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REP. MONDAIRE JONES INTRODUCES JUROR NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT AS PART OF LANDMARK EQUALITY ACT

***Jones authors bill to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ community
in the jury selection process***

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-NY) introduced the Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2021, legislation that would ban attorneys from discriminating against prospective jurors on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity during the jury selection process. This bill is included in the Equality Act, a landmark package of LGBTQ+ rights bills that was reintroduced today and is scheduled for a vote in the House of Representatives next week.

“Even with the strides we’ve made towards LGBTQ+ equality and justice, we still have so long to go,” **said Mondaire Jones, the nation’s first openly gay, Black member of Congress.** “The systems put in place to discriminate against us won’t just go away on their own — we must purposefully end those systems, and that’s exactly what this bill will do. By banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in jury selection, my bill will ensure that LGBTQ+ people can no longer be excluded from our legal system simply because of who they are or who they love. Congress can, and must, act to correct this grave injustice.”

Under current federal law, attorneys can legally remove someone from a jury selection pool based solely on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and, as a result, can bar LGBTQ+ people from serving in our justice system. The Juror Non-Discrimination Act would correct this injustice by adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes that cannot be used as criteria for exclusion from jury selection, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and economic status.

Full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

About Mondaire: Mondaire Jones is the 33-year-old Congressman from New York’s 17th District, serving Westchester and Rockland Counties. He serves on the House Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Ethics Committees and is the first openly gay, Black member of Congress. A product of East Ramapo public schools, Mondaire was raised in Section 8 housing and on food stamps in the Village of Spring Valley by a single mother who worked multiple jobs to provide for their family. He later graduated from Stanford University, worked at the Department of Justice during the Obama Administration, and graduated from Harvard Law

School. He is a co-founder of the nonprofit Rising Leaders, Inc. and has previously served on the NAACP's National Board of Directors and on the board of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Most recently, Mondaire worked as a litigator in the Westchester County Law Department. In November, Mondaire was unanimously elected by his colleagues to be the Freshman Representative to Leadership, making him the youngest member of the Democratic House leadership team. In December, Jones was appointed a Deputy Whip of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and became a Co-Chair of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus. Mondaire was born and raised in Rockland, and resides in Westchester.

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