

Liz Abzug

Daughter of U.S. Representative Bella Savitzky Abzug of New York

Introducing the Equality Act

Bella Abzug introduced the Equality Act of 1974, which was designed to prohibit discrimination based on “sexual orientation.” Liz Abzug places her mother’s bill in the context of the civil rights movement.

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You know, she saw it as a natural extension of civil rights, you know, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The right to ban—I mean, the Title VII, which bans discrimination against women. Anybody whose rights—civil and human rights—were being abridged, between employment and public accommodations, in credit, in, in, in marriage—in any kind of institution, she saw it as just unlawful and discriminatory. And in a sense was not—again, not afraid—people thought she was crazy, but you know, not afraid—one of the first Congresspeople to ever campaign in gay bars.