

[your name and contact info here]

February 4, 2021

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

This is to strongly urge you to immediately request revision of the Equality Act by its sponsors before it is reintroduced. As passed in the House in 2019, the bill conflates three distinct categories – biological sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity – into one, thereby eviscerating rights and protections for women and girls.

As the first woman Speaker of the House, one of only 25 women Representatives when you were first elected in 1987, you must surely understand that discrimination against women is based on sex, not how one identifies. I well-remember choking up when you first took up the gavel in 2007, joyously gathering your grandchildren around you to share the momentous occasion. In your speech, you said:

*It is an historic moment for the Congress, and a historic moment for the women of this country. It is a moment for which we have waited over 200 years... For our daughters and granddaughters, today we have broken the marble ceiling.*

Using the newspeak in the “inclusive” House rules recently adopted, your 2007 speech would have announced an historic moment for “people,” and that we have “broken the marble ceiling for children.” Doesn’t have quite the same ring, does it? Nor does it convey the true nature of the moment. It’s a bitter irony that the first woman Speaker of the House, who demonstrated incredible courage and leadership during and after the capital siege, would champion language that obscures women’s struggles and achievements.

It’s also a bitter irony that legislation that would eviscerate hard-won rights and protections for women and girls might be shepherded through the House by our first woman Speaker.

Passage of the Equality Act would also, I believe, result in the Democrats taking a beating in the mid-terms.

Most Americans recognize the inherent unfairness of allowing males, however they identify, to compete with females in sport. Males have, on average, larger hearts, greater lung capacity, more fast-twitch muscle fibers, longer and stronger bones, and many other physiological advantages over females. In 2017 alone, 744 high school boys bested the 100 meter record of the fastest female athlete of all time – Florence Griffith Joyner.<sup>i</sup> These advantages are not significantly impacted by temporary suppression of testosterone.<sup>ii</sup> Two high school boys claiming female identity, and allowed to compete in girls’ sport in Connecticut, have won between them 15 girls’ track events.

Most Americans also recognize the problem of allowing males in private female spaces based only on their assertion that they are women. Such policies create a loophole for

predatory and voyeuristic men. Target stores, for example, saw a significant increase in voyeuristic incidents following adoption of a “gender inclusion” policy in their dressing rooms.<sup>iii</sup>

Women in shelters and prisons have already been sexually harassed and raped by men claiming female identity, resulting in several lawsuits. Nine women sheltered in Poverello House in California have sued alleging a man claiming female identity housed with them made lewd comments about their bodies in communal dressing areas outside shower, and that he spied on them through cracks in shower and toilet stalls.

Women prisoners in Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth filed multiple legal complaints about men claiming female identity, housed with them, who intentionally exposed themselves to the women and expressed sexual desire for them. At Logan Correctional Center in Illinois, a female inmate alleges she was raped by a man claiming female identity, reported the incident, and was then pressured by prison officials to deny that it had happened. She has subsequently filed a federal lawsuit against prison officials at Logan.

You were first elected to the House of Representatives following two decades of feminist activism. Will you now undermine the gains of those years? I urge you to refrain from allowing the Equality Act to be reintroduced without extensive revision to protect the rights, safety, and dignity of women and girls. I attach a feminist legal analysis describing problems with the bill and how they may be remedied.

Best regards,

[your signature with typed name below]

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<sup>i</sup> Hilton, Emma. 2018. Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger. Why We Must Protect Female Sports. <https://fondofbeetles.wordpress.com/2018/10/01/harder-better-faster-stronger-why-we-must-protect-female-sports/>

<sup>ii</sup> Hilton, Emma N. and Tommy R. Lundberg. 2020. “Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage.” *Sports Medicine*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40279-020-01389-3>

<sup>iii</sup> Dirks, Paul. 2018. *Gender Inclusion Policies and Sexual Violence: A Longitudinal Analysis of Media Reports at Target Stores*. <https://usequalityact-women.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TargetVoyeurismStudy.pdf>