

A Special Report from Intercessors for America

Legislation, treaties, orders, trade agreements, resolutions, and all kinds of other official acts are being rewritten with the insertion of SOGI language. We have shared many of these instances with you for prayer and to contact your legislator with feedback. Pray with us about this increasing and deliberate strategy to entrench a new and unbiblical morality into every aspect of government and life.

As you read this special report, be in prayer:

PRAY for Christians in government and policy groups to be aware of every one of these efforts.
(Esther 2:21-23)

PRAY that there would be a halt to the SOGI movement that is so prevalent and pervasive.
(Rom 1:17-19)

PRAY that our nation would turn back to God for our identity and laws, as he is the Creator and lawgiver.
(Gn 1:27)

PRAY that the filibuster would not be discarded in order to push this legislation through the Senate.
(Job 28:28)



THE INTIMIDATION GAME

Legitimizing immorality through the “Equality” Act (HB5).

HB5 is not really about “equality.” It is all about SOGI. What is “SOGI”? It stands for sexual orientation/gender identity. A well-funded, powerful movement is legalizing intimidation by attaching gender identity language to legislation and action of all kinds—even those that should have nothing to do with this concept. Pushing to make sexual orientation/gender identity an issue in much of our civic lives, and in the end, a protected class of citizens. It has become nationally championed. In the previous Congress, HB5 passed in the House but was not taken up by the Senate. Things have changed. HB5 has been reintroduced in the House, and with the shift of power in the Senate, it has a very real possibility of passing. What can we do? How can we pray?

What does an international trade agreement have to do with gender identity? Forty-six members of Congress thought it was strange as well, stating in a letter to the President that they were “deeply concerned by the unprecedented inclusion in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) language, for the first time in a Free Trade Agreement.” It was included in the labor section of the treaty, putting LGBTQ individuals in a protected class, which leads to more opportunities for impeding the religious freedom of Christians, Jews, and Muslims who do not. SOGI language has been inserted in treaties, commerce regulations, education standards, housing acts, local laws, and ordinances. **It is a strategy.**

SOGI language supports and validates LGBTQ lifestyles, and forces the overwhelming majority of the nation to treat this as a preferred and protected class. By creating this “protected class” they are also elevating SOGI beyond equal treatment to a civil right. Special protections for LGBTQ will trump the rights of other people. This means that Christian daycares or schools may be forced to hire LGBTQ employees. What Jack Philips endured as a cake baker would become the norm and have a different result if these SOGI language clauses are adopted. Parents may not be able to decline hormone treatments for gender-confused children. SOGI clauses **are legislating to the exception and restricting constitutional freedoms in order to achieve a pro-LGBTQ society.**

Pray for awareness on the part of legislators and policy advisors so that they can see and halt the inclusion of SOGI language into our laws. They are advancing it this very minute in Congress and we must pray and act.

SOGI LANGUAGE CREATES A FALSE CIVIL RIGHT FOR LGBTQ AND REMOVES THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HOW DOES SOGI LANGUAGE DAMAGE OUR NATION AND FREEDOMS?

Sexual orientation and gender identity advocates falsely equate **involuntary characteristics that are protected in civil rights laws with self-defined fluid choices such as sexual identity.**

SOGI laws **mandate** the employment of homosexual and transgendered persons in occupations such as Christian schools.

People of faith are **not adequately protected** by religious exemptions, especially parents.

SOGI laws **force** some businesses to **violate their moral and religious convictions.**

SOGI laws can lead to **costly lawsuits** against businesses such as baker Jack Phillips and florist Baronelle Stutzman.

SOGI laws create an opportunity for **reverse discrimination.**

SOGI laws are **unnecessary** with current laws that protect all citizens from discrimination .

SOGI proponents do not **compromise** on religious exemptions—activists see religious exemptions as condoning discrimination.

How much impact can a short phrase about LGBTQ included in official documents really have?

According to those who are involved in policy creation and the law—a lot. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that there shall be no discrimination of a person based on their “race, color, national origin, sex, and religion.” The first four of these are included largely because they are **intrinsic to the individual**, are bestowed involuntarily, and are unchangeable, immutable. (Religion is voluntary, and is protected by the First Amendment.) As Peter Sprigg of **Family Research Council** points out, “while sexual attractions may be involuntary, neither homosexual conduct nor transgender behavior meets any of the other criteria.” To elevate someone’s “felt” and potentially changing gender to the status of a civil right is incongruent—it doesn’t qualify and it is a dangerous slippery slope.

Ryan T. Anderson of the **Heritage Foundation** makes a good point. “In the United States of America, people who identify as LGBT are free to live as they want. **But SOGI laws, including FFA [Freedom for All], are not about freedom—they are about coercion. SOGI and FFA are about forcing all Americans to embrace—and live out—certain beliefs about human sexuality.**” It is forcing all Americans to live under their beliefs, their choices and their reality.

How has SOGI language impacted Americans?

Many states have SOGI language included in their laws. Here are a couple of examples of the impact in those states, and even states without SOGI laws.

From the Heritage Foundation: “**A Virginia school board voted unanimously to fire Peter Vlaming, a high school French teacher, after he refused to comply with administrators’ orders to use a female student’s preferred male pronoun.** The school board cited the school’s anti-discrimination policy. Vlaming used the student’s new name to avoid upsetting the student, but refrained from using pronouns altogether in the student’s presence to avoid speaking against his belief that God created human beings male and female.” It wasn’t enough that the teacher would use the new name of the student but avoided using a gendered pronoun. They wanted this teacher to accept the new gender as legitimate and use the new pronoun.

An **Ohio judge removed a 17-year-old girl from her parents’ custody after they declined to help her “transition” to male with testosterone supplements.** After the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital gender clinic recommended these treatments for the child’s gender dysphoria, the parents had wanted to pursue counseling instead. County officials charged them with abuse and neglect.

LGBTQ Nation gleefully reported that a New York City law, classified as a human rights law, creates the “crime” of **willful misuse of name or gender pronouns, allowing a penalty of up to \$125,000 in fines.**



These examples do not even begin to scratch the surface of the new wave of lawsuits, fines, penalties, and regulations that will impact every area of American life with SOGI laws.

STATES WITH SOGI LAWS AND WHAT THEY COVER

The battle is not only at the federal level, but being waged in states as well. These 24 states already have some form of SOGI laws. Pray they get overturned. If your state is not listed, pray lawmakers do not enact SOGI laws.

State	Accommodations	Employment	Housing	Education	Therapy Ban
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Utah	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	No

*Sexual orientation only. Source: [Human Right Campaign, State Laws](#), accessed May 13, 2019.

SOGI in Accommodations=SOGI laws for customers of governmental agencies and private businesses that provide a service to the public, such as florists, bakers, caterers, bed and breakfasts, libraries, theaters, and more.

SOGI in Employment=Employers are bound by SOGI laws banning discrimination based on Title VII, for example at schools, restaurants, daycare, youth centers, health clubs, counseling centers, and more.

SOGI in Housing=SOGI laws providing for no differential selection of tenants for public or private housing.

SOGI in Education=Students in elementary or high school are free to choose their gender and be treated as such, and all curriculum is to reflect LGBTQ equally with all genders and identities, including during instruction.

SOGI in Therapy=SOGI therapy ban laws prohibit a therapist from attempting to change or dissuade a person's SOGI choice and the materials that may be used to suggest change, including the Bible.

HOW IS SOGI BEING PROMOTED AND BY WHOM?

PRAY THESE SOGI ADVOCATES WILL SEE THE TRUTH.



Chad Griffin
Human Rights Campaign



Tim Gill
Gill Foundation, SOGI funder



Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)
HB5 House Sponsor

HB5: The Equality Act is nothing of the sort.



The granddaddy of the SOGI laws, HB5, nationalizes the sexual orientation and gender identity movement's power over thoughts, words, religion, and freedom. **HB5** was sponsored by David Cicilline (D-R.I.) and the bill has 224 co-sponsors—all Democrats. You can view the list of co-sponsors [here](#). Pray that any sponsor representing your state would reconsider their support for this type of legislation in the future.

This piece of legislation is called one of the worst in history for its disastrous impact on religious freedom. HB5 is currently in committee in the House. It is in five committees: Committee on the Judiciary, Committees on Education and Labor, Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, and House Administration. It is al-

most certain to pass in the House yet again. The key will be to see what the Senate will do. President Biden has said that he will sign this legislation, and in fact, has asked for this legislation to be moved along. **Pray for eyes to be opened to the harmful effects of this bill, and that support for HB5 falls off as people realize the negative effects on the freedoms of all Americans.**



Click here to tell your elected officials you do NOT support HR5.

It's fast and it's easy.

HOW CAN CHRISTIANS PRAY AND ACT AGAINST SOGI?

4 STEPS TO TAKE ACTION:

1.

Send a message to your elected officials about HB5. Click [HERE](#) to send your message.

2.

Send this link to five friends so they can also speak up about HB5 to their leaders as well:

<https://www.votervoice.net/IFAPRAY/campaigns/64699/respond>

3.

Visit the Pray for America's Leaders Map to pray by name for all the leaders who are considering this legislation. Pray they vote NO. Click [HERE](#) to visit the map and pray.

4.

Share this in-depth special report with others, so that they can be fully informed, and pray with insight. SHARE THIS LINK with your praying friends:
<https://www.ifapray.org/promo/sogi/>

What can be done about HB5 and the SOGI laws infiltrating our system?

Prayer and action. Cry out to God and SPEAK UP. Become informed about what's happening in your state, local government, and school board. Let your elected officials know where you stand. Pray God's Word for a restoration of our identity in this nation—made in God's image, male and female:

Pray that funding for the SOGI agenda will dry up.

Pray we would seek God for our true identities ([Is 45:9](#))

Pray for legislators who are battling these pieces of legislation—local, state, and federal level leaders need your prayer.

Pray for the watchdog groups who are monitoring the legislation to alert lawmakers and voters to SOGI in bills, resolutions, agreements, policy, and laws. (Watch for updates on [HeadlinePrayer.com](#) and take action on [Pray for America's Leaders website](#).)

Pray for people living the LGBTQ lifestyle to be set free and experience God's unconditional love and purpose for their life. ([Jn 8:32](#))

Pray for those who are being persecuted for standing firm for godly values through lawsuits, fines, boycotts, cancelling, and other intimidation.

Pray that more believers would be aware of this move to legislate the acceptance and advancement of the gay and transgender rights at the expense of people of faith.

Pray for judges who are hearing cases that can lead to SOGI recognition, propagation, and implementation.

Pray that Christians would have loving compassion for those who are experiencing gender and/or sexuality confusion, and would lovingly show them truth, pointing them to Jesus, where healing is found. ([Mt 9:36](#))

Here's how God is speaking to me...