

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
Department of State

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of Treasury
Department of the Treasury

The Honorable Jim Mattis
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Housing and Urban
Development

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
Department of Education

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security

Dear Cabinet Secretaries:

As members of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus's Transgender Equality Task Force, we call for an immediate end to discriminatory government policies, and we request a roundtable meeting with all of the Directors of the Civil Rights Offices, or equivalent, of your respective agencies.

We intend to bring together the heads of departments responsible for safeguarding the civil rights of all Americans to discuss the Administration's relentless assault on transgender Americans. These attacks began at the very start of the Administration with Attorney General Jefferson Sessions' and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' decision to eliminate protections for transgender students and continued with President Trump's unconstitutional effort to ban transgender servicemembers from serving in our nation's military and the elimination of Title VII employment discrimination protections. During the first year of this Administration, transgender Americans have endured a systematic attack on their dignity, rights, and freedom.

We are concerned the creation of the "Conscience and Religious Freedom Division" within the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights and the publicized dismissal of numerous Title IX complaints involving transgender students indicate the Trump Administration's intention to continue to erode the safety and civil rights of transgender Americans. Furthermore, these new policies could result in health care providers refusing medically-necessary treatment to transgender patients and school boards creating hostile and unwelcoming environments for transgender students and teachers. Given the grave

consequences of health care and education discrimination, we wish to discuss our concerns with you in person.

We believe the "...government of the people, by the people, for the people..." must apply to *all* Americans, not just the politically-favored. The Trump Administration should no longer encourage doctors to deny health care services to patients in need, promote an education systems that make children feel unwelcome in their own schools, allow employers to deny jobs to workers simply because of their gender identity, and turn away patriots from serving in the military simply because of who they are. The Transgender Equality Task Force is committed to working with you to protect the rights of minority groups and to end the current pattern of publicly-funded and government-sanctioned discrimination.

We thank you in advance for your prompt consideration and response to this request. Please contact Qais Roshan of my staff at qais.roshan@mail.house.gov by February 23, 2018 to confirm your availability for a roundtable meeting.

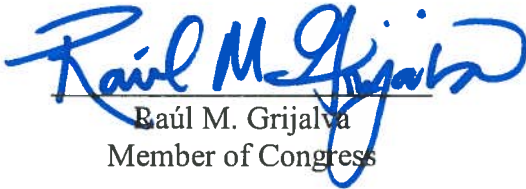
Sincerely,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress