HumanRightsCampaign~: The117th~Congress~WillPrioritizeLGBTQEquality~

WASHINGTON – Today, the 117th~ UnitedStates~ Congress~ swears in its new members, which boasts a pro-equality majority in the USHouseofRepresentatives~ and record number of women and LGBTQ people elected. In response to first convening of the 117th~ Congress~, HumanRightsCampaign~ President AlphonsoDavid~ issued the following statement:

“With support for LGBTQ equality continuing to increase among the American~ public, the 117th~ Congress~ is poised on a path to move equality forward and advance policies to improve the lives of millions of LGBTQ people.

“Over the last four years, the TrumpPence~ administration has systematically attacked the most vulnerable of communities and enacted policies that have undermined our fundamental civil rights. The 117th~ Congress~ has the opportunity to not only put our democracy back on track but deliver real positive change for LGBTQ people’s daily lives -- including prioritizing passage of the EqualityAct~, crucial federal legislation that would finally guarantee explicit protections for LGBTQ people under our nation's existing civil rights laws.

“As we welcome the 117th~ Congress~, the HumanRightsCampaign~ looks toward the critical GeorgiaSenate~ runoff elections, in just two days, to ensure that we have a pro-equality working majority in the UnitedStates~ Senate for the 117th~ Congress~ to end the road blocks put up by our opponents.”

AlphonsoDavid~, HumanRightsCampaign~

The 117th~ Congress~ boasts historic new additions, including the election of RitchieTorres~ and MondaireJones~ as its first Black~ and AfroLatino~ members to the HouseLGBTQCaucus~ and SeanPatrickMaloney~ as the first openly LGBTQ person to chair the Democratic Congress~ionall Campaign Committee.

HRC~ recently released the an important brief that includes 85~ individual policy recommendations, reaching across the federal government, aimed at bettering the daily lives of LGBTQ people at home and abroad. These recommendations do not require any action by Congress~. The Blueprint has been shared with the Biden~ transition team as they evaluate the policy steps of the incoming administration. Recommendations include:

Ensure consistent administrative implementation of Bostock~ v. ClaytonCounty~ across all agencies enforcing civil rights statutes and provisions;

Revise restrictions on transgender individuals to return to an inclusive policy of military service;

Establish an interagency working group to address anti-transgender violence;

Appoint openly-LGBTQ justices, judges, executive officials and ambassadors;

Establish uniform data collection standards incorporation sexual orientation and gender identity into federal surveys;

Establish an interagency working group to protect and support LGBTQ rights globally;

End discrimination against gay and bisexual blood donors;

Prohibit the practice of conversion therapy as a fraudulent business practice;

Rescind and replace regulations restricting coverage of Section1557~ of the AffordableCareAct~; and

Eliminate discrimination against beneficiaries in charitable choice and faith-based initiatives.