

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader Reid:

The undersigned organizations have come together to thank you for your strong stand protecting people from those who would misuse religion to harm others. Your continued leadership is critical to stopping any new legislative initiatives in this area in the 114th Congress. In fact, Congress has begun to consider these issues already, with a House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee for the Constitution and Civil Justice Hearing on “Oversight of the Religious Freedom Restoration Action and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act” on February 13, 2015.

The groups that have signed onto this letter include those working on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities; women; communities of color; youth; reproductive health; individuals facing issues around aging and end of life concerns; health care; people of faith and religious communities; secular beliefs; religious liberty; civil rights; labor; those affected by domestic violence; those living with HIV/AIDS; and a variety of other issues. Together, we represent many millions of Americans across this country.

Our nation’s laws have long protected the freedom of religion and belief – but not the right to impose those beliefs on others. The American people agree; 83 percent of adults believe that “people are entitled to their religious beliefs, but this does not give them the right to harm other people.”

The 77 organizations that have signed this letter, despite our different missions, hold in common the core principle that religion should not be used to discriminate. We thank you for doing the same. We, and the many millions of people we represent, stand with you in opposing any efforts to pass legislation that would allow religion to be misused in this way.

Sincerely,

National Women’s Law Center
9to5
Advocates for Youth
African American Ministers In Action
AIDS United

American Civil Liberties Union
American Sexual Health Association
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Anti-Defamation League
Black Women's Health Imperative
California Women's Law Center
Catholics for Choice
Center for Inquiry
Center for Reproductive Rights
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Compassion & Choices
Concerned Clergy for Choice
Feminist Majority
Forward Together
Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
GetEQUAL
Girls for Gender Equity (GGE)
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
Hindu American Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
Ibis Reproductive Health
Illinois Accountability Initiative
Innovation Ohio
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.
Interfaith Alliance
Keshet
Lambda Legal
Legal Momentum
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Maine Women's Lobby
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform
MergerWatch
Methodist Federation for Social Action
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Congress for Black Women
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families; Casa de Esperanza

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Nehirim
North Dakota Women's Network
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Political Research Associates
Population Connection Action Fund
Pro-Choice Resources
Religious Institute
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Secular Coalition for America
Secular Policy Institute
Secular Women
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Society for Humanistic Judaism
The National Crittenton Foundation
Transgender Law Center
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)
Women's Law Project