

## Support Anti-Discrimination Measures and Preserve Separation of State and Church in FY 2021

Sending Office: Honorable Jared Huffman  
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**Support Anti-Discrimination Measures and Preserve Separation of State and Church in FY 2021**

**Deadline: Tuesday, March 10**

Dear Colleague:

Please join us and the members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus protecting the separation of state and church and preserving key civil rights and liberties that have been under threat from the Trump Administration in this year's appropriations bills. Our letter aims to highlight several areas in the various appropriations bills where our fundamental values as a nation can be preserved.

This administration has taken extraordinary measures to weaponize religious freedom, using it to justify discrimination and to erode the separation of state and church. This weaponization began early in the administration when Trump signed Executive Order 13798 in May 2017, requiring federal agencies to expand religious exemptions wherever possible. Within the White House, the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative is implementing this order.

Agencies are working with and coordinating with the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative by establishing divisions such as the Religious Liberty Task Force at the Department of Justice, Conscience and Religious Freedom Division at the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Commission on Unalienable Rights at the Department of State. These divisions have pushed numerous regulations designed to promote Christian nationalism and a legal avenue for discrimination.

Our requests ask appropriators to build on the strong nondiscrimination language that was included in the FY 2020 L-HHS House Appropriations bill into all non-defense appropriations bills

and deny funding for regulations and entities within departments that seek to discriminate using the guise of religious liberty.

Please join us in ensuring that Congress can use all legislative means possible to hold the Trump administration accountable for their disregard of our founding values. Contact Jordan Sciascia at [Jordan.Sciascia@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jordan.Sciascia@mail.house.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jared Huffman

Jamie Raskin

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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March XX, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills, we request your assistance to protect the separation of state and church and preserve key civil rights and liberties.

This administration has taken extraordinary measures to weaponize religious freedom, using it to justify discrimination and to erode the separation of state and church. This weaponization began early in the administration when Trump signed Executive Order 13798 in May 2017, requiring federal agencies to expand religious exemptions wherever possible. Within the White House, the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative is implementing this order.

Agencies are working with and coordinating with the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative by establishing divisions such as the Religious Liberty Task Force at the Department of Justice, Conscience and Religious Freedom Division at the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Commission on Unalienable Rights at the Department of State. These divisions have pushed numerous regulations designed to promote Christian nationalism and a legal avenue for discrimination.

Our requests ask appropriators to build on the strong nondiscrimination language that was included in the FY 2020 L-HHS House Appropriations bill into all non-defense appropriations bills and deny funding for regulations and entities within departments that seek to discriminate using the guise of religious liberty.

**Our requests are as follows:**

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Agriculture for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in USDA Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831

Commerce, Justice, Science:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Justice for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in Department of Justice's Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the Religious Liberty Task Force

Financial Services and General Government:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect of the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative.

Homeland Security:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Homeland Security for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in DHS's Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Veteran's Affairs for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based

Organizations in Veterans Affairs Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

- Sec. 236: None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Health and Human Services Department for Ensuring Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the Guidance of the Department of Education for Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Department of Labor for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in Department of Labor Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect of the Conscientious and Religious Freedom Division.

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the rule by the Agency for International Development for the Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in USAID's Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the Commission on Unalienable Rights.

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies:

We are recommending the following language insertions into the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills:

- None of the funds made available by this Act may be awarded to any organization, program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this act, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance that does not comply with subsections (c) and (d) of section 75.300 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation)

Sincerely,

Members of Congress