



**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

July 10, 2013

ENDA Passes Senate Committee with Leadership of Sen. Kirk

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois today praised the leadership of Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois in helping to move the transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) out of a U.S. Senate committee. Kirk was one of three Republicans on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to vote for the bill and the only Republican who is a co-sponsor.

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Illinoisans, issued the following statement:

"Sen. Kirk is demonstrating by his leadership that discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and, now, transgender people in the workplace should no longer be acceptable in America. Because such discrimination is already illegal in Illinois, Sen. Kirk knows from experience that equality strengthens the work environment, allowing employers to hire the best person for the job and encouraging all workers to do their best without worrying about how they will be treated.

"Along with his support for the freedom to marry, Sen. Kirk is also asserting that equal treatment under the law is a conservative, Republican value, and his leadership on these issues should be followed by Republicans in Illinois and across the country."

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