



November 8, 2007

## GLAD Statement on US House Passage of Limited ENDA

Yesterday, with a vote of 235-184, the US House of Representatives passed HR 3685, a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which does not include protections based on gender identity.

While the passage of this stripped-down version of ENDA is a disappointment and not the victory it could have been for the LGBT community, the conversation around this legislation has demonstrated unprecedented community support for civil rights protections for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We have had a tremendous opportunity to educate our political leaders and the public on the importance of an inclusive bill, to show that we are united as a community, and that excluding gender identity is unacceptable because it not only abandons transgender people, it ignores the reality that gender identity and expression are at the root of much anti-gay discrimination.

More than 360 LGBT organizations –including GLAD - along with individuals across the country, joined together as UnitedENDA to work for an inclusive bill. As a result of these efforts, we have seen a substantial shift in the commitment of a growing number of legislators to support only an inclusive ENDA in the future, when passage in the Senate and the signature of a new President make the enactment of comprehensive employment protections a possibility.

This unprecedented effort to fight for protections for our entire community will continue.

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