

# BEND THE ARC jewish action

February 15, 2017

Rep. Steve King  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Cohen:

As the Director of Bend the Arc Jewish Action, I submit this letter to you today for the record of this Subcommittee's hearing on "The State of Religious Liberty in America." Appended you will find a letter from more than 3,000 clergy, faith leaders and lay leaders in opposition to the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) (H.R. 2802 in the 114th Congress), organized with our partners at Auburn Seminary.

We are concerned by FADA, and many similar policies under consideration, that use religious freedom—and religion more broadly—as an excuse to discriminate against broad swaths of our society. Within the faith community, there is broad and diverse opposition to legislation like FADA. This is illustrated in the attached letter, which was sent most recently to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in July, 2016, for the record of a hearing on this legislation.

The faith leaders who signed this letter serve diverse religious communities across the United States—Baptists, Jews, Muslims, Catholics, and so many others—and are unified by the belief that this legislation does nothing to protect religious freedom. Rather, draconian legislation like this actually undermines the true spirit of religious freedom by favoring one religious viewpoint over another and, in the process, discriminating against LGBTQ people, single mothers and unmarried couples. Such legislation would open the door to unprecedented taxpayer-funded discrimination, but it would do nothing to support true religious freedom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block  
Director, Bend the Arc Jewish Action

same-sex couple.

We are also troubled that this bill is so broad it could even prevent the federal government from enforcing longstanding laws designed to combat discrimination and promote equality. For example, it would let commercial landlords violate fair housing laws by refusing housing to a single mother based on the landlord's religious beliefs and allow businesses to violate family medical leave laws by refusing to let a gay or lesbian employee care for a sick spouse.

As people of deep faith committed to a country that supports diverse, robust, and healthy religious expression and in the spirit of equality and justice, we urge you to oppose the First Amendment Defense Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Imam Daayiee Abdullah, DC	Lonnie Albrecht, FL	Jon Anderholm, CA
Sally Abrams, CA	Jill Alcantar, CA	Kristen Andersen, CO
Bishop Bishop Allyson Abrams, MD	Anita Alcantara, IL	Dan Anderson, CA
Christine Abrams, PA	Judy Alexander, CA	Dina Anderson, CO
Michael Abrams, PA	Joseph Alfano, NY	Rev. Chaplain PJ Anderson, MI
Dwight Adair, TX	Marie Alford-Harkey, CT	Diane Andrulonis, MD
Daryl Adams, AZ	Matthew Algren, OH	Danice Andrus, CA
Cheryl Adams, CA	Babs Allen, AL	JoAnn Anglin, CA
Pastor Katherine Adams, IL	Tamara Allen, AZ	Billy Angus, MT
Minister Timothy Adams, NE	Terrie Allen, CA	Louis Anipen, FL
Reverend Joseph Adams, NY	Richard Allen, CT	Jennifer Anthony, OR
Marty Adams, WA	Susan Allen, NC	Stephen Appell, NY
Michael Adams Sr, NC	Kendra Allen, OH	Susaan Aram, CA
Darley Adare, NC	Rabbi Adam Allenberg, CA	Chris Archer, TX
Minister Michael Ade, NM	Veronica Alleyne, NY	Beverly Archibald, TX
David Adelson, NY	Katy Allie, CT	Janice Ardell, CA
Lisa Adolf, WA	Shirley Allison, CO	Lucille Arenson, CA
Priest Daniel Aerts, MI	Kelly Allison, MD	Cristine Arlet, FL
Christa Agostino, AZ	Jim Allyn, WA	Shirley Armand, IL
Casandra Agustin, AR	Gregg Alpert, CA	Bob Armintor, CO
Jed Aicher, NY	Gloriamarie Amalfitano, CA	Chris Armitage, UT
Marie Alabiso, MA	Bruce Ambuel, WI	James Armour, MO
Donna Aladeen, CA	Reverend David Ames, RI	LeRoi Armstead, NY
Priest Stacy Alan, IL	Martha H. Ames, RI	Gina Armstrong, AL
Donald Albert, DC	Lorenza Amico, VA	Peter Arneson, NY
	Kara Ammon, NH	

Linda Bescrypt, AZ  
 Herb Bettin, CA  
 Terri Betz, OR  
 Pastor Claire Beutler-Cruise,  
 WI  
 Emma Beverage, TX  
 Rabbi Binyamin Biber, MD  
 Sara Bible, MN  
 Josh Billings, GA  
 Gene Binder, NY  
 Gary Binderim, TX  
 Sammie Birdsall, MI  
 Cori Bishop, NJ  
 Nancy Bishop, OR  
 Scott Bishop, WA  
 Hal Bitner, PA  
 Alan Bixler, NM  
 Joanne black, NY  
 Sandra Blackburn, CA  
 William Blackshear, CO  
 Katherine Blackwood, VA  
 Sarah Blain, CA  
 Anna Blake, WA  
 Pastor Max Blalock, VA  
 Rosemary Blanchard, NM  
 Reverend Tsukina Blessing,  
 WA  
 Patricia Blevins, CA  
 Steve Bloom, NY  
 Sharon Bodman, OR  
 Brian Boettcher, WI  
 Phyllis Bogartz, CA  
 Matthew Boguske, WA  
 Sonua Bohannon, TN  
 Scott Boileau, SC  
 Kathryn Boland, MA  
 Miss Crystal J Boles, AZ  
 dan bolger, CA  
 Ronnie Bolling, FL  
 Priest Charles Bolser, IL  
 Barbie Bolt, TN  
 Mona Bomgaars, HI  
 Juliana Boner, MN  
 Christine Bonn, SC  
 Julia Bonnell, NY

Reverend James J. Boone, Jr.,  
 MA  
 Dave Boorse, PA  
 Ray Bordine, OH  
 Bishop Most Rev. Mel  
 Borham DD, MA  
 Deborah L Born, FL  
 Anne Borreggine, ME  
 Francy Pavlas Bose, WA  
 Father Allan Bouley, MN  
 Jeremy Bourget, RI  
 David Bowles, CA  
 Jason Bowman, CA  
 Marci Bowman, CO  
 Karen Boyd, MN  
 Malaika Boyd, TX  
 Susan Boyer, GA  
 Frances Boyle, PA  
 Sandra Boylston, FL  
 Lorraine brabham, NJ  
 Gregg Bracke, KY  
 Rhonda Bracken, NC  
 Kathy Bradley, SC  
 Anita Lynn Brady, CA  
 Sandra Brady, FL  
 Mike Braham, KS  
 Judy Braham, KS  
 Georgia Braithwaite, AZ  
 Marian Brand, NY  
 Daniel Brant, WA  
 Barbara Brass, CA  
 Valorie Bratcher, MO  
 Deborah Bratcher, TX  
 Jim Brauner, MO  
 Priest Ellen Brauza, NY  
 James Bray, WI  
 Elana Brazile, OR  
 Pastor James Brehler, OH  
 Dianne Brehmer, NM  
 Kathleen Brendel, IL  
 Jane Brennan, PA  
 Pastor Don Brenneman, CO  
 Swanson Brent, ID  
 Thomas Brewster, FL  
 Deborah Brewster, IL

Margaret Brick, PA  
 Merlin Brinkerhoff, MT  
 Mary Brinton, IL  
 Patricia Briones, CO  
 Heather Broadfoot, NY  
 Minister Judy Brock, TX  
 Father Blaise Brockman, CA  
 Diana Brodscholl, NJ  
 Priest Rev. Ruth Broeski, OR  
 David Brokaw, NY  
 Alan Bromborsky, MD  
 Ruth Brooker, MN  
 Rev. James E Brooking, CA  
 Claire Broome, CA  
 Sister Magdalen Broussard,  
 LA  
 Tina Brown, AR  
 Bernard Brown, AZ  
 Duncan Brown, AZ  
 Minister Molly Brown, CA  
 Rabbi Jerry Brown, CA  
 Reverend Rachelle Brown, IL  
 Sandra S. Brown, MA  
 Craig Brown, MN  
 Linda Brown, NV  
 Brandye Brown, TX  
 BONNIE BROWN, UT  
 Robert Brown, WA  
 Phyllis Browne, MA  
 Frederick Browne, MO  
 Minister Geoff Browning, CA  
 Felicia Bruce, FL  
 Maureen Brucker, CO  
 Jim Brunner, CA  
 Babette Bruton, FL  
 Stan Bryant, CO  
 Cade Bryant, FL  
 Rabbi Shawna  
 Brynjegard-Bialik, CA  
 Ken and Donna Bubbs, NV  
 Laura Buccola, CA  
 Eben Buchanan, GA  
 Kathleen Buckley, NM  
 Stephanie Budwey, MA  
 Stephan Bugaj, CA

Danielle Christmas, NC  
Logan Chrysler, WA  
Mark Chudzik, OH  
Marianne Ciardullo, CT  
Darlene Cieri, NY  
Karen Cignoli, NY  
Edna Ciurleo, MN  
Maria Clair-Howard, NY  
Michael Clancy, NY  
Gary Clark, CA  
Mary Clark, IN  
Morgan Clark, NJ  
Cate Clark, NM  
Carol Clark, NY  
Jacquelyn Clark, OR  
Cameron Clark, TN  
Charles Clark, WI  
Victoria Clark, WI  
Julia Clarke, WA  
Thad Clarksoles, TX  
Gayle Clark-Taylor, WI  
Ann Clark-Whitlock, FL  
Gretchen Clay, WA  
James Cleek, TX  
Elise Cleva, VA  
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Cleveland-Ryan, VT  
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Minister Rev. Robert Coats,  
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Pastor Rev. Joe Cobb, VA  
Deborah Coble, NY  
John Cochrane, OR  
Patricia Cockrell, MI  
Catherine Coco, CT  
Margo coffer, MT  
Ashley Coffman, IN  
Albert Coffman, PA  
Minister Marian Coger, NY  
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Shelly Cohen, WA  
Craig Colclough, CA  
Michele Cole, NY  
Nadina Cole-Potter, AZ  
Beverly Colgan, NV

Angel Collie, NC  
Blythe Collier, CA  
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Peggy S. Collins, MI  
Karen Colson, FL  
Pastor Rev. CC Coltrain, OH  
Albert Coltrane, GA  
William Combs, CA  
Mary Jo Comerford, IL  
Rene Compean, CA  
Virginia (Ginger) Comstock,  
NY  
Mariama Congo, MA  
Crystal Conklin, OR  
Minister Rev. Jim Conn, CA  
Reverend Jeffrey Conn, PA  
Jan Conner, MN  
Adam Conner-Sax, NY  
Mindy Connolly, IA  
Debra Connolly, NJ  
Arthur Connor, CA  
Bob Conrich, FL  
JoAnn Consiglieri, CA  
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Sister Elizabeth Conyers, RI  
Pastor Jerry Cook, AR  
Carol Cook, CA  
Beth Cook, MN  
Elizabeth Cook, NC  
Kathleen Cook, NY  
Catherine Cook, TX  
Marian Cooley, IN  
Laura Cooley, NH  
Richard E Cooley, NM  
Margaret Coons, SC  
Nathan Cordell, TX  
Diane Cordelle, NH  
Guy Cordelle, NH  
Sandra Corder, VA  
Joanne Corey, NY  
Jared Cornelia, DE  
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Danee Costa, AL  
Mary Costello, MD

Mark Costner, NC  
Stosh Cotler, NY  
Barbara Cotter, VA  
Rita Cotterly, TX  
Scott Cottrill, NM  
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Stephen Courim, TX  
Susan Courtney, FL  
Arthur Couture Jr, MA  
Leonard Cowan, CA  
Sister Mary Macrina Cowan,  
OK  
Reverend David Cowell, CA  
Kara Cox, VA  
Minister John Coyle, NC  
Reverend Charlotte Coyle, TX  
Jerry Coyle, TX  
Bob Craft, CA  
Reverend Ann Craig, NY  
Elizabeth G. Craig, TX  
Betsy Crane, PA  
Amy Crawford, CA  
kaye Crawford, CA  
Sheilagh Creighton, CA  
Richard Creswell, CO  
Reverend Rylie Crine, OH  
Aaron Cristaldi, NY  
Robert Criste-Troutman, PA  
John Cronin, CA  
Bernadette Cronin-Geller, PA  
Norman Crouter, WA  
Rita Crowley, IL  
William Crum, NY  
Ruth Crump, MD  
Reverend Jennifer Crumpton,  
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Cindy Cruz, CA  
Drew Cucuzza, CT  
Minister Jack Cuffari, NJ  
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Sarah Cullen, FL  
John Culley, TN  
Suzanne Cunliffe, WA  
tish cunningham, FL  
Judy Curcuru, MI

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 Philip Drumm, NJ  
 Chris Drumright, TN  
 Lucia Dryanski, IA  
 Carolyn Drymon, FL  
 Sara DuBois, WA  
 Tim Duda, TX  
 Marianne Duddy-Burke, MA  
 Lloyd Dudley, VA  
 Priest John Duffell, NY  
 JoAnn Duman, TX  
 Sylvia Duncan, TX  
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 Kathleen Dunlap, PA  
 Lorian Dunlop, CA  
 Sara Dunn, IN  
 Tricia Dunne-Silvetti, NY  
 Colin Dunnigan, AZ  
 Erica Durante, NJ  
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 Alia Durfee, WI  
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 Brother Frank Dwyer, NC  
 Mary Dyer, IA  
 Cheryl Dykstra, NY  
 Cheryl Dzubak, NJ  
 Susan Earle, MA  
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 Brian Eason, AZ  
 Janet Easton, NY  
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 Lorrie Eaton, WA  
 Marcus Ebenhoe, NY  
 Brother Harold Eccles, KY  
 Jerome Edelman, NY  
 Sandra Edelman, NY  
 Carolyn Edelstein, VA  
 Roy Edfast, WA  
 Patdover Edmunds, GA  
 Eric Edwards, IL  
 Penny Edwards, OK  
 Reverend Judi Edwards, WA  
 Tenaya Egbert, MN  
 Rabbi Denise Eger, CA  
 Barbara Ehemann, TX

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 Lynetta Elder, TX  
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 Susie Elleman, CO  
 Nancy Ellingham, WA  
 Minister Rev John Ellington, KS  
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 Jean Elliott, IL  
 Robert Elliott, IL  
 Joanne Elman, NC  
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 Richard Ennis, CA  
 Hedy Epstein, MO  
 Kelly Epstein, TX  
 Arlyn Erdman, CA  
 Heidi Erdmann, WA  
 Barb Ericksen, ME  
 Mandy Erickson, CA  
 Cleo Ernst, WA  
 Minister Florence Ernzen, MI  
 Donald Erway, HI  
 John Eschen, WA  
 Debbie Espinola, MA  
 Cecilia Espinoza, AZ  
 Catriona Esquibel, CA  
 Elaine Eudy, GA  
 Vincent Evangelisti, PA  
 Michael W Evans, CA  
 Becky Everson, CA  
 Deacon Herb Evert, WI  
 Tracy Ewing, CA  
 Jeanne Exline, MN  
 Donna Eyster, MI  
 Laura Faber, NC  
 Neil Fagan, IA  
 Rita Fahrner, CA  
 Reverend Bonnie Faith-Smith, MA  
 Kathleen Fallon, TX  
 Minister Jeff Falter, NY  
 Newton Farmer, KY  
 Suzanne Fast, FL  
 Stephen Fast, PA

Charley Faulkenberry, SC  
 LeSashea Feagin, IN  
 Pastor Paul Feiertag, CA  
 Tracy Feldman, NC  
 Becks Feng, OK  
 Robert Fenstermaker, PA  
 Pastor Dave Ferguson, CA  
 Marcia Ferguson, DE  
 Janice Ferguson, NY  
 Beverly Fernsemer, ND  
 Michael Ferris, CA  
 Alda Fers, MD  
 Rabbi Michael Fessler, NY  
 Sue Feutz, SC  
 Ruth Fichter, MI  
 Siobhan Field, CA  
 Tom Field, VA  
 Johnny Fifles, WY  
 Felicity Figueroa, CA  
 Priest Christopher Fike, MA  
 Pastor Stephen Filizzi, FL  
 James Finch, TN  
 Patricia Finder-Stone, RN, MS, WI  
 Rabbi Brian Fink, NY  
 Brother D. Hadley Finke, MO  
 Carolyn Finken-Dove, KS  
 Alberta Finnegan, CA  
 Ashley Finucane, MD  
 Monica Firely, FL  
 Douglas Firman, VA  
 Jenna Firshein, NJ  
 Rabbi Rabbi Stephen Fisch, TX  
 JC Fisher, CA  
 Jenifer Fisher, CO  
 Reverend Barbara Anne Fisher, MD  
 Rebecca Fisher, MO  
 Deacon Catharine Fisher, VA  
 Ted Fishman, CA  
 Todd Fisk, CA  
 Silvio Fittipaldi, PA  
 Chris Fitts, NY  
 Mary-Elizabeth Fitzgerald,

James Gilmore, OR	Molly Gray, TX	Sharon Groves, DC
Eric Gilmour, MT	Martha Elaine Graybill, CA	Dale Grupe, IL
Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, IL	Deacon Annelissa Gray-Lion, MI	Ellen Guertin, CT
Dana Ginn, CA	Sister Jodie Greb, TX	David R. Guinnup, DE
Margarita Giustino, TX	June Green, CA	Stephen M Gulick, PA
Susanne Given, NH	Ralph Green, CO	Rachel Gullett, AZ
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Carol Gloor, IL	Mary Kay Green, JD, MO	Elizabeth Guthrie, NY
Reverend Rosalind Gnatt, TX	Marc Greenberg, NY	Andrea Gutierrez, CO
Cliff Goddard, TX	Cantor Tanya Greenblatt, NY	Steven Guzman-Peonio, CO
Jim Godin, WI	Eliza Greene, CA	Annie Gwynne-Vaughan, CA
Debra Godwin, OR	Marilee Greene, MI	Lama Gyatso, CA
Jane Goesch, WI	Reverend Ronald Greene, MT	Pastor Jon Haack, TX
Kassie Goforth, WA	David Greene, PA	Edda Hackl, IL
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Ellen Goldin, NY	Georgan Gregg, NC	Gloria Hafner, CA
john golding, CA	Carolyn Gregg, WA	Kathy Hagenow, IN
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Wanda Goleman, LA	Arthur Gregorian, CA	Sharmala Haines, FL
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Bronte Gonzales, TX	Pamylle Greinke, NY	Robert Hakes Jr, FL
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Justo Gonzalez, NY	Brother Eric Grejda, CA	Pastor Sara Hale, PA
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Richard Gorringer, Ph. D., OR	Minister Robert Griffin, FL	Janice Hallman, MN
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barbara graham, CA	Mother Christina Gringeri, UT	Keith Hamburg, WA
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Jacqueline Graham, SC	Wayne Groesbeck, MI	Reverend Sue Hamly, MN
Christopher Granholm, AZ	Minister Annie Grogan, TX	Eleanor Hammer, CA
Lynn Grant, FL	John D Groppe, IN	Linda Hanchett, OR
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Chuck Graver, NJ	Steve Grout, PA	Jon Haney, GA
Caryn Graves, CA	Barbara Grove, TX	Susan Haney, NY
Richard Gray, IL		Jane Hanna, NM
Alison Gray, PA		Eleanor Hanna, PA

Joel Hofslund, IL  
 Felicity Hohenshelt, FL  
 Suzi Hokonson, WA  
 Ken Holder, TX  
 Brett Holland, CA  
 Kelly Holland, CA  
 Valerie Holland, HI  
 John Holland, MA  
 Jenny Holland, TX  
 Billy Hollaway, OK  
 Pamela Hollenbeck, OH  
 Thomas Holley, OR  
 John Hollick, NY  
 Crissy Hollifield, SC  
 Becky Holloman, KY  
 James Holloway, NM  
 James L. Holman, IL  
 Reverend Candy Holmes, MD  
 Stephanie Holmes, NY  
 Derek Holodak, CT  
 JC Honeycutt, NC  
 Alexander Honigsblum, IA  
 Mila Honor, NC  
 Jennifer Honor, VA  
 Mary Ellen Honsaker, WY  
 Marjorie Hood, GA  
 Margaret Hooper, OK  
 Janet Hoover, CA  
 Paul Hoover, PA  
 Deana Hopkins, CO  
 Donald Hopkins, PA  
 James Hopkins, WY  
 Keith Horn, LA  
 Paul Horne, FL  
 Adam Horne, NY  
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 Kathryn Horvat, UT  
 Martin Horwitz, CA  
 Clint Hosch, MI  
 Laurent Hourcle, ME  
 Jeanette Housner, WA  
 Margaret Houston, CT  
 Rebecca Howarth, CA  
 Linda Howe, MA

Jim Howe, NC  
 Craig Howerton, AZ  
 Pastor Jana Howson, IL  
 C. Brent Hoy-Bianchi, NV  
 Reverend Benjamin Hubbard, CA  
 Dan Hubbard, NH  
 Reverend Jo Hudson, TX  
 Tim Huegerich, WI  
 Glenn Hufnagel, NY  
 Ann Hughes, KS  
 Karen Hughes, OH  
 Lisa Hughes, TX  
 Angela Hughes, VA  
 Terry Huinker, CO  
 Jean Hulme, IA  
 Thomas Humphrey, IL  
 Sharon Humphries-Brooks, NY  
 Chasity Hungerford, OR  
 Lesley Hunt, CA  
 Bruce Hunt, MA  
 Marcia Hunt, MA  
 Jan Hunter, OH  
 Rehana Huq, NY  
 Carol Hurlburt, VA  
 Martha Hurlburt, VA  
 Rosalind Hurw, IL  
 Jeffrey Hurwitz, CA  
 Jason Husby, MN  
 John Hutchens, WA  
 Linda Hutchison, MD  
 Arthur Ide, IA  
 Sonia ImMasche, CO  
 Milla Impola, NY  
 Mary Irons, SC  
 Beth Irvin, NC  
 Sandy Irving, NC  
 Priest Margaret Irwin, WI  
 Judith Isaacson, MN  
 Landon Isabell, MO  
 Cheryl Ivey, IL  
 Hitesh Iyer, CA  
 Doug Jablin, NV  
 David Jackson, TX

Elisabeth Jacobs, NY  
 Robert Jacobson, NY  
 Martha Jaegers, MO  
 Beverly Janowitz-Price, AZ  
 Mark Janssen, SC  
 Robert Janusko, PA  
 Lark Jarvis, TX  
 Jane Jatinen, TX  
 Blamo Jaurey, NY  
 Keyon Jeff, LA  
 Paul Jefferson, KS  
 Mary Jensen, NY  
 James Jepson, CA  
 Judy Jerde, MN  
 Douglas & Deborah Jerry, WI  
 Pastor Karen Jesseph, KS  
 Diane Jobson, MI  
 Brian Johns, KS  
 Sister Ginny Johnson, CA  
 Valerie Johnson, CA  
 Eric Johnson, CA  
 Pamela Johnson, DE  
 Esther Johnson, FL  
 Janet Johnson, IA  
 Deacon Thalia Johnson, MI  
 Candi Johnson, MN  
 Reverend David Johnson, NC  
 Bruce Johnson, NV  
 Michele Johnson, NY  
 Priest Christopher Johnson, OR  
 Gail Johnson, OR  
 Kathleen Johnson, OR  
 Lin Johnson, OR  
 Amy Johnson, WA  
 Corbin Johnson, WA  
 Lorraine D. Johnson, WA  
 Richard Johnson, WA  
 Elaine Dorough Johnson, WI  
 Mary Johnston, MD  
 Father Clifford Johnston, PA  
 Kristin Johnstone, NJ  
 Reverend Rev. Kevin L. Jones, CA  
 Reverend The Rev. Allan B.

Charles Koehler, CA  
 Leonard Koel, NM  
 Deacon Elizabeth  
 Koffron-Eisen, IA  
 Mary Kokesh, NJ  
 Michael F Kolassa, NY  
 Rabbi Debra Kolodny, OR  
 Mary Ann Kono, CA  
 Jan Koopman, MI  
 Mark Koppel, MI  
 Sister Gloria Korhonen OP,  
 MI  
 Father E Skip Koritzer, MD  
 Rabbi Audrey Korotkin, PA  
 Deacon Sharon Kosek, MO  
 Kate Kosse, AZ  
 Steven Kranowski, VA  
 Martha Kransdorf, MI  
 Judith Kratzke, IL  
 Al Krause, NY  
 Jessica Krawec, NY  
 Dwight Krehbiel, KS  
 George Krikorian, MA  
 Nancy Krody, PA  
 Stephen Krokowski, AR  
 Jenny Kropf, MI  
 Vicky Krulic, MO  
 Karen Krumbach, MI  
 Virginia Krutilek, CA  
 Chris Kubiak, IL  
 Kathleen Kuczynski, CA  
 Gilbert Kudrin, OH  
 R. Kuenstler, TX  
 Deacon Marty Kuhn, OH  
 Jennifer Kuhn, OH  
 Walt Kuhn, OH  
 Monica Kulaga, MI  
 Gerrie Kunin, CA  
 Paula Kursh, CA  
 Katherine Kurzius, NY  
 Andrew Kurzweil, NY  
 Robert Kuzma, CA  
 Peter Kwass, MA  
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 Lana La Fata, MO

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 Michael Lagana, NY  
 Jane Lagas, CA  
 Douglas Laing, DC  
 linda laisure, CA  
 Danna Lamb-Vines, TX  
 Martha Lammers, TN  
 Doug Landau, FL  
 michael landess, IL  
 Cathy Lane, ME  
 Rebecca Lang, KS  
 Lynn C. Lang, MN  
 Pastor Theresa Langdon, MD  
 Sister Jarryl Larson, ME  
 Christina Larson, TX  
 Judith Lasko, NY  
 Sharon Lasman, CA  
 Doxie Lauer, OH  
 Don Lauferweiler, OH  
 Liana Laughlin, MA  
 Lue Lauretano, CT  
 Deb Laurion, CO  
 Fred Lavy, VA  
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 Robert Lawrence, CA  
 Emily Lawton, WA  
 James Le Blanc, TX  
 Maecie Leach, CA  
 Mary Leach, MD  
 Vlk Leafe, NC  
 Odilia Leal-McBride, TX  
 William Leavy, NM  
 Roanne LeBrun, HI  
 Nancy Leclerc, NH  
 Russell Leclerc, SC  
 Jessica Lederman, NJ  
 Lawrence Lee, CA  
 Christopher Lee, IL  
 Calvin Lee, MO  
 Sherry Lee, SC  
 Jim Lee, TX  
 Deborah Leff, PA  
 Louise Leger, MO  
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 lynda leigh, CA  
 FRED LEISS, CT  
 Tammy Lemmer, MI  
 Kathryn LeMosy, IL  
 Lisa Leonard, MN  
 E.A. Leone, CA  
 Howard Lepzelter, NY  
 Michele Leschi, FL  
 Michael Leslie, CA  
 Leann Lesperance, NY  
 Laurie Lessner, MA  
 David Lester, GA  
 Patricia Lestz, CA  
 Kiu Leung, WI  
 Mother Carole Levine, IL  
 Rhoda Levine, NY  
 Asher Levine, VT  
 Bonnie Levitt, AZ  
 Rabbi Eugene Levy, AR  
 Pastor Miryam Levy, NM  
 Russell Lewis, CA  
 Rose Lewis, MI  
 Reverend Jacqueline Lewis,  
 NY  
 Karen Liao, CA  
 Joanna Liao, NY  
 Lester Libby, CA  
 Rabbi Elias Lieberman, MA  
 Cecilia Lieder, MN  
 Rachel Lighter, IN  
 David Liles, TX  
 Bryan Lilienkamp, IN  
 John Limbach, WI  
 James Lin, NM  
 Jan Lindemann, NY  
 Bob Lindhart, Mn  
 Sakari Lindhen, WI  
 Diane Lindner, FL  
 Minister Donna Lindsey, CA  
 Mary Linduska, CA  
 Barbara Linsley, NY  
 Beverly Linton, MA  
 Robert Linzmeier, IL  
 Michael Lipinski, CA



Marsha Maxwell, CA	Kathy McGinnis-Craft, TN	John Meier, TX
Brother Cory Maxwell, MO	Colleen McGlone, FL	Minister Marianna Mejia, CA
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February 10, 2017

The Honorable Steve King  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice  
Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice  
Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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TREASURER

**Re: Hearing on the State of Religious Liberty in the United States**

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Cohen:

The American Civil Liberties Union urges you to use the upcoming hearing on the state of religious liberty in the United States as an opportunity to conduct oversight over President Trump's un-American and unconstitutional executive order that intentionally discriminates against Muslims. It is critically important to have witnesses at this hearing who can speak from personal experience about the significant harm the executive order is causing. The ACLU stands ready to assist you in helping identify possible witnesses with relevant experiences.

Freedom of religion and belief is one of the guiding principles upon which the United States was founded. Indeed, the experience of even the earliest colonists coming here to escape religious persecution was part of the history that is reflected in the First Amendment to our Constitution. More than two centuries later, our nation is one of the most religiously diverse in the world and has become a safe harbor for immigrants and visitors of all faiths and no faith, including refugees fleeing persecution in their homelands.

President Trump's Muslim ban, however, flies in the face of these long held principles. President Trump has been very clear about his intent to prevent Muslims from entering the United States. In fact, he specifically promised to do so as a candidate. Presented with early objections to that proposal, he asked advisors how he could implement a Muslim ban indirectly, and they helped him craft an executive order to do just that. President Trump further admitted on national television that, through the executive order, he intended to favor

**Faiz Shakir**

Director, Washington Legislative Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

**Ian Thompson**

Legislative Representative

Cc: Members of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice

# CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE

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## IN GOOD CONSCIENCE

February 16, 2017

US House of Representatives  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice  
H2-362 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King, Ranking Member Cohen and Members of the Subcommittee:

I write today to add perspective to your hearing on the important subject, "State of Religious Liberty in America."

For more than 40 years, Catholics for Choice has served as a voice for the great majority of Catholics who believe that the Catholic tradition supports a woman's moral and legal right to follow her conscience on matters of important personal decisions, including reproductive health decisions. Throughout the world, we strive to be an expression of Catholicism as it is lived by ordinary people. We represent those who believe that Catholic teachings on conscience mean that every individual must follow his or her own conscience and that it is wrong to impede another's conscience-based decision-making. While religious voices and traditions are a vital part of public discourse, religious views cannot be given disproportionate weight in public policy discussions nor can government favor a particular set of religious beliefs. We believe in a world where all voices—the voices of the religious and of the secular, of Catholics and non-Catholics alike—are heard in discussions of public policy.

Catholic tradition also upholds the right of employees to work in environments that respect their dignity as human beings and that are free from discrimination. Denying a woman healthcare coverage simply because of where she works is discriminatory and despicable. Firing an employee because they love a same sex partner or received in vitro fertilization to start their family is contemptible. Using religion as a tool to single out and control the behavior of those whose beliefs are different from ours is wrong and antithetical to our long-standing tradition of protecting human dignity. As Catholics, we are called by our faith to follow our consciences in all matters of moral decision-making and to respect the right of others to do the same.

True religious freedom is an expansive rather than restrictive idea. It has two sides, freedom of religion and freedom *from* religion. Protecting religious liberty is not about telling people what they can and cannot believe or practice, and it is not a license to practice one's beliefs in ways that diminish other's practice of their beliefs. True religious freedom protects the right of all members of society—no matter their beliefs—to live their lives free of religious interference. The protections in place to preserve religious freedom and protect religious expression do not—and cannot be considered to—permit religious institutions or individuals to obstruct or coerce the exercise of another's conscience.

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February 15, 2017

Mr. Steve King  
Chairman  
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2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Cohen:

The undersigned organizations write prior to the Thursday, February 16, hearing on "The State of Religious Liberty in America," to highlight what we believe is an extraordinary threat to religious freedom that our nation faces right now: President Donald Trump's executive order that discriminates against Muslims.

President Trump's executive order runs counter to the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom and betrays our nation's values. People of all faiths and backgrounds have long sought refuge in our country and its promise of religious freedom. This executive order is fundamentally wrong.

The undersigned organizations have all advocated for religious freedom, standing up for the foundational American principle, and include organizations that represent communities affected by the executive order. We know that treating one faith as second-class and favoring others, as the executive order does, threatens all faiths and the religious freedom that protects us all. We stand against this executive order, as we would stand against any policy that similarly singles out one particular faith for discriminatory treatment.

We urge the Committee to examine this immediate, ongoing threat to religious freedom during the hearing.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Anti-Defamation League  
Arab American Institute  
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
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February 16, 2017

The Honorable Steve King  
Chair  
House Judiciary Subcommittee on the  
Constitution and Civil Justice  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Subcommittee on the  
Constitution and Civil Justice  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Cohen:

We write to provide the views of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for today's House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearings on "The State of Religious Liberty in America," and ask that this statement be included as part of the official hearings record.

### The Anti-Defamation League

For more than a century, the Anti-Defamation League has been an active advocate for religious freedom for all Americans – whether in the majority or minority. The League has been a leading national organization promoting interfaith cooperation and intergroup understanding. Among ADL's core beliefs is strict adherence to the separation of church and state effectuated through both the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. As an organization with deep roots in the Jewish community, we do not come to this position out of hostility towards religion. Rather, our position reflects a profound respect for religious freedom and a deep appreciation for America's extraordinary diversity of religious communities. We believe a high wall of separation between government and religion is essential to the continued flourishing of religious practice and belief in America, and to the protection of all religions and their adherents.

ADL believes that true religious freedom is best achieved when all individuals are able to practice their faith or choose not to observe any faith; when government neutrally accommodates religion, but does not favor any particular religion; and when religious belief is not used to harm or infringe on the rights of others through government action or others in the public marketplace. The United States government should not sanction discrimination in the name of religion – and it should not fund it. The right to individual religious belief and practice is fundamental. But there should be no license to discriminate with government authority or funds. Religion should not be used as a sword to restrict someone else's rights or to thwart federal or state civil rights or anti-discrimination laws.

**Imagine a World Without Hate®**

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 F 212.867.0779 [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)

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Renaming President Bush's creation the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, President Obama continued the Faith-Based Initiative. But over the past eight years, the administration adopted welcome new rules and regulations to provide essential safeguards against proselytizing and discrimination for program participants and beneficiaries in federally-funded faith-based programs – important steps towards restoring government and religion to their proper roles. However, problems remain, including religious discrimination in hiring and firing within some taxpayer-funded social service and other programs.

ADL's concern also includes federal and state school vouchers and neo-vouchers programs, including the District of Columbia's voucher program, which primarily fund religious schools that engage in religious indoctrination. Superficially, school vouchers might seem a relatively benign way to increase the options poor parents have for educating their children. But in fact, vouchers pose a serious threat to values that are vital to the health of American democracy. Voucher programs compel taxpayers to fund parochial schools that indoctrinate particular faiths with which they are not affiliated or do not agree. Such funding undermines constitutional principles of the separation of church and state. While the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Cleveland, Ohio school vouchers program in the 2002 *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* case, that decision was limited to the facts in that particular case. And the Court's decision in *Zelman* does not disturb the bedrock constitutional principle that no government program may be designed to advance religious institutions over non-religious institutions.

Vouchers threaten our democracy in another core manner: by undermining our system of public education. Implementation of voucher programs sends a clear message that we are giving up on public education. The genius of the American system of public education is its inclusiveness. It serves all children, regardless of their religion, their academic achievements, or their ability to pay a fee. This policy of inclusiveness has made our public education system the backbone of American democracy. In contrast, many voucher programs allow participating schools to discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, academic ability, or disciplinary history.

As our country becomes increasingly diverse, the public school system stands out as an institution that unifies Americans. Under voucher programs, our educational system and our country would become even more Balkanized than today. With the help of taxpayers' dollars, private schools would be filled with well-to-do and middle-class students and a handful of the best, most motivated students from inner cities. Meanwhile, public schools would be left with fewer dollars to teach the poorest of the poor and other students who, for one reason or another, are not able to attend or choose not to attend private schools. Such a scenario could seriously impair public education.

#### **Religious Accommodation and Coercion in the Military**

Over the last decade, ADL has also raised concerns and advocated on issues of religious accommodation and coercion in the military. Members of the U.S. Armed Services must not be discriminated against on the basis of their religion. And our nation's honored military training academies – the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), West Point, and the Naval Academy – bear a special responsibility to avoid religious coercion and to respect the rights of religious minorities guaranteed by the Constitution. Further, our military academies have an important

accommodation for fundamental aspects of minority religious practices of some aspiring soldiers, including observant Jews and Sikhs:

As currently drafted, section 4(g) of the revised Instruction would require religiously observant service members and prospective service members to remove their head coverings, cut their hair, or shave their beards – a violation of their religious obligations – while their request to accommodate these same religious practices is pending. This is so, even if they are otherwise qualified to serve and an accommodation is unlikely to undermine safety or other necessary objectives. We urge you to reconsider this provision, which has the effect of forcing some religiously observant service members to make an impossible choice between their faith and their chosen profession.

The coalition letter urged revisions to the religious accommodation Instruction to avoid “an unwelcome and unnecessary chilling effect on religious liberty” which would “limit opportunities for talented individuals of faith to serve in our nation’s military.”

Following a lawsuit by Captain Simratpal Singh requesting religious accommodations, the Army issued a directive in March 2016 providing an exception to the Army’s personal appearance and grooming standards to enable the Captain to wear a beard, turban, and uncut hair in observance of his Sikh faith. And in October 2016 the Army provided welcome further clarity and guidance on religious accommodation requests. We remain committed to working with Pentagon officials towards the goal of promoting religious accommodation and respect in all the service branches.

#### **Sectarian Prayers before Local Legislative Bodies**

ADL has long opposed sectarian and non-sectarian prayers in legislatures, although the Supreme Court authorized certain legislative prayers in *Marsh v. Chambers* in 1983. Even non-sectarian prayers have the potential to divide communities along religious lines as they can exclude community members from polytheistic faiths or no faith tradition.

The Supreme Court’s closely-divided 2014 *Greece v. Galloway* town council prayer decision is deeply disturbing. It effectively permits overtly-sectarian opening prayers in one faith tradition before local legislative bodies where ordinary community members seek redress from public officials. Indeed, there already have been many reports about municipal or county board members expressing intentions to have invocations in only one faith tradition at public meetings.

In our pluralistic society, prayers at meetings of local legislative bodies – particularly sectarian ones – inevitably cause some community members to feel isolated or excluded, and divide communities along religious lines. Although the *Greece* decision generally permits sectarian legislative prayers, it does not mandate them. ADL firmly believes that invocations before public meetings of local legislative bodies are coercive and bad public policy. The League strongly discourages local public officials from instituting prayers – sectarian or non-sectarian – at public meetings. To the extent that some communities feel a need to open their meetings with some sort of solemnizing moment, the most appropriate and inclusive alternative would be a moment of silence.

and other cases against refusals to abide by public accommodations laws based on religious objections to same-sex marriage.

In addition, ADL has opposed overly-broad religious exceptions to anti-bullying laws relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. And the League has taken issue with post-secondary students in secular counseling, social worker, and psychology programs seeking to opt out of curriculum requirements relating to LGBT clients or issues on religious grounds.

The League has also opposed so-called “First Amendment Defense Acts” (FADA) at the federal and state level. FADA is designed to block enforcement of federal or state anti-discrimination laws so long as that non-compliance is grounded in religious or moral objections. To the extent that these legislative proposals seek to extend special protections for specific religious beliefs or a preference for a particular religious understanding of marriage, they are unconstitutional under the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause. Because the legislative proposals seek to enshrine a particular religious viewpoint into law and lack a secular purpose, they necessarily run afoul of Establishment Clause principles. In addition, these bills violate the Establishment Clause because their primary effect, if not its sole effect, is to advance the religious viewpoints enshrined in the text of the legislation. By granting special exemptions for those who hold the enumerated religious viewpoints, the government cannot help but express that such views are deserving of a special status.

#### **Political Speech by Tax-Exempt Organizations**

Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has prohibited any tax-exempt organization, including religious organizations, from endorsing or opposing a particular political candidate. President Trump has vowed to eliminate the Johnson Amendment and legislation has been introduced to repeal it.

Under current law, houses of worship may not engage in partisan political activity – and they may not donate tax-exempt money to political campaigns. Clergy and other religious leaders have broad First Amendment rights to speak out on a range of political and social issues. The one thing they may not do is endorse or oppose a specific candidate for public office or use their resources in partisan campaigns. Supporters of the Johnson Amendment argue that it protects the wall between church and state, allowing each to operate free of the influence of the other. Repealing the Johnson Amendment would also likely result in divisive partisan debate in congregations, and pave the way for tax-exempt donations to flow through churches to candidates, effectively turning houses of worship into PACs.

#### **Conclusion**

Safeguarding religious freedom requires constant vigilance, and it is especially important to guard against one group or sect seeking to impose its religious doctrine or views on others. As George Washington wrote in his famous letter to the Touro Synagogue in 1790, in this country “all possess alike liberty of conscience.” He concluded: “It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its



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**House Judiciary Committee**  
**Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice**  
**Hearing on the "State of Religious Liberty in America"**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Statement of the National Center for Lesbian Rights**

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a non-profit, public interest law firm that litigates precedent-setting cases at the trial and appellate court levels, advocates for equitable public policies affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, provides free legal assistance to LGBT people and their legal advocates, and conducts community and public education on LGBT issues. NCLR has been advancing the civil and human rights of LGBT people and their families across the United States through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education since it was founded in 1977.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this statement for the record on the state of religious liberty in America in 2017, to help shine a light on how a doctrinally and historically unsupported notion of religious liberty is being mobilized to support proposed laws and policies that would inflict harm on religious and other minorities.

Religious liberty is a bedrock freedom in the United States, but like other rights enshrined in our Constitution, it is not absolute. The freedom to practice one's religion is not an unfettered license to impose one's beliefs on others or inflict harm. And while government must allow for the free exercise of religion, it must not favor one faith over others, or over those of no faith. Our public policies must protect the freedom of religion without permitting the beliefs and practices of some to deprive others of their fundamental civil rights.

We can look to the landmark Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom penned by Thomas Jefferson for the core principles we must bear in mind as we craft public policy that respects both religious belief and civil rights.

One such principle is that religious freedom is an inalienable right that must be protected in order to ensure equality. "All men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion."

that have elicited nationwide opposition and concern. For example, following enactment of Indiana's so-called "religious freedom" law in 2015, both business leaders and members of the general public expressed such serious concerns about the law that the legislature was forced to quickly pass, and the governor (now Vice President) to sign, an amendment to ensure legal protection for LGBT people. Measures in other states have been defeated after similarly encountering significant bipartisan opposition. One of the very few such measures to be enacted into law, HB 1523 in Mississippi, was struck down by a federal district court judge, who found that it violated both the Establishment Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. U.S. District Court Judge Carlton W. Reeves, in a lengthy and detailed opinion, found that HB 1523 ran afoul of the First Amendment in two ways – by establishing "an official preference for certain religious beliefs over others" and because "its broad religious exemption comes at the expense of other citizens."<sup>1</sup>

These state legislative proposals have been widely recognized, condemned and rejected as the broad attack on LGBT people that they are. And yet in 2017 we have already seen 40 such bills introduced in sixteen states. Under the guise of invented threats to religious freedom, opponents of LGBT equality are similarly attempting to bring this misguided effort to enshrine discrimination to the federal level, through both amendments to appropriations measures stand-alone legislation. These efforts should be rejected.

Perhaps even more distressing is the overt targeting of members of certain faiths for discriminatory treatment in recent executive branch policy pronouncements. Not only are such policies deeply offensive and contrary to the U.S. Constitution, they are passionately opposed by the citizens of this country. When the President sought to bar travelers, including U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, from certain majority Muslim nations from entering the United States, the public reaction was swift. Protests erupted around the country, lawyers mobilized to aid those trapped by these cruel policies, and legal actions were filed to enjoin their further harm. The use of religion to divide and discriminate is being vocally and publicly rejected from coast to coast, as the citizenry recognizes such acts as the threats to the liberty of all that they are.

True religious freedom means that the same right that protects the liberty of a sincere religious believer to pray, attend services, and promote their views in public also protects the right of a nontheist to not support religious institutions, and to oppose them publicly; the right of an LGBT individual to exercise legal rights and access public goods without facing discrimination based on another's religious belief; the right of a woman to be free to make personal decisions about her own reproductive health without interference; and the right of every taxpayer to keep public dollars from being funneled to religious organizations and schools that are unwilling to serve everyone equally.

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<sup>1</sup> *Barber v. Bryant*, 2016 WL 3562647, \*27, 31 (S.D. Miss. June 30, 2016).