



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Losing Religious Freedom as We Know It - Part 2

"The Constitutional Freedom of Religion is the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights." - Thomas Jefferson

Two anti-religious freedom/anti-freedom bills that lingered in the House and Senate for over two years are likely to be signed into law soon unless all Americans learn about and oppose these threats to freedom.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) recently wrote:

"The Equality Act, passed by the House of Representatives on Feb. 25, does the exact opposite and needs to be opposed. Instead of respecting differences in beliefs about marriage and sexuality, the Equality Act would discriminate against people of faith.... (It) would impose sweeping regulations to the detriment of society as a whole.... In brief, the Equality Act will:

- * **Regulate thought, belief, and speech**
- * **Explicitly retract religious freedom**
- * **Threaten charitable services**
- * **Hinder quality health care**
- * **Exclude people from various career paths and livelihoods**
- * **Endanger privacy** ⁽¹⁾

"Whatever crumb of religious liberty that might be left after enactment of the Equality Act, would likely be swept up by the **Do No Harm Act**, a more comprehensive bill that would effectively render RFRA (Religious Freedom Restoration Act) null and void." ⁽²⁾ "The Do No Harm Act would strip away the rights of millions of Americans who, because of their faith, are pro-life or support traditional marriage." ⁽³⁾

Individual business owners could be forced to participate in, and thus endorse, speech and events they believe are morally objectionable. For example, a baker may be forced to create a cake design he finds morally objectionable; a florist, photographer, or tee-shirt designer could be forced to similarly design a product that violates his conscience or religious beliefs. Each of these situations have come before the Courts and each time, the business owner's freedom of religion was protected by RFRA.

"This bill would strip the heart out" of religious freedom law, wrote Dr. Doug Laycock, Un. of Virginia. ⁽⁴⁾ "Religion's vast benefit to the whole of American society will only last so long as people of faith maintain the freedom to exercise religion, not just in their home or place of worship, but at work and in the wider community," said Matt Sharp at the Alliance Defending Freedom. ⁽⁵⁾

Be Silent No More! Contact your Elected Officials:

Call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to any Representative or Senator's office. Find Representative's emails at www.house.gov Find Senator's emails at www.senate.gov

(nregister.com, 2/22/21(1); firstthings.com, 1/25/21(2); thehill.com, 6/8/18(3); deseret.com, 1/8/21(4)(5)

***"Remember Civil and Religious Liberty always go together:
if the foundation of the one be sapped, the other will fall of course." - Alexander Hamilton***