

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT



Bill Number

Reintroduced in the House as H.R. 2640 by Rep. John Lewis (GA-5) and in the Senate as S. 1303 by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

Purpose of Bill

ECDF will prohibit any child welfare service provider receiving federal assistance from discriminating against prospective adoptive or foster parents based solely on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, or based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

Action Request

Ask your Members of Congress to support this bill, especially if they serve on the House Ways & Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee. If they are not a co-sponsor of the bill, ask them to support it by co-sponsoring. If they are already a cosponsor, be sure to thank them.

Talking Points

- **This bill will increase the number of safe and supportive homes available to children by 2 million.** Enacting the bill will increase adoptions rates as well as provide more stability and decrease risk factors for youth in foster care, yielding an annual cost savings of three to six billion dollars.
- **Many states have policies and practices that adversely impact LGBTQ and unmarried parents.** This lack of uniform protection leaves children vulnerable to the individual biases of agencies and caseworkers and results in children being denied consideration for adoption or foster care.
- **LGBTQ parents are already raising happy, healthy children.** There are over 1 million LGBTQ parents raising children in the U.S. according to recent data. Some states already apply non-discrimination practices in their foster care and adoption practices with great success.