

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

Using FY 2021 Appropriations to Support Nondiscrimination Measures Talking Points

The Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) requests strong language in FY 2021 Appropriations bills to protect the separation of state and church and to preserve key civil rights threatened by the Trump Administration.

Why is FFRF asking for these measures?

- This administration has taken extraordinary measures to weaponize religious freedom, using it to justify discrimination; to advance Christian Nationalism; and to erode the separation of state and church.
 - Trump signed [Executive Order 13798](#) in May 2017, requiring federal agencies to expand religious exemptions wherever possible. The [White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative](#) implements the order.
 - Agencies have responded by establishing divisions such as the [Religious Liberty Task Force](#) at DOJ, [Conscience and Religious Freedom Division](#) at HHS, and the [Commission on Unalienable Rights](#) at the DoS.
 - These divisions have pushed [numerous regulations](#) designed to promote Christian nationalism and a legal avenue for discrimination.
- Congress can use the appropriations process to block these harmful entities and regulations, and to support strong nondiscrimination measures.

What happens if a Christian Nationalism overruns the federal government?

- The erosion of the separation of state and church is allowing publicly funded contractors and service providers a legal route to discriminate against religious minorities, nonbelievers (26% of the country), LGBTQ citizens, and even the “wrong kind” of Christians (e.g., in the [Miracle Hill Adoption case out of S.C.](#))
- There have been other instances of discrimination, now or soon to be legalized, in [employment](#) and [healthcare](#).
- This type of discrimination is setting up a “separate but equal” system of legalized discrimination in the distribution of public services that allows publically funded departments and service providers to pick and choose which members of the public they want to serve (the right kind of Christians) and which ones they do not (everyone else).

FFRF is asking Congress to utilize all of their constitutional powers and use the appropriations process to block these harmful entities, and regulations, and to support strong nondiscrimination measures.

Contact:

Mark Dann

Director of Governmental Affairs, FFRF

mark@ffrf.org