Although our nation and the Bill of Rights have dodged a bullet with this fall’s election, the Trump administration’s shameless packing of the courts with extremists threatens civil liberties and the First Amendment for generations. Imperiled are abortion and LGBTQ rights, and our secular Constitution.

Judges hand-selected by the Federalist Society for their Christian Nationalist or reactionary credentials now comprise a quarter-plus of our federal judiciary. A majority of ultraconservatives on the Supreme Court, in a perversion of “religious liberty,” just quashed a New York pandemic health policy limiting church gatherings during the COVID-19 spike. Dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor properly warned: “Justices in this court play a deadly game in second guessing the expert judgment of health officials.” Political and judicial deference to religion over science is sabotaging rational response to the pandemic—and many other policies.

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