



May 10, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
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FAIZ SHAKIR
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
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SUSAN N. HERMAN
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Dear Senators Feinstein, Murray, and Wyden:

ANTHONY D. ROMERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), we are writing to thank you for introducing legislation to nullify Executive Order 13798, "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty," signed by President Trump on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

ROBERT REMAR
TREASURER

As your legislation correctly notes, this EO lays a foundation for potential discrimination against LGBTQ people, women, and religious minorities under the guise of religious liberty. Its directive to federal agencies to explore religious-based exceptions to healthcare cues up potential future battles, but, for now, leaves the current status quo unchanged.

The ACLU will continue our steadfast charge to defend Americans' right to exercise their religion and ensure their freedom from having others' beliefs forced upon them. Should the Trump administration use this EO to trigger official government action that would license discrimination against LGBTQ people, women and religious minorities, the ACLU will not hesitate to bring a legal challenge.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work together to protect civil liberties and civil rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faiz Shakir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Faiz" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shakir".

Faiz Shakir
National Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian S. Thompson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Ian" and the last name "Thompson" clearly visible.

Ian Thompson
Legislative Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georgeanne Usova". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Georgeanne" and the last name "Usova" clearly visible.

Georgeanne Usova
Legislative Counsel