kindergarten on, without parents even knowing about it, or having an opportunity to have a say, and so that's the first concern I would have as a parent," she said. . . .

The congresswoman recalled the story of parents in Ohio who lost custody of their daughter several years ago because they opposed her desire to transition to male. A judge allowed the girl's grandparents to take custody of her because they supported her medical transition.

"It is just heart rending to think that parents were not able to determine the health care, what they thought was best for their daughter, and the judge actually stepped in and took away their custody," the congresswoman said.

Children in foster care could likely be affected by the Equality Act as well.

An adoptive mother, Hartzler said the legislation could likely have a negative impact on faith-based adoption agencies that strive to place children in homes with a mother and father. . . .

The Missouri congresswoman explained the consequence of such policies is that many foster children are unable to be adopted into a loving home through faith-based adoption agencies if they are shut down. The Equality Act would nationalize such a policy.

Ryan Anderson, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, explained in an op-ed at the *New York Post* Sunday that the writers of the Equality Act have explicitly exempted the bill from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The Act states: "The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title."

Faith-based schools could thus "face federal sanction for upholding the teachings of mainstream biology and the Bible, modern genetics and Genesis, when it comes to sex and marriage," Anderson noted. . . .

Under the Act, children are also likely to learn any attempt to protect unborn human life is now considered "discriminatory."

The text of the bill states: "Discrimination can occur on the basis of the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition of an individual, as well as because of sex-based stereotypes. Each of these factors alone can serve as the basis for discrimination, and each is a form of sex discrimination..."

Thus, discrimination on the basis of sex could include refusing to perform an abortion or provide funding for the procedure.

Anderson summed up the concerns about the legislation. "Rather than finding common-sense, narrowly tailored ways to shield LGBT-identifying Americans from truly unjust discrimination, the bill would act as a sword — to persecute those who don't embrace newfangled gender ideologies," he said of the "Orwellian" Equality Act.