

# EQUALITY ACT HARMS TO WOMEN

The Equality Act would elevate sexual orientation and gender identity to protected class status in existing federal nondiscrimination laws. While proponents of the bill claim it is about nondiscrimination, in reality **the Equality Act poses a devastating and unprecedented threat to the progress that women have made toward true equal treatment in law and culture.**

## THE EQUALITY ACT WOULD FORCE WOMEN TO SHARE PRIVATE SPACES WITH MEN

- The Equality Act would violate the privacy and safety of women by forcing them to share sex-separated spaces with men, such as showers, locker rooms, and other private spaces.
- Because the Equality Act touches so many areas of life, this violation of privacy and safety would extend to schools, businesses, homeless shelters, and places of employment—all places where women should feel safe and respected.

### ► REAL WORLD EXAMPLE:



Forcing women to share private spaces is a threat to women who need critical services, such as those provided by Downtown Hope Center's women's shelter in Anchorage, Alaska. ADF successfully defended Downtown Hope Center after the city government tried to force the shelter to allow biological men who identify as female to sleep mere feet from women, many of whom have suffered rape, sex trafficking, and domestic violence. For these women, having a biological man in the room where they sleep or undress triggers severe anxiety and trauma—so much so that one woman said she would feel compelled to leave the shelter even if it meant sleeping in the Alaskan woods during the winter.

## THE EQUALITY ACT WOULD UNDERMINE THE PURPOSE OF TITLE IX

- The Equality Act could nullify many of the opportunities previously guaranteed by Title IX, which provides women equal access to educational opportunities on the same basis as men.
- It could mandate that men who identify as women be allowed to compete for spots on female sports teams, women's scholarships, and other academic and athletic opportunities designed specifically for women.



### ► REAL WORLD EXAMPLE:

ADF represents four girls in Connecticut, where a state athletic policy allows biological men to compete on girls' sports teams. These four female athletes have already lost races, state championships, and opportunities to compete at the highest level. Our laws must recognize the biological differences between the sexes. By ignoring those differences, the Equality Act could make Connecticut's disastrous policy a nationwide reality.

