

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