



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Still the Land of the Free?



Education: From the Puritans coming to the colonies to Jews fleeing from Hitler, millions of immigrants came to this country in order to be free to practice their religion. The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” But today Christians are not being allowed to follow their faith. Nurses have been fired for refusing to participate in abortion, even though existing federal law prohibit such discrimination for entities receiving federal funds.(1) Catholic Charities had to shut down its adoptive services in several locations rather than place children with same-sex couples.(2) In the state of Washington, pharmacists are required to fulfill prescriptions for abortifacient drugs even if doing so violates their conscience, and the Supreme

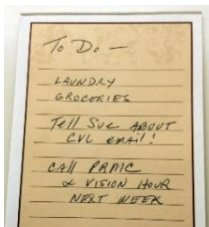
Court allowed the law to remain in effect rather than hear the case. (3) Florists and bakeries have been sued and attacked for refusing to provide services for same-sex weddings, even though referrals are given to other businesses and services who are willing to provide the wanted services. (No one is being denied access to those services.) Rather than protecting religious freedom, laws are sought to prevent what some describe as discrimination. The Equality Act recently passed by the House defines any differential treatment of homosexual or transgender individuals, or refusal to provide abortion, as illegal discrimination rather than an exercise of religious freedom. (4) No one should be forced to choose between their values and their jobs or ability to serve.

1. *A Legal Guide for Healthcare Professionals*, from Alliance Defending Freedom, <https://www.adflegal.org/resources>
2. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/current-threats-religious-liberty>
3. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/pro-life-healthcare-jobs-equality-act-worse/>
4. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1881>



Prayer: Dear Jesus, Please help our nation to understand that the right to follow one’s conscience must be protected. Help everyone to accept that abortion and abortifacient drugs involve the taking of life, and are inherently different from true health care. Help all levels of government to accept that homosexual relationships are inherently different than marriage, and biological males are inherently different from biological females. While we do respect the rights of others to be treated with respect, refusing to provide a service against our conscience does not constitute mistreatment of anyone. Please Lord, help America to continue to be a place of religious freedom. Help all citizens to be wise in

voting for government representatives who will protect conscience rights.



Action: Urge your Senators to oppose the Equality Act and do whatever they can to prevent its passage. Educate your friends that freedom of religion in this country is under attack, and encourage them to do the same. Freedom of religion means conscience protection, not just the right to go to the church of your choice. See Ref 2 above as well as the Alliance Defending Freedom website (<https://www.adflegal.org/>) for many examples of how our freedom is threatened.