

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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June 29, 2022

SENT VIA FAX & U.S. MAIL: 202-226-9669

The Honorable Lauren Boebert
U.S. House of Representatives
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Dangerous and ignorant endorsement of religion in government

Dear Representative Boebert:

We are writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to correct the record on a number of serious misstatements you made recently regarding the separation of state and church. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 37,000 members across the country, including more than 1,100 members and two chapters in Colorado. FFRF protects the constitutional separation between state and church and educates about nontheism.

On June 26, 2022, as a guest speaker at the Cornerstone Christian Center, you endorsed the expanding role of religion in American politics. You implied that America is a Christian country, explaining that you “believe that there are two nations that have been created to glorify God. Israel, whom we bless, and the United States of America. . . . **this nation will glorify God.**”¹

You celebrated the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, which upheld a fundamental right for decades. You implied that this decision was mandated by your Christian god, telling the congregation that “this is the fruit of your labor, of your votes, and of your prayers. This is your harvest.”²

You claimed that the crises currently facing our nation are due to the separation between state and church. You falsely claimed that the founders of our country wanted the two to be intertwined, that the “**church is supposed to direct the government**, the government is not supposed to direct the church,” and that this type of separation is “**not how our founding fathers intended it.**”³ You implied to the congregation that god has a say in our

¹ Cornerstone Christian Center welcomes Us Congress Representative Lauren Boebert, (June 26, 2022), at 59:30, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWOSEF3SHdUo> (emphasis added).

² *Id.* at 45:30

³ *Id.* at 1:27:07 (emphasis added).

nation's politics, and that "we have a country to save and God is using us to do it. . . . we are in cooperation with him."⁴ You then dangerously emboldened the congregation and other viewers, alleging that because God is on your side, they "have been given all authority over the power of the enemy," and that they "may trample on serpents and scorpions."⁵

Finally, **you explicitly attacked the constitutionally mandated concept of religious neutrality**. You told the congregation that you are "**tired of this separation of church and state junk**."⁶ You falsely asserted that separation of state and church is "not in the Constitution, it was in a stinking letter and **means nothing** like what they say it does."⁷

America's secular government is what makes it America.

The main theme of your misstatements—whether you are making them out of shameful ignorance or simply to pander—is to falsely equate nonbelief with anti-American ideals, and to falsely convey that America is a Christian nation.

This could not be further from the truth. In reality, the constitutional principle separating religion from government was the uniquely American vision of our revolutionary Founders. Aware of the centuries of bloody religious wars, inquisitions, crusades and pogroms in the Old World, and of the persecutions in the name of religion in most of the original colonies, the Framers were acutely aware of the danger and folly of mixing state and church. They deliberately and purposefully adopted the first constitution in history excluding any mention of a deity.

Every reference to religion in the U.S. Constitution is exclusionary, including prohibitions on religious tests for public office, implicitly in the godless oath of office prescribed for the presidency and later, in the First Amendment's historic bar of any establishment of religion by the government. The Framers of the Constitution made the United States first among nations to invest sovereignty not in a deity, but in "We the People." The proscription against religion in government has served our nation well, with the U.S. Constitution now the longest living constitution in history, and our nation spared the constant religious wars afflicting theocratic regions around the world.

Christianity and religion in general are inherently divisive. Keeping religion out of the government is a fundamental American ideal, is essential for true religious freedom, and has been a tremendous asset to our society. This is a principle to revere. Your attempt to spread disinformation about the history and meaning of our godless Constitution and its Establishment Clause is factually incorrect and unAmerican.

⁴ *Id.* at 1:07:00.

⁵ *Id.* at 48:40.

⁶ *Id.* at 1:27:15 (emphasis added).

⁷ *Id.* (emphasis added).

Your irresponsible public statements to deride this foundational principle and about the expansive role Christianity should play in the U.S. government are encouraging the advancement of Christian nationalism, which is likewise unAmerican. Your assertion that America is a Christian nation is anathema to America's founding principles and at odds with reality. Many American Christians respect the diversity of our culture, and understand that their fellow Americans may not share their religious values, as evidenced by groups like Christians Against Christian Nationalism.⁸ Anyone who respects American values *must* oppose Christian nationalism, as the two ideologies are fundamentally at odds.

Finally, your suggestion that America has a Christian government is not only at odds with our country's history and laws, but stigmatizes and marginalizes many of your constituents. Non-religious Americans are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population by religious identification — 37 percent of Americans are non-Christians, and this includes the nearly one in three Americans who now identify as religiously unaffiliated.⁹ You represent *all* Coloradans, including those who do not share your personal religious beliefs. Your remarks convey that you consider non-Christians second-class citizens simply because of their religious identity or nonreligious identity. That too is unAmerican.

Your blatant disregard for the separation of state and church is a betrayal of your oath of office to the U.S. Constitution.

Very truly,



Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker
Co-presidents
ALG/DB:cal

⁸ www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/statement.

⁹ Gregory A. Smith, About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated, Pew Research Center (Dec. 14, 2021), available at www.pewforum.org/2021/12/14/about-three-in-ten-u-s-adults-are-now-religiously-unaffiliated/.