



**EQUALITY
ILLINOIS**

PRESS RELEASE

Founded in 1991, Equality Illinois is the state's oldest, largest and most effective organization advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Illinoisans.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2013

Equality Illinois Applauds Durbin and Kirk Leadership on Passing ENDA

Illinois U.S. House Delegation Urged to Follow Bipartisan Support for Ending Workplace Discrimination

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois today thanks and congratulates U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk of Illinois for their co-sponsorship and leadership in passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

With ENDA, which prohibits workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, now in the hands of the U.S. House, Equality Illinois urges the state's House delegation to follow the lead set by the bipartisan majority for the bill in the Senate and by our own two U.S. Senators.

The Senate approved ENDA today 64-32, with 10 Republican senators joining the entire Democratic caucus in support of the measure.

"The support of Senator Durbin, as assistant Democratic leader in the Senate, and Senator Kirk, as one of two Republicans to cosponsor the bill, was demonstrative of the bipartisan backing that ending discrimination should also receive in the House," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Illinoisans.

"We call on our U.S. representatives from both political parties to stand up for all their citizens in the workplace," Cherkasov continued. "In this day when LGBT Americans work openly in every corner of the economy, there should be no place that they should be able to be fired or harassed because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We already have that protection in Illinois, and our House delegation should learn from our experience that this should and will work as a national policy for all Americans."

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