

2019 STATE OF THE SECULAR STATES

*A Review of State Law and Policy Affecting the
Separation of Religion and Government*





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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Introduction

In 2019 we saw a heightened awareness about the importance of the separation of religion and government, due in part to the increasing efforts to undermine this bedrock protection for religious freedom. At the federal level, the Trump Administration has stepped up its attempts to enshrine one particular religious viewpoint into the law by finalizing regulations promoting denial of health care by religious health care providers and by proposing rules which would prioritize religious beliefs over civil rights protections.

At the same time, Christian nationalists have continued to push forward Project Blitz, a well-organized and well-funded campaign designed to undermine religious equality around the country by using legislation at the state level to promote a distorted vision of religious freedom. In 2019, state lawmakers introduced more than 80 Project Blitz-type bills to force religion into public schools, to attack LGBTQ equality, and to undermine access to reproductive services.

American Atheists has been at the forefront of opposing these threats to religious equality. We've built a cross-movement coalition of national church-state separation, LGBTQ, reproductive freedom, and civil rights organizations who work together to inform lawmakers and advocates

about Project Blitz. At www.BlitzWatch.org, we provide tools to oppose this secretive campaign, and we closely track these negative bills.

Effective advocacy at the state level is more than just opposing the damaging efforts of our opponents; it also requires promoting bills which advance American Atheists' mission to protect the civil rights of atheists and the complete separation of religion and government. Over the past year, we helped to support and pass legislation that would protect vulnerable people from religion-based harm such as female genital mutilation and would roll back dangerous religious exemptions to vaccination laws.

In this second edition of the *State of the Secular States* report, we expand the number of evaluated law and policy measures. For every state, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, we have assessed over 40 statewide law and policy measures, both positive and negative, pertaining to religious equality and the separation of religion and government.

The first edition of the *State of the Secular States* proved to be a powerful tool for advocates and lawmakers, allowing them to understand the laws and policies that affect the separation of religion and government in their states and set meaningful and achievable advocacy goals. With this new edition of the report, we seek to build upon that success, and together with supportive lawmakers and advocates, to present a roadmap for state advocacy to achieve religious equality for every American.



ALISON GILL
Vice President, Legal and Policy
American Atheists



Alison Gill

Alison Gill is Vice President for Legal and Policy at American Atheists. She leads the organization's federal and state advocacy for religious equality and litigation activities to protect the separation of religion and government. Alison is a nationally recognized expert on civil rights law and state advocacy.

Prior to her work with American Atheists, Alison worked as a consultant to nonprofits focusing on advocacy strategy and systemic change and as Senior Legislative Counsel at the Human Rights Campaign, where she managed state-level advocacy on issues such as conversion therapy, bullying prevention, education discrimination, health and wellness, youth homelessness, and data collection.



Effective advocacy at the state level is more than just opposing the damaging efforts of our opponents. It also requires promoting bills which advance American Atheists' mission to protect the civil rights of atheists and the complete separation of religion and government.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our Opportunity

The ascendancy of Christian nationalism at all levels of government, but particularly the coordinated state-level campaign called “Project Blitz,” represents a profound threat to equality under the law. However, in the face of these attacks on the rights of all Americans, committed activists in all fifty states have stood with us to protect those who are most frequently harmed when religious privilege is prioritized above religious equality.

It is perhaps ironic that the brazenness of the extremists behind Project Blitz has strengthened the resolve of those who fight for equality and made it easier for us to find common ground with allied groups who have also seen their rights eroded by Project Blitz-style legislation. By explicitly identifying so-called “religious heritage” legislation, such as laws requiring the display of the national motto in public schools, as the first step down the path to codified religious supremacy, Project Blitz’s organizers have helped us demonstrate the urgency of the fight against these laws.

Because they have publicly stating their ultimate goal—religious exemptions which threaten equality for women, LGBTQ people, atheists, and religious minorities—we have been able to find allies and forge coalitions to push back against attempts to weaponize religion against those who are the targets of religiously-motivated animus.

Indeed, even faith groups have opposed these radical attempts to corrupt the First Amendment.

We cannot overstate the threat posed by Project Blitz and the effects of religious privilege on our laws. Far too many states jeopardize the health and well-being of their residents with religious exemptions, elevate religious dogma above the rights of women and LGBTQ people, and relegate atheists and religious minorities to second-class citizenship.

However, the sheer number of states that do not adequately protect religious equality and the separation of religion from government present an opportunity for advocates. We have the chance to build lasting partnerships that will improve the lives of millions of Americans by passing laws that enhance equality and repealing those which threaten it.

We couldn’t do this work without our national partners, our network of local community groups and activists, and our members and volunteers. This report is a tool for them and a roadmap to move forward.

If we take seriously our obligations to find human solutions to human problems and to build a society that reflects our shared values and commitments to one another, we can win the fight for equality.

The stakes are too high for us to give anything less than our all.



NICK FISH
President
American Atheists



Nick Fish

Nick Fish is the President of American Atheists. Fish is a seasoned civil rights and civil liberties activist with more than a decade of political, organizing, and leadership experience with many of the nation’s most prominent political organizations and progressive advocacy groups.





We have the chance to build lasting partnerships that will improve the lives of millions of Americans by passing laws that enhance equality and repealing those which threaten it.

ANALYSIS

Key Developments in State Law & Policy in 2019

Focus on Religion in Schools

Continuing a trend from the previous year, 2019 brought a wave of bills in 14 states to require schools to display a religious message—In God We Trust—in classrooms, libraries, and other prominent locations. These bills are a component of the Project Blitz initiative intended to insert a religious message into as many classrooms as possible and to create a false historical narrative about America being a Christian nation. Fortunately, most of these bills were defeated in 2019, and advocates for these bills were markedly less successful than in 2018. Only two states—Kentucky and South Dakota—passed new national motto display laws. Opposition to these bills has significantly increased due to greater awareness of Project Blitz and the work of local and state advocates.

Unfortunately, another type of Project Blitz-related legislation received a great deal of attention and legislative activity in 2019: bills concerning Bible classes in public schools. Bills to allow or require schools to provide Bible classes were introduced in 12 states, and they were publicly supported by President Donald Trump. Despite this attention and support, these bills passed only in Arkansas and Georgia, and the versions that passed were optional for schools rather than mandatory. While these classes are generally elective, they often result in unconstitutional proselytization and divert school resources away from educational priorities.

Another type of legislation that was prominent in 2019 affects higher education. Ten state legislatures introduced bills requiring public colleges and universities to recognize and fund student organizations that discriminate against prospective members for religious reasons. These Campus License to Discriminate bills passed in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, South Dakota, and Texas. Although these bills have been proposed occasionally over the last few years, a greater number of them have passed recently because the provisions were included in so-called “campus free-speech” bills.

Opposition to these Christian Nationalist bills has significantly increased due to greater awareness of Project Blitz and the work of local and state advocates.

Specific Attacks on the Separation of Religion and Government

During the 2019 legislative session, there were a few bills that seemed especially targeted at undermining the separation of religion and government. For example, a bill was introduced in Missouri which would have required plaintiffs to be named when they bring cases to protect the separation of religion and government. Generally, plaintiffs can petition the court to proceed anonymously if a lawsuit would put them in danger. Unfortunately, plaintiffs who sue to enforce the separation of religion and government face threats and public harassment far too often. This bill sought to weaponize that harassment to prevent individuals from going to court to protect their constitutional rights. Thanks to opposition by American Atheists and local advocates, this bill did not pass.

In Alabama, a law was passed that grants a specific church the authorization to create its own police force. While many states allow colleges to have police in order to protect the campus, Alabama extends that privilege to religious colleges. Under this new law, that privilege is further extended to a church and its associated school. This legislation represents a striking violation of essential constitutional principles.

Restrictions on Access to Reproductive Health Care

In 2019, there was a dramatic increase in the number of state bills directed at restricting access to abortion. Anticipating favorable rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court, much of this legislation pushed beyond constitutional bounds long established in the law (see *Partner Perspective: Attacks on the Right to Abortion* on page 11). Bills that effectively prohibit nearly all abortions were passed in seven states. Ultimately the validity of those laws will be decided by the courts.

Bills that allow health care providers to deny care to patients based on their religious beliefs were introduced in states including Arkansas, New Mexico, and Texas in 2019, but none of these bills were passed into law. These bills vary widely in scope and applicability, and in some cases they are similar to model bills published by Project Blitz. This issue received significantly greater attention in 2019 due to the issuance of broad new rules from the Department of Health and Human Services allowing denial of health care in areas such as abortion, contraception, sterilization, vaccination, end-of-life care, and care for LGBTQ patients.



Protecting Youth from Religion-Based Harm

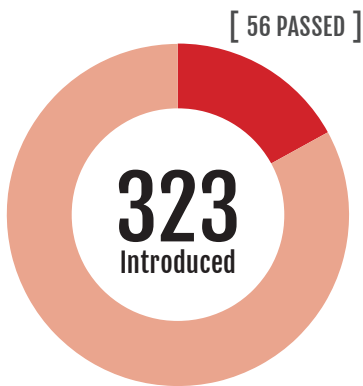
In 2019, there were strong efforts to pass legislation to protect young people from the harm caused by religious beliefs and practices, including bills to protect LGBTQ youth from dangerous and discredited conversion therapy, to remove existing laws which excuse child deaths due to faith healing, to protect young women and girls from female genital mutilation, and to protect minors from forced marriage. Fortunately, efforts to pass bills in several of these areas were very successful, resulting in stronger protections against religiously based harm in an increasing number of states. In 2019, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York all passed bills to protect young people from licensed medical and mental health practitioners who practice harmful conversion therapy. Moreover, Puerto Rico's Governor issued an executive order to protect minors from the harmful practice.

Outbreaks of influenza and measles in 2018 and 2019 prompted several states to reexamine laws that allow parents to opt their children out of mandatory vaccinations required to attend public school. These exemptions enable the spread of infectious disease by lowering the percentage of young people with immunity. Most states have religious exemptions to these laws, and a few states allow parents to claim exemption for any reason. While several states introduced bills to reconsider the scope of these exemptions or to provide work-arounds for young people interested in obtaining vaccinations despite their parents' objections, Maine and New York passed bills to completely remove the religious exemptions to their vaccination requirements.

Last year also saw an increased awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM) among girls and young women as well as legislation to curb this harmful practice. When a federal law addressing FGM was struck down by the courts in 2018, the onus was on the states to provide adequate protection. Legislation that varied widely on this issue was introduced around the country, and at least seven states passed these protections into law: Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Utah. Several similar bills are still active in state legislatures, and we may see additional bills passed before the next legislative session.

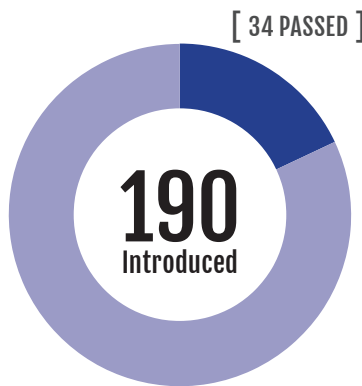
ANALYSIS

Selected Developments in State Policy in 2019



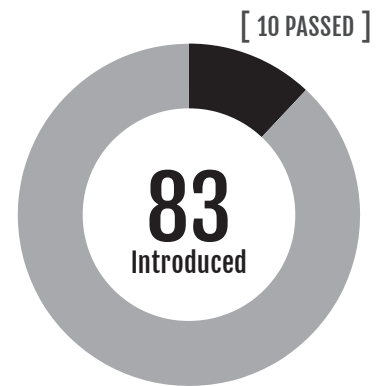
Negative Legislation

We tracked and opposed 323 bills which would have undermined religious equality during the 2019 legislative session. Of these, 56 bills passed and 267 failed.



Positive Legislation

We tracked and supported 190 bills which would have enhanced religious equality during the 2019 legislative session. Of these, 34 bills passed and 156 failed.



Project Blitz

We tracked and opposed 83 Project Blitz-type bills during the 2019 legislative session. Of these, 10 bills passed and 73 failed. Learn more about Project Blitz at www.BlitzWatch.org.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Attacks on the Right to Abortion

In 2019 alone, state legislators introduced over 400 new abortion restrictions, and enacted 58 restrictions, including several near total—and blatantly unconstitutional—bans on abortion.

Abortion is health care, and a key part of individuals' liberty, equality, and economic security. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, deserves access to abortion when they need it. And an overwhelming majority support protecting the right to abortion: seven in ten Americans do not want *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

Despite that public support, abortion rights are under unprecedented attack. In 2019 alone, state legislators introduced over 400 new abortion restrictions and enacted 58 restrictions, including several near total—and blatantly unconstitutional—bans on abortion.

These attacks on abortion are not new: from 2010 to 2015, state lawmakers passed 288 abortion restrictions. But what is unique to this place in time are the types of abortion bills that are being introduced and passed. Before 2019, extreme bans were typically seen—even by anti-abortion lawmakers—as too radical to pass. But with anti-abortion Justice Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, the nomination and appointment of numerous anti-abortion judges in lower courts, and the inflammatory rhetoric of the Trump Administration, the anti-abortion movement has felt more emboldened than ever to pursue unconstitutional abortion bans.

In 2019, state lawmakers in seven states—Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri—passed laws that would prohibit nearly all abortions. And while those near total bans on abortion have dominated the headlines, state lawmakers also

passed numerous other types of abortion restrictions that have the same end goal: to eliminate access to abortion.

Even before last year's surge of attacks on the right to abortion, access to abortion suffered. The folks that already struggle with access to health care—people of color, those living in rural areas, young people, and individuals in the LGBTQ community—have always been hit the hardest by abortion restrictions, and this current environment only serves to worsen the impact.

But all hope is not lost: state lawmakers' focus on abortion also resulted in legislation that protects the right to abortion and expands access to abortion. In the first half of 2019, states passed more proactive measures than restrictions on abortion, and state and federal lawmakers and advocates remain committed to fighting back against attacks on abortion.



Heather Shumaker

Heather Shumaker is Senior Counsel for Reproductive Rights and Health at the National Women's Law Center. She works to advance state laws and policies that protect reproductive rights and promote access to comprehensive health care.

She is a graduate of Sweet Briar College and the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. She also holds an L.L.M. from the George Washington University School of Law, where she studied international human rights law, and an M.A. from King's College of the University of London.

ANALYSIS

Outlook for 2020

The state legislative landscape in an election year like 2020 will be shaped by the current national political climate. It will include factors like the nationwide focus on immigration issues, an increased effort by the Trump Administration to build religious exemptions into federal law, and recent high-profile U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

With the appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh and the surge of state anti-abortion bills that followed in its wake, we cannot underestimate the impact that Court decisions will have on state-level legislation around the country. Two notable cases that will influence legislation affecting the separation of religion and government this year include the 2019 decision in *American Legion v. American Humanist Association*, which allowed a 40-foot tall Christian cross standing on public land to continue to be supported by taxpayers, and *Espinoza v. Montana Dept. of Revenue*, to be decided this year, which will determine whether state constitutional protections preventing public funding of religious schools can stand. Moreover, state legislatures will continue to be affected by the efforts of Christian nationalists to impose their faith on public schools and enshrine their religious beliefs into law.

Anti-Abortion Bills

In 2019, there was a dramatic increase in the number of anti-abortion bills introduced and passed, and this flood shows no signs of abating in 2020. Indeed, as challenges to the most egregious of these bills make their way through the courts, we expect to see more states adopting these abortion restrictions. These bills can take many forms, ranging from a total ban on abortion no matter the circumstance, to bills which set an unreasonable time limit for abortions (such as six weeks after conception), to bills which create so many burdens for women and their doctors that abortions are all but impossible to obtain safely and legally. At the same time, states with more liberal political environments may see their legislatures pass measures to specifically protect access to abortion and to formally repeal anti-abortion laws that have been struck down by the courts and yet remain on the books.

Bills Inserting Religion into Public Schools

Over the past two years, state legislatures have seen an increasing number of bills introduced to require schools to have religious displays featuring the national motto “In God We Trust” which are supported by the Christian nationalist Project Blitz campaign. This wave of display bills is likely to continue into 2020 and perhaps even be supplemented with an increasing number of bills to add explicitly religious displays (crosses, Ten Commandments, nativity scenes, etc.) to schools and public buildings. Although the U.S. Supreme Court’s *American Legion v. American Humanist Association* pertains only to very old monuments, Christian nationalists are sure to purposely misrepresent this case to justify all manner of religious displays on public land. American Atheists is working with national partners to provide resources to advocates and lawmakers to oppose these measures. Follow our work and learn how to get involved at www.BlitzWatch.org.

A surge of bills requiring Bible classes to be taught in public schools appeared in 2019, due not only to Project Blitz but also to President Trump’s vocal support of such bills. This surge is very likely to continue into 2020. Although the Bible class bills that made the most progress in 2019 were not mandatory for school districts, we expect to see legislation proposed this year that will mandate that schools offer these courses while reducing liability for school districts that engage in religious coercion.

Campus License to Discriminate Bills

The issue of free speech on college campuses has become increasingly important in many states, as some lawmakers believe that public colleges unfairly quash free speech, particularly when it relates to their own (generally conservative) viewpoints. In 2019, there was a trend where broad free-speech bills included religious exemptions that permit school-funded student organizations at public colleges and universities to discriminate against students for religious reasons. The issue of free speech on college campuses is politically advantageous for certain lawmakers, and so it is certainly not going away. However, it is uncertain at this point whether these bills will continue to include religious exemption provisions. Such exemptions are opposed by advocates for the separation of religion and government and also by LGBTQ advocates, so lawmakers may find it easier to move forward with bills more narrowly focused on campus free-speech issues.

School Voucher Bills

Proponents of school vouchers have long fought to fundamentally transform our education system by using vouchers to undermine public schools and transfer money to private, usually religious, schools. One of the biggest obstacles to these efforts is the significant number of states with constitutional no aid clauses which prohibit public funding from being used to support sectarian education. Such prohibitions have a long history in our nation, as the Founders believed that it was fundamentally tyrannical to force one person to pay for the religious education of another. Because the U.S. Supreme Court will be reexamining this issue when it hears the *Espinoza v. Montana Dept. of Revenue* case this year, we will likely see a wave of voucher-related state bills proposed during the 2020 legislative session. This type of legislation may include, for example, school voucher bills, pilot programs, tax credits for private schools or scholarship funds, and bills clarifying requirements and exemptions for participating private schools.

Youth Protection Bills

While there is likely to be a lot of harmful state legislation in 2020, there is also an important opportunity to move forward with bills to protect young people from the harm caused by religious belief. Efforts to pass legislation to protect youth from dangerous conversion therapy were very successful in 2019, and more states will be considering such bills in 2020. Similarly, bills to protect girls and young women from female genital mutilation were very successful in 2019, and bipartisan support for such measures should continue into 2020. Although an influenza epidemic and measles outbreaks led several states to reconsider their broad religious exemptions to vaccination laws, it is unclear whether that trend will continue into 2020. Sadly, continued public awareness of these tragedies is too often an essential component for legislative action. So if the issue is not in the news, it will not get the necessary attention. Finally, several states are considering legislation to protect young people from forced child marriage, and these bills are likely to make progress in at least a few legislatures this year.

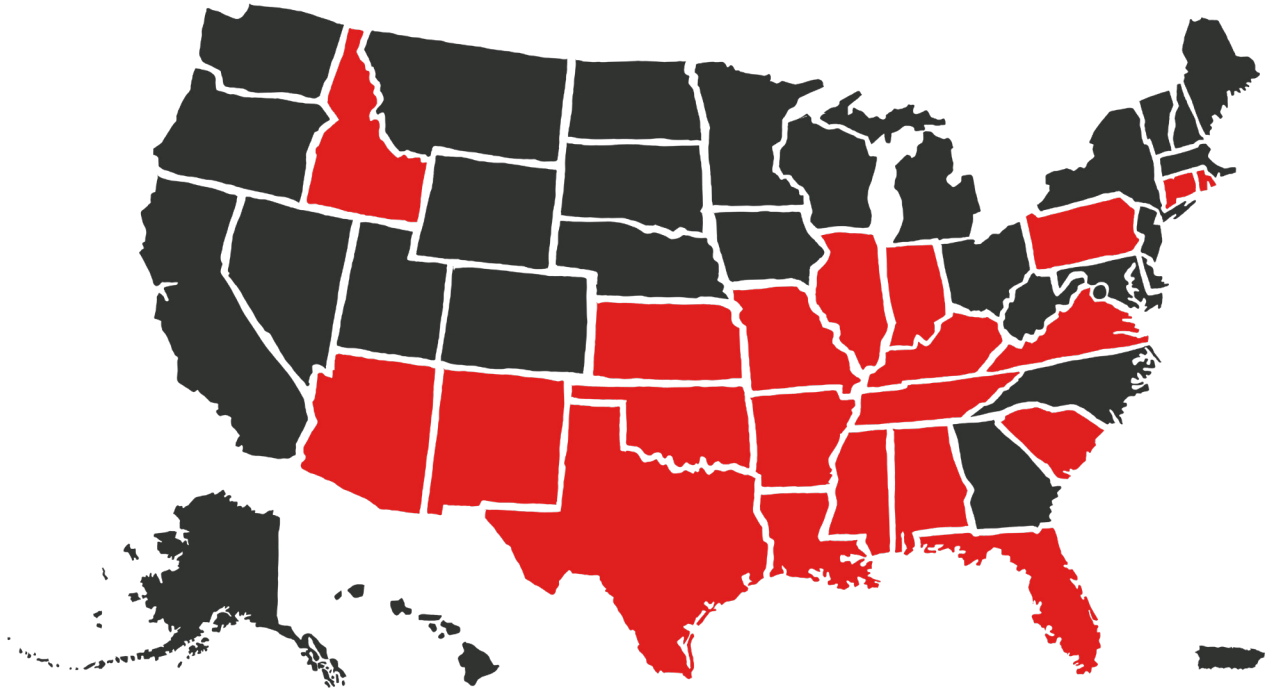


Pro-choice activists rally to stop states' abortion bans in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, DC on May 21, 2019.

Photo by Rena Schild via Shutterstock

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Religious Freedom Restoration Acts



Based on Supreme Court precedent, the U.S. Constitution's Free Exercise Clause does not limit the ability of the federal government to pass neutral laws of general applicability, even if they incidentally burden religious expression. The Court has noted that to do otherwise would allow individual religious belief to supersede neutral laws, resulting in an unworkable society where laws could not be applied evenly.

Despite this warning, Congress passed the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in 1994, and a number of states have followed by passing their own version of this law. RFRAs require the government to meet a more restrictive legal test when they burden religious expression—they must demonstrate that the government interest is compelling and that they used the least restrictive means to achieve that interest.

Over time, as predicted by the Supreme Court and by advocates such as American Atheists who opposed it at the time, RFRAs have been misused at both the state and federal levels to carve out exemptions that privilege religious expression. Christian nationalists seek to apply these laws in new ways, such as undermining civil rights laws that protect LGBTQ people and women from discrimination.

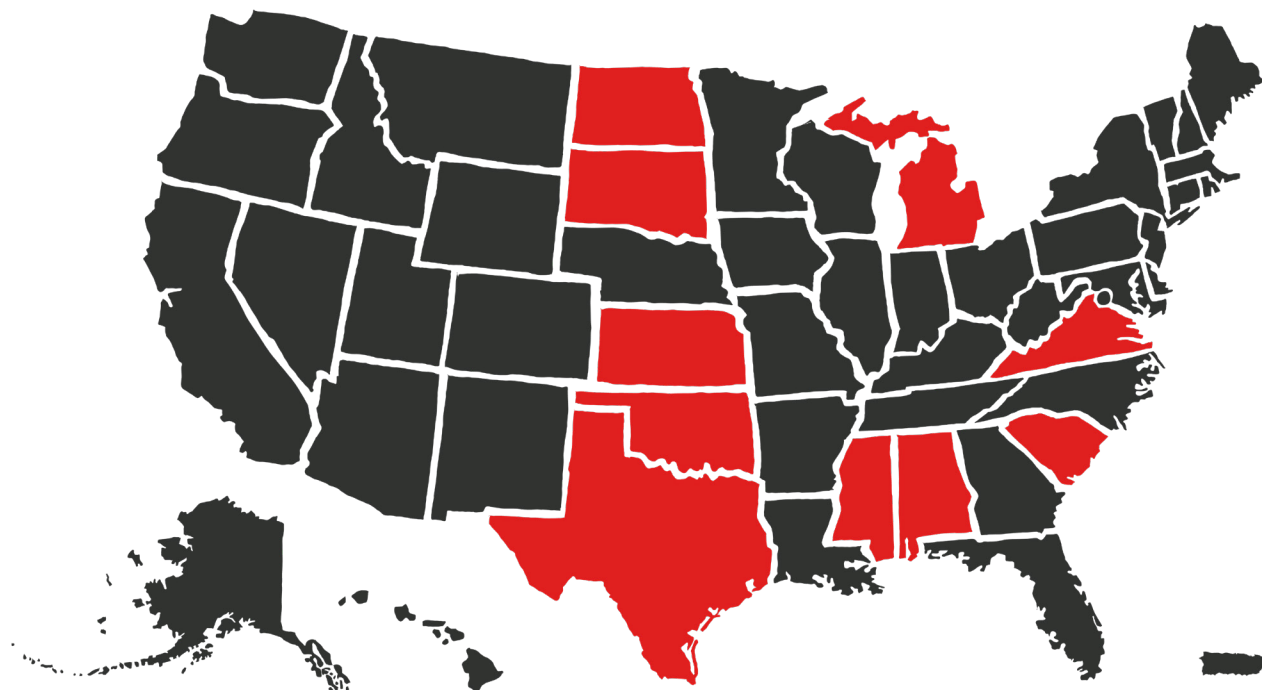
● States with statutory Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs)

[21 STATES]

Alabama	Mississippi
Arizona	Missouri
Arkansas	New Mexico
Connecticut	Oklahoma
Florida	Pennsylvania
Idaho	Rhode Island
Illinois	South Carolina
Indiana	Tennessee
Kansas	Texas
Kentucky	Virginia
Louisiana	

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Religious Exemptions in Foster Care and Adoption



While there are innumerable ways in which exemptions for religious beliefs could be inserted into neutral, generally applicable laws, this map indicates specific types of religious exemptions frequently sought by Christian extremists.

For example, several states allow foster care and adoption agencies that receive state funding to use religious reasons to discriminate against potential parents, and sometimes even vulnerable youth. This most negatively impacts single people, LGBTQ people, atheists, and religious minorities.

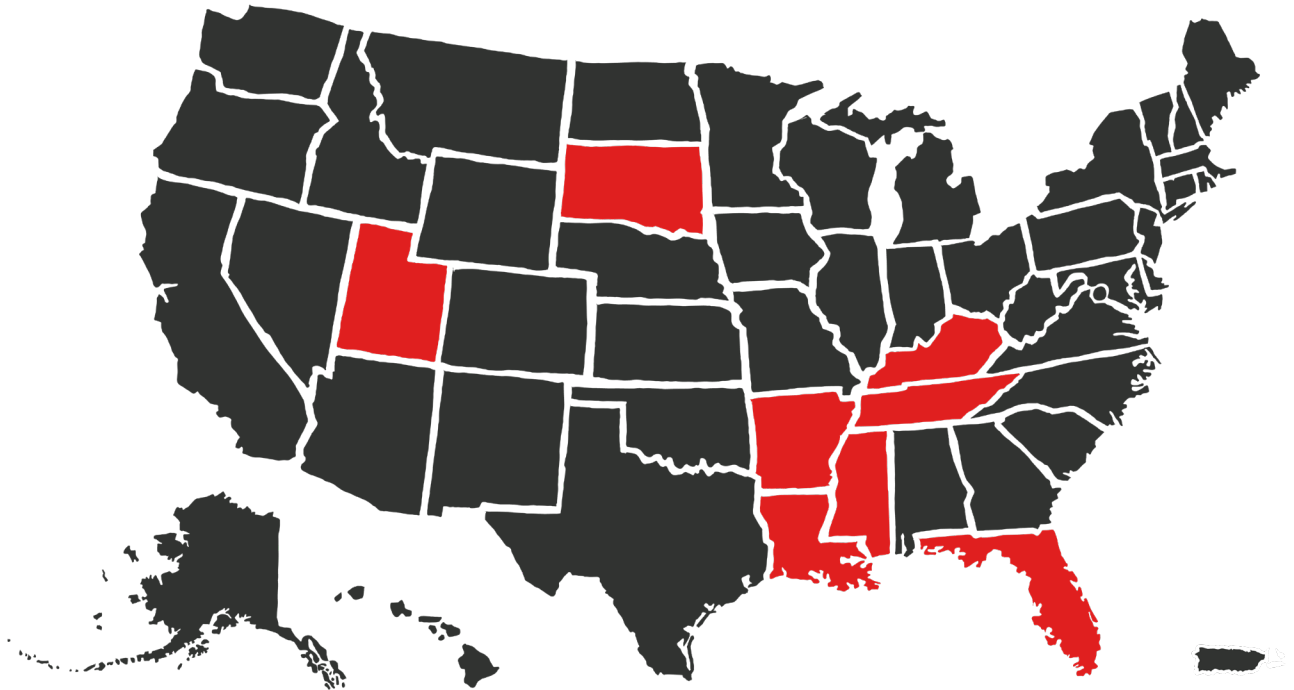
These laws are harmful to foster youth because they reduce the number of qualified families, which in turn denies them the chance to find loving, permanent homes.

● States that allow child welfare agencies to discriminate based on religious belief
[10 STATES]

Alabama	Oklahoma
Kansas	South Carolina
Michigan	South Dakota
Mississippi	Texas
North Dakota	Virginia

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Mandatory Religious Displays



An increasing number of states require schools (and sometimes other public buildings) to display the national motto, “In God We Trust,” or other religious messages.

These laws sometimes require that the display materials be donated rather than bought with state funding. While some states specify the size, material, and location (for example, a “prominent place” or every classroom and library), others permit schools to determine the nature of these displays.

● **States which require schools or other public buildings to display the national motto or other religious materials**

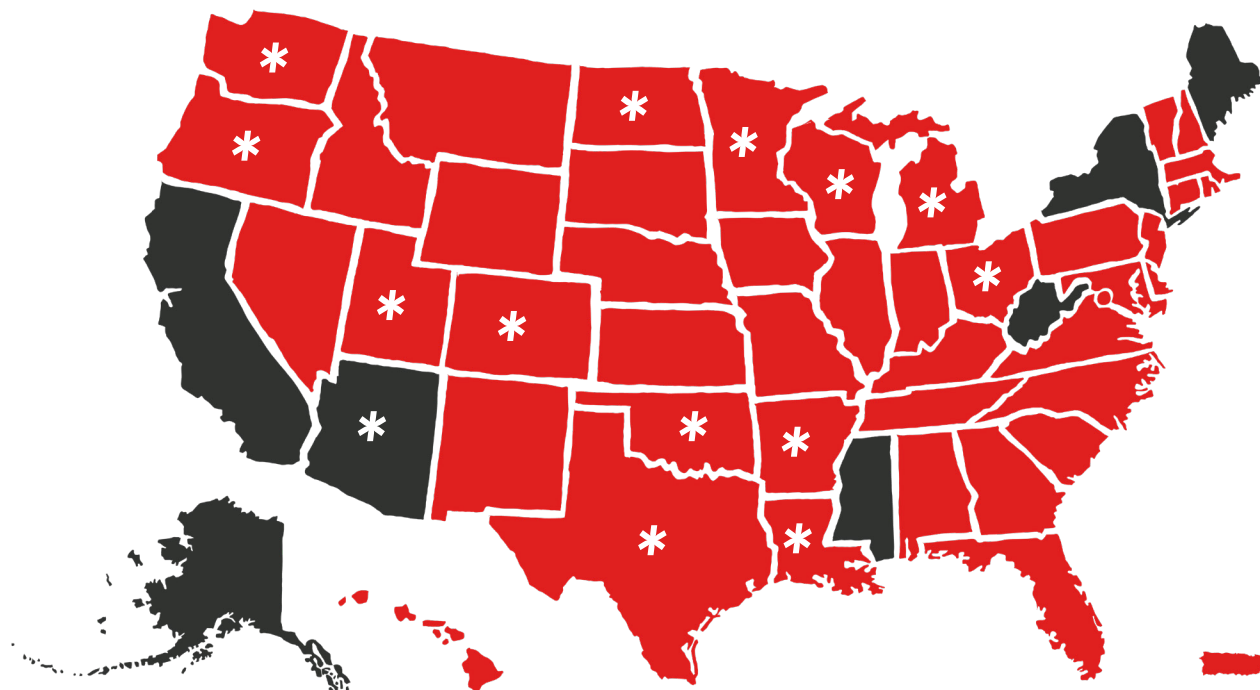
[8 STATES]

Arkansas
Florida
Kentucky
Louisiana

Mississippi
South Dakota
Tennessee
Utah

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Religious Exemptions to Vaccination Requirements



Every state requires certain vaccinations before a student is permitted to attend public school, and the majority of states allow parents to opt their children out of these requirements based on their religious beliefs. Some states recognize personal exemptions, often framed as a philosophy or belief, to allow parents to opt their children out of the vaccination requirement for basically any reason.

Unfortunately, these non-medical exemptions can prevent a sufficient percentage of the population from being vaccinated, which results in a loss of herd immunity. This lack of protection endangers younger children as well as those unable to receive vaccinations for medical reasons. In recent years, several states have reconsidered this issue and have revoked personal exemptions, religious exemptions, or both.

Note: The * symbol indicates a state which allows "personal exemptions" in addition to religious exemptions from vaccination requirements. **Arizona** does not have a specific religious exemption, but allows "personal exemptions" which have much the same outcome.

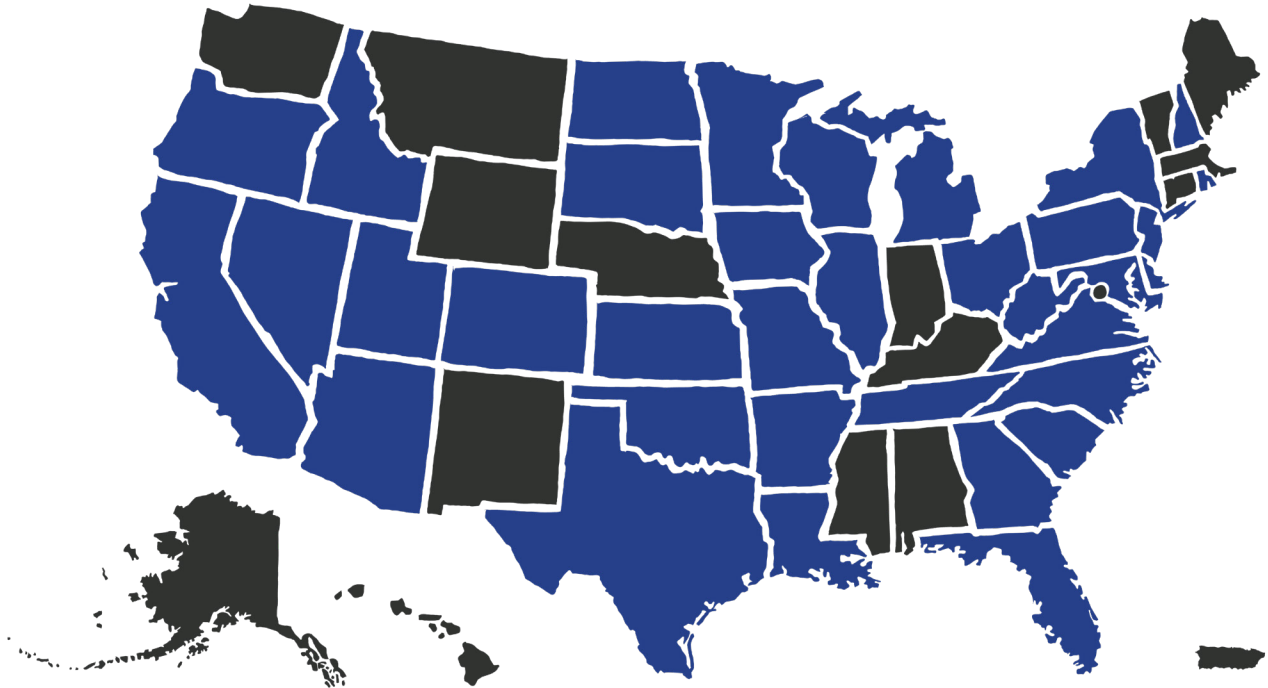
States that allow religious exemptions to vaccination requirements

[45 STATES & TERRITORIES]

Alabama	Maryland	Oregon *
Arkansas *	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Colorado *	Michigan *	Puerto Rico
Connecticut	Minnesota *	Rhode Island
Delaware	Missouri	South Carolina
Florida	Montana	South Dakota
Georgia	Nebraska *	Tennessee
Hawaii	Nevada	Texas *
Idaho	New Hampshire	Utah *
Illinois	New Jersey	Vermont
Indiana	New Mexico	Virginia
Iowa	North Carolina	Washington *
Kansas	North Dakota *	Washington D.C.
Kentucky	Ohio *	Wisconsin *
Louisiana *	Oklahoma *	Wyoming

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Laws Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation



Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the ritual cutting or alteration of female genitalia for non-medical purposes. This dangerous practice, often performed by non-licensed practitioners, is predominantly forced upon young girls, often for religious or cultural reasons. FGM can have serious and lifelong physical and psychological ramifications. Fortunately, a majority of states have taken steps to address FGM in order to protect minors at risk for this brutal and misogynistic practice.

Currently, 35 states provide at least minimal protection by prohibiting FGM and making it a felony to subject minors to this practice. States with more comprehensive laws also provide public education about FGM, create programs to raise awareness about this dangerous practice, and offer resources to girls and young women who are at risk for FGM.

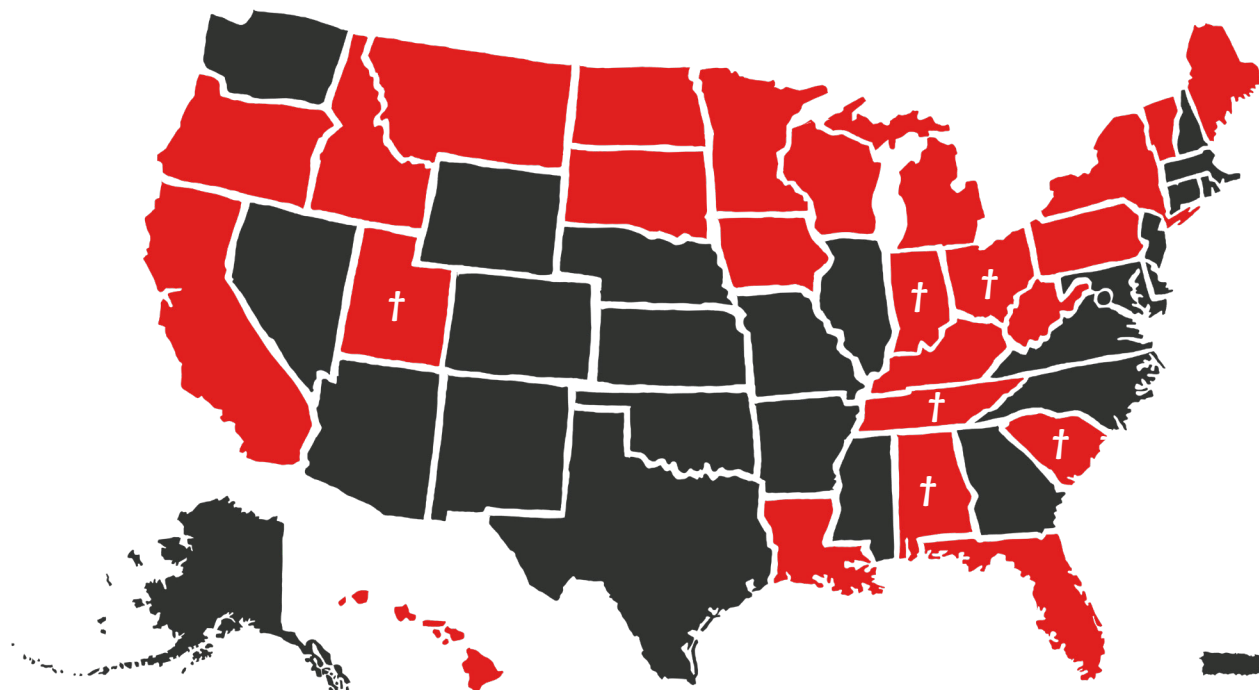
States with laws which prohibit female genital mutilation (FGM)

[35 STATES]

Arizona	Nevada	Virginia
Arkansas	New Hampshire	West Virginia
California	New Jersey	Wisconsin
Colorado	New York	
Delaware	North Carolina	
Florida	North Dakota	
Georgia	Ohio	
Idaho	Oklahoma	
Illinois	Oregon	
Iowa	Pennsylvania	
Kansas	Rhode Island	
Louisiana	South Carolina	
Maryland	South Dakota	
Michigan	Tennessee	
Minnesota	Texas	
Missouri	Utah	

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Public School Released Time Laws



A significant number of states have laws which require or allow school districts to provide “released time” for students to leave school in order to attend private religious education during the school day. In order to meet constitutional requirements, this religious instruction must take place outside school grounds, the school may not encourage participation, and school resources may not be spent to provide transportation or to facilitate this religious education. Unfortunately, these laws can compromise the education of both participating and non-participating students if they detract from class time.

In addition, several states have laws that allow public school districts to offer educational credit for religious education classes taught off of school grounds. Although these provisions are sometimes connected to released time, there is generally no requirement that this religious education take place during released time. While a few courts have upheld these laws, their constitutionality is highly questionable. They provide a special advantage to religious students by providing them with additional options to receive school credit, they are difficult to administer in a religiously neutral way, and they may be religiously coercive.

Note: The † symbol indicates a state which allows school districts to give academic credit to students who attend religious instruction courses.

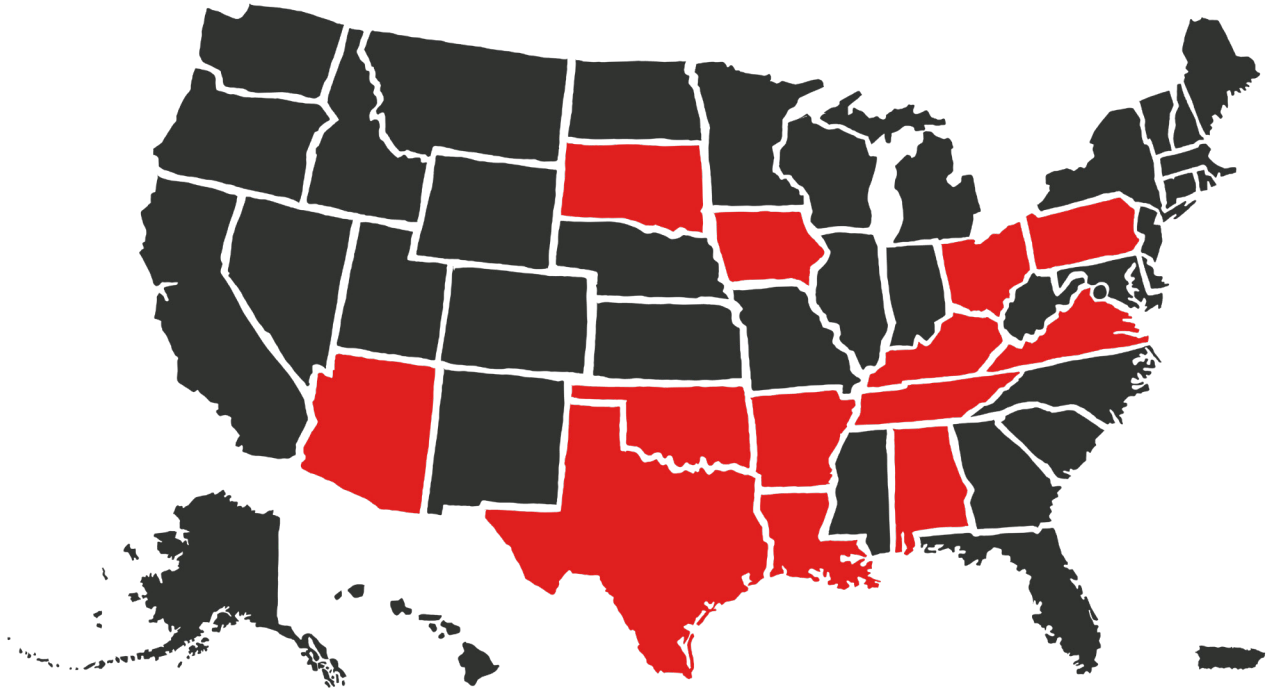
Public school released time laws

[25 STATES]

Alabama †	New York
California	North Dakota
Florida	Ohio †
Hawaii	Oregon
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Indiana †	South Carolina †
Iowa	South Dakota
Kentucky	Tennessee †
Louisiana	Utah †
Maine	Vermont
Michigan	West Virginia
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Montana	

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Campus License to Discriminate Laws



The majority of public colleges and universities have non-discrimination policies that allow students to participate in any recognized student organization, and most colleges and universities collect a fee from students that is provided to these organizations in order to support their programming. The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that public colleges and universities must treat student organizations equally with respect to recognition and funding—they cannot discriminate based on viewpoint—but they may impose universal requirements such as non-discrimination policies. These policies are important because they ensure that students are not forced to pay for student organizations in which they are not allowed to participate.

Nevertheless, an increasing number of states are passing laws which prevent public colleges and universities from protecting students from discrimination by student organizations. These provisions, often called “Campus License to Discriminate” laws, create religious or other exemptions that allow student organizations to enforce discriminatory codes of conduct or discriminate directly against disfavored groups of students, without losing recognition and funding from the school.

These laws are generally sought by religious student groups so that they can exclude LGBTQ people, women, atheists, and religious minorities from their membership and activities. Although not directly related to free speech, Campus License to Discriminate provisions are increasingly being included in bills pertaining to campus free-speech issues.

● **States with laws that prevent public colleges from enforcing student non-discrimination policies**
[13 STATES]

Alabama	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Pennsylvania
Arizona	South Dakota
Iowa	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia
Ohio	

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Anti-BDS Laws, Religion, and Free Speech

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is a political movement established in 2005 that seeks to apply economic pressure on Israel in support of Palestinian rights, drawing inspiration from similar efforts that helped end South African apartheid.

Despite achieving no measurable impact on Israel's economy, BDS has had some public relations successes, provoking a multi-million dollar overreaction from the Israeli government, along with much of the organized Jewish community and many legislators in the U.S.

Since 2014, 27 state governments have enacted legislation that would require businesses seeking contracts from state and local governments to affirm that they do not participate in BDS efforts. The federal government has not directly put anti-BDS measures into place. However, the U.S. Senate voted to pass a bill that would give states' anti-BDS measures additional legal cover, depending on how those measures were adopted.

Because Israel is "The Jewish State," and Judaism is a religion, it may seem to those who focus on separation of church and state that these laws violate the Constitution by favoring one religion over another. In reality, these laws are being challenged on free-speech grounds; the Western District Court of Texas recently held that commercial boycotts like BDS are constitutionally protected expressive activities—i.e., speech protected under the First Amendment.

However, this does not mean that religion plays no role in these laws. Israel is a darling cause of Christian fundamentalists, many of whom believe that the Second Coming of Christ will be preceded by an ingathering of all the Jews to their ancestral homeland, at which point they will have the (always classic) choice of conversion to Christianity or death. Politics makes the strangest bedfellows, as many pro-Israel Jewish organizations side with Evangelicals, even though their support is much more about ethno-nationalism than religion. American Jewry is mostly secular, with only 10% identifying as Orthodox. And it has been clear for years that the organized Jewish community doesn't speak for most Jews: a 2013 Pew survey found that

only 43% of American Jews believe that caring about Israel is essential to being Jewish.

Still, BDS is scary to many American Jews because the anti-Semitism from the political left has a greyer border than that on the right. Historically, the most visible right-wing anti-Semites have worn white hoods and swastikas and walked into synagogues shooting guns. Left-wing anti-Semites are significantly less deadly but exist nonetheless, and they make reasoned criticism of Israel more difficult because their arguments extend beyond politics and human rights to conspiracies of Jewish power and a disproportionate fixation on Jews and Israel.

Confusing the entire BDS movement as synonymous with left-wing anti-Semitism is a disastrous mistake, especially considering there are Jews and Jewish organizations that also support BDS. As the Anti-Defamation League itself acknowledged in a leaked memo, anti-BDS laws are "ineffective, unworkable, and unconstitutional." That the ADL went on to support these laws despite their internal understanding may speak to the disproportionate sway of right-wing donors—both on major Jewish organizations and on the U.S. legislative system as a whole.



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ISSUES

Analysis and Categorization

This report identifies four categories of public policy in each state that affect religious equality: State Constitutional Protections, Education & Youth, Healthcare & Wellness, and Special Privileges for Religion. Within each category, provisions and laws that positively and negatively impact equality are listed along with a brief explanation of the topic.

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. These protections form the bedrock of our constitutional order by ensuring both that everyone is free to believe and that no one's beliefs are favored by the government. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

POSITIVE PROVISIONS

Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause

This item indicates that the state constitution has a provision analogous to the First Amendment's Establishment Clause or Free Exercise Clause: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Many state constitutions reiterate the important protections enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. These clauses may be interpreted in accordance with federal law precedent, or state courts may interpret them to provide a greater level of protection for the separation of religion and government than under federal law.

No Aid Clause

This item indicates that the state constitution has a No Aid Clause, a provision prohibiting a state from granting funds to certain types of religious organizations. Most state constitutions include some type of No Aid Clause in order to ensure government neutrality on religious matters and to foster a strong separation between religion and government. These clauses vary in scope. Some apply only to religious schools, while others prevent state funds from being granted to any religious organization. Correspondingly, they may only prohibit direct funding by the state or they may prohibit any transfer of state funds for religious purposes.

No Aid Clauses sometimes face opposition by religious groups because they may limit the ability of states to set up school voucher systems, which divert public school funding to religious schools.

Strong Taxpayer Standing

This item indicates those states which historically recognize standing for taxpayers to bring suit against unconstitutional expenditures of state funds. Standing is a legal term which indicates that someone is qualified to pursue a claim in court. When a state or local government exceeds the bounds of its constitution or the U.S. Constitution (by spending public money to endorse a religion, for example), generally the only way to prevent that expenditure is for individuals to bring suit in court.

At the federal level, there has been a gradual erosion of taxpayer standing doctrines, which may prevent individuals from suing the government in federal court. States, however, are not bound by this federal-level precedent, and while some states have incorporated elements of federal standing doctrine into their jurisprudence, others use different

approaches to ensure access to the courts. Strong taxpayer standing doctrines allow citizens to challenge unconstitutional uses of taxpayer funds, including violations of the separation of religion and government.

NEGATIVE PROVISIONS

Religious Tests for Office

While the U.S. Constitution states that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States,” this provision has not always been understood to apply to state offices. Consequently, several state constitutions require office-holders to swear a religious oath or require candidates to practice a specific religion. Others explicitly prohibit atheists or non-believers from holding office. It is generally understood that these provisions are unconstitutional and without effect, but they may remain in state law or the state constitution despite being voided by a court. This item indicates that these inactive provisions remain in the state constitution or state law.

Education & Youth

Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, the bulk of negative legislation sought by Christian nationalists, such as those behind Project Blitz, targets schools and youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination. Research shows that individuals raised within a particular religious faith are likely to remain in that faith as they age. Young people are particularly vulnerable to peer pressure, they are still in the process of identity development, and have yet to fully develop their capacity for reason.

In recent years there has been significant advocacy by Christian nationalists to pass legislation to convince young people that America was founded as a Christian nation, in order to propagate a false version of history. This effort seeks to enshrine revisionist history into the law, conflate founding documents with religious ones, teach biblical history in schools, and require religious displays in schools.

Because young people depend on the care of others, they are especially vulnerable to the religious beliefs of their parents and caretakers. Sadly, religious beliefs are all too often used to justify conduct which can have a severely negative and lifelong impact on young people, including denial of medical care or dangerous practices like conversion therapy.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Protection from Child Marriage

This item indicates laws which prohibit individuals below the age of majority (usually 18) from marrying. Because exceptions, such as those allowing parental consent, can be misused to harm children, we are only counting those laws which flatly prohibit the marriage of minors.

This issue is critically important because too often, these marriages occur in religious sects where very young girls are forced to marry much older men. Child brides forced into marriage have few options. As minors, they face legal dead-ends if they want to end their marriage. Because their parents still have custody rights, organizations and shelters are unable to interfere with those rights. As a result, these children with abusive families and husbands must remain with them. They are too often removed from school, raped, and forced to live in poverty. The only way to give child brides the legal right to say “no” to marriage is to eliminate the ability of minors to marry.

Protection from Female Genital Mutilation

This item indicates laws designed to protect young girls and women from female genital mutilation (FGM), which is the ritual cutting or alteration of female genitalia for non-medical purposes. This dangerous practice is predominantly forced upon young girls, often for religious or cultural reasons, and performed by non-licensed practitioners. Fortunately, a majority of states prohibit FGM and make subjecting minors to this practice a felony. Comprehensive state laws also provide public education about FGM, create programs to raise awareness about this dangerous practice, and offer resources to girls and young women who are at risk for FGM.

Sex Education

This item examines how state laws and policies affect the quality of sex education in that state's public schools, which can and should play an important role in providing comprehensive and medically accurate sex education. Comprehensive sex education helps to foster healthy relationships and development, reduces the risk of unintended pregnancy, and lowers the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Under this analysis, a state is considered to offer comprehensive sex education if it is required by law and if the curriculum covers a wide range of relevant issues beyond abstinence. A curriculum is considered comprehensive if it teaches abstinence as the best method for avoiding STIs and unintended pregnancies, but it also teaches that

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

State Laws to Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is an internationally recognized human rights abuse and a form of gender-based violence that is widely thought to only happen overseas.

However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 513,000 women and girls in the U.S. are at risk or have undergone the procedure.

FGM is the cutting away of healthy tissue from a girl's vulva in order to control her sexuality. It's typically carried out from infancy to age 15. The most severe form removes all of the child's external genitals using a razor blade or other sharp object, sewing the wound shut, leaving only a small opening for menstruation and urination. There are no health benefits, and FGM can lead to lifelong physical and psychological harm. No major religion requires FGM, though some religious sects and patriarchal societies have adopted the practice.

A federal law prohibiting FGM was passed in 1996. Unfortunately, in 2018, a Michigan district court judge ruled the law unconstitutional due to federalism concerns. As of December 2019, the case remains under appeal.

Regardless of the existence of a federal anti-FGM law, state laws specifically banning the practice are important tools in preventing FGM. They send a strong message that the practice is not acceptable, they give law enforcement the tools they need to handle cases, and they can fill large gaps left by federal law, which include mandatory education and outreach programs.

Both Republican and Democratic legislators have recognized the need to pass comprehensive anti-FGM bills in their states. Notably in Michigan, following the arrest of a doctor for performing FGM in a Detroit suburb in 2018, twelve legislators, represented equally by political affiliation, worked together to enact what was then the strongest anti-FGM legislation in the country.

Due in part to awareness raised by the Detroit case, and also to the judge ruling the federal law unconstitutional, there has been increased momentum in states taking action against FGM.

In 2019, seven new states enacted anti-FGM legislation, bringing the total number of states with these protections to 35. Four states strengthened existing legislation. The momentum to address this critical issue in state legislatures is expected to continue into 2020.



Amanda Parker

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She develops federal and state policy proposals to protect women and girls from harmful cultural practices, recently working with Michigan to put in place the most comprehensive anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) legislation in the country.

She has facilitated trainings on honor violence, FGM, forced marriage, and child marriage for more than 600 professionals likely to encounter cases, and has supported survivors of these abuses to help them find protection and the services they need.

contraception reduces the risk of unintended pregnancy and infection from STIs, including HIV. These programs also teach interpersonal and other communication skills that help young people explore their own values, goals, and options.

A state's public school sex education curriculum is considered "abstinence only" if there are laws mandating that programs must exclusively or primarily promote abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage. By doing so, these programs tell students that abstinence is an unmarried person's only moral option. This category also includes "abstinence-plus" education, which provides information about contraception in the context of strong abstinence messages.

Some sex education laws prohibit educators from discussing LGBTQ topics in school or mandate that such topics be presented negatively. While these laws usually apply only to sex education, they are frequently being applied more broadly by school districts. Many of these laws are not enforced, but they may still have a negative impact on LGBTQ students and the school environment.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Anti-Science Education Laws

This item indicates laws or policies which allow public school educators to present non-scientific religious doctrine as scientific fact, most often relating to evolution. Other typical laws or policies may require public schools to teach about "controversies" in areas where religious doctrine conflicts with generally accepted science.

Elective Bible Courses

This item indicates laws which require or encourage public schools to offer elective classes on the Christian Bible as a historical or literary document. While it may be technically possible for a public school to offer a course on the Bible that uses it solely for historical or literary purposes, most schools that offer such courses purposefully use them to proselytize and involve students in religious activities.

Mandatory Religious Displays

This item indicates laws which require schools (often in addition to other public buildings) to display the national motto, "In God We Trust," or other religious messages. Some of these laws mandate the size, format, and location (for example, "every classroom" or "a prominent location") of these displays, while others leave these details to the individual school or district. These laws often require that the display materials be donated and not paid for with state funds.

Campus License to Discriminate Laws

This item indicates state laws which prevent public colleges and universities from applying non-discrimination policies to student organizations. The majority of public colleges and universities have non-discrimination policies that allow students to participate in any recognized student organization, and most colleges and universities collect a fee from students that is provided to these organizations in order to support their programming.

The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that public colleges and universities must treat student organizations equally with respect to recognition and funding—they cannot discriminate based on viewpoint—but they may impose universal requirements such as non-discrimination policies. These policies are important because they ensure that students are not forced to pay for student organizations in which they are not allowed to participate.

However, some states have "Campus License to Discriminate" laws that require public colleges and universities to allow student organizations to discriminate by excluding some students or limiting their membership based on the organization's religious beliefs. Religious groups may advocate for these laws so that they can exclude students of other religions or other groups they disfavor, such as LGBTQ people.

School Voucher Programs

This item indicates whether state law establishes school voucher programs. School vouchers divert state funding from public education to private educational institutions, the majority of which are religious. Many states have laws which either allow school vouchers statewide or create pilot voucher programs.

Released Time Laws

Some state laws require or allow school districts to provide “released time” for students to attend private religious education. To meet constitutional requirements, this religious instruction must be outside school grounds, the school may not encourage participation, and school resources may not be spent to facilitate this religious education. Unfortunately, these released time programs may compromise the education of both participating and non-participating students if they detract from class time.

This item indicates state laws that allow released time and also laws that allow students to receive academic credit for religious education classes taught off school grounds.

Improper Promotion of Religion by Schools

This item indicates state laws that allow school staff to participate in religious activities on school grounds or facilities before, during, and/or after school hours.

Courts have made clear that the First Amendment prohibits school staff from promoting religion or engaging in religious expression with students because such behavior would be an official endorsement of those religious viewpoints.

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogma on health care laws, targeting women's health care in particular. While court precedents have limited the effect that these extremist groups can have on federal law, these organizations nonetheless have been able to push through religious exemptions and privileges affecting health care in nearly every state.

Negative laws affecting health care generally relate to issues of paramount concern to religious conservatives: abortion, contraception, sterilization, end-of-life care, and faith healing.

In addition to compromising the separation of religion and government, these intrusive laws and policies can also have a drastically negative impact on people's well-being by limiting access to essential health care.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Medical Aid-in-Dying Laws

This item indicates laws that allow a terminally ill, mentally competent adult to request and obtain medication that brings about a peaceful death. Prohibitions on suicide, assisted suicide, and homicide do not apply to individuals taking appropriate actions in accordance with these laws.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Fetal Disposal Requirements

This item indicates laws that require aborted or miscarried fetuses to be either buried or cremated. These laws may impose additional requirements on women seeking abortions, abortion providers, or both. They are increasingly being used to impose even more expenses on women and more operational obstacles on abortion providers. These laws also undermine religious freedom because they require that affected women engage in funerary rituals which may not be in accordance with their beliefs.

Denial of Care Laws

These items indicate laws and policies that allow religious providers (including individual health care workers and institutional providers like hospitals) to act or refrain from acting in accordance with existing law if those laws conflict with their religious beliefs. Often called “freedom of conscience” laws, these provisions may effectively supersede rules of professional ethics, medical best practices, and protections against medical negligence in order to privilege the religious beliefs of providers. These laws most often allow providers to refuse services relating to abortion, contraception, and sterilization, but some states have even broader exemptions.

While many denial of care laws echo existing exemptions at the federal level, states may pass laws which apply the exemptions more broadly or to institutions that do not receive federal funding. As indicated on each scorecard, some states allow only private institutions to refuse to provide abortion services, while others have broader provisions which allow any health care institution to refuse to provide such care. States may also have laws which allow at least some health care providers to refuse to provide contraception and/or sterilization services.

Some states specifically allow health care providers to receive licensure or accreditation, or to be treated as if they were

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Religious Exemptions to State Vaccination Requirements

School immunization requirements have existed in the United States since the 19th Century. But until recently, most states had either a religious exemption, allowing parents claiming religious objections to vaccines to send their children to school unvaccinated, or a personal belief exemption, allowing parents to send their children to school unvaccinated on any grounds.

The only two exceptions were West Virginia—which never had a religious exemption—and Mississippi, where the state Supreme Court struck down the religious exemption as violating the Equal Protection clause (*Brown v. Stone*, 378 So. 2d 218 (1979)). In recent years, this situation has been changing.

California led the way in 2015, removing its non-medical exemption completely in response to a large measles outbreak. In 2019, Maine and New York followed suit, and currently other states like Massachusetts are considering bills to remove their religious or personal belief exemptions (of course, most proposed bills never become laws, so the progress of these bills is unpredictable).

This state legislative change is a response to the largest measles outbreak in the United States since 1992. As of October 2019, the number of cases is already above 1,250. Most of the cases are in unvaccinated individuals. Removing these religious exemptions is a reasonable response, an effort to reduce the pool of unvaccinated young people propagating this outbreak.

Some individuals may have sincere religious objections to vaccines. For example, some may be troubled by the use of cell lines descended from the 1960s to grow some vaccine viruses (linking vaccine opposition to opposition to abortion, though the cell lines are very far removed from any link to abortion). But most individuals who do not vaccinate their children are acting out of misplaced fears about vaccines.

Our jurisprudence makes verifying exemptions—making sure the reasons are truly religious—difficult, because it focuses on the personal beliefs of individuals rather than official religious tenets and limits what states can do to check sincerity. For example, states cannot require a letter from a religious official.

Conversely, the same courts have consistently said religious exemptions to vaccine mandates are not required. So states offering religious exemptions can expect most people taking advantage of them to be victims of anti-vaccine misinformation, not religion. Recognizing that may lead additional states to remove exemptions.



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Increasingly, her research and activities are focused on legal and policy issues related to vaccines. She writes about school mandate, policy responses to non-vaccinating, tort issues and administrative issues related to vaccines.

licensed or accredited, if they are initially denied licensure or accreditation for a reason that conflicts with their religious beliefs. For example, if a professional accrediting organization prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ patients, a health care provider might still be considered accredited if they feel compelled by their religious beliefs to discriminate against patients.

Negligence Exemptions for Faith Healing

This item indicates laws or policies which carve holes into child negligence or medical neglect laws, protecting individuals from legal consequences for the far-too-frequent tragic outcomes of faith healing imposed on minors. These laws typically protect the faith healers and parents or guardians from any penalties when a child dies or is severely harmed as a result of these practices, or if the child was denied appropriate treatment for religious reasons. In these cases, law enforcement has limited ability to prosecute. State laws may include religious exemptions to civil liability, criminal laws, or both.

Exemptions to Vaccination Requirements

Every state has laws which require children to receive various vaccinations prior to attending public school. This item indicates that the state has non-medical exemptions to those laws which endanger young people and risk public health. Personal exemptions allow a parent to opt their child out of the vaccination requirement for basically any reason, which is often framed as a philosophy or belief. Religious exemptions allow a parent to opt their child out of the vaccination requirement based on their religious beliefs, often associated with their particular denomination.



In April 2019, New York City declared a public health emergency and ordered mandatory vaccination following a measles outbreak in ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn.

Photo by Erin Alexis Randolph via Shutterstock

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs. Broader statutes allow religious individuals and groups to potentially avoid general legal requirements that burden their exercise of religion. Other states create special privileges for religious organizations and places of worship, allowing them to avoid taxes or other legal requirements that apply to other types of non-profits.

Rather than enhancing religious freedom, these laws and policies undermine it. They often seek to enshrine a particular set of religious beliefs (such as those held by Christian nationalists) into the law by creating exceptions to specific legal requirements which are only relevant to those groups.

For example, a state law may create a religious exemption to civil rights laws specifically for wedding service providers so that they are not required to serve same-sex couples. Alternately, the law may allow a broader class of individuals and businesses to assert religious exemptions, but only in suspiciously narrow circumstances or to protect only certain beliefs, such as the belief that the only moral form of intercourse is between heterosexual married couples. Limited religious exemptions must apply to some laws in order for them to comply with the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, but the exemptions Christian nationalists seek are significantly more widespread and far-reaching.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Religious Freedom Restoration Acts

Based on Supreme Court precedent, the U.S. Constitution's Free Exercise clause does not limit the ability of the federal government to pass neutral laws of general applicability, even if they incidentally burden religious expression. The Court has noted that to do otherwise would allow individual religious belief to supersede neutral laws, resulting in an unworkable society where laws could not be applied evenly.

Despite this warning, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) at the federal level, and a number of states have followed by passing their own version of this law. RFRA's require the government to meet a more difficult test when they incidentally burden religious expression—they must show that the government interest is compelling

and that the government used the least restrictive means to achieve that interest.

Over time, as predicted by the Supreme Court, RFRA have been misused at both the state and federal levels to carve out exemptions that privilege particular religious viewpoints. Christian nationalists seek to apply these laws in new ways, such as undermining civil rights laws that protect LGBTQ people and women from discrimination. This item indicates states that have statutory language which achieves the same effect as the federal RFRA.

Discriminatory Religious Exemptions

While there are innumerable ways in which exemptions for religious beliefs could be inserted into neutral, generally applicable laws, these items indicate specific types of religious exemptions frequently sought by Christian nationalists.

For example, several states allow foster care and adoption agencies that receive state funding to use religious reasons to discriminate against potential parents, and sometimes even vulnerable youth. This most negatively impacts single people, LGBTQ people, atheists, and religious minorities. Moreover, these laws are harmful to foster youth because they reduce the number of qualified families, which in turn denies them the chance to find loving, permanent homes.

A handful of states have created exemptions to civil rights laws, allowing individuals and businesses to use their religious beliefs about marriage to discriminate against same-sex couples. Not surprisingly, these states fail to provide any nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people in the first place. Regardless, these religious exemptions are stigmatizing and harmful, and they can override local non-discrimination protections.

A few states allow government officials, such as county clerks and judges, to invoke their religious beliefs about marriage as a legitimate reason to opt out of providing government services to same-sex couples. Although these laws typically require that the couple be served by other officials, that may not be possible in some offices. Regardless, the couple is subject to discrimination that is based on religion and sponsored by the government.

Tax Exemptions for Places of Worship

Most states exempt churches and other places of worship, as well as other religious organizations and non-profits, from various state taxes. However, these items indicate laws or

policies that provide special tax exemptions or limited filing requirements for religious organizations or places of worship that are not available to secular non-profits. For example, some states allow religious organizations or places of worship to omit initial tax exemption documentation, or they may be entirely exempt from filing any annual return. When these exemptions are in place, it is impossible for the government to detect fraud and/or misconduct within these organizations.

Most states offer tax exemptions for parsonages or other dwellings provided to clergy, in effect subsidizing their housing. Although similar provisions exist in federal law, this item indicates exemptions from state-level taxes as well.

Nearly every state offers tax exemptions for property owned by religious groups or places of worship, but such exemptions are not typically available to other non-profits. In some instances, these exemptions are granted automatically to places of worship, but only granted to other non-profits conditionally or after a lengthy approval process.

Anti-Blasphemy Laws

State anti-blasphemy laws were long ago ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. The *Joseph Burstyn, Inc. v. Wilson* (1952) case held that “[i]t is not the business of government in our nation to suppress real or imagined attacks upon a particular religious doctrine, whether they appear in publications, speeches, or motion pictures.” This item indicates that the state law still contains inactive anti-blasphemy provisions.

Distribution of Religious License Plate Funding

This item indicates laws or policies that permit funding from the sale of specialty religious license plates (such as “In God We Trust” plates) to go to non-governmental organizations. In some states, this mechanism has been used to secretly provide funding to Christian nationalist groups without informing the purchasers of these license plates.

ISSUES

Acknowledging Context

Research Process

Each scorecard assesses the presence or absence of statewide laws and policies affecting the separation of religion and government, either positively or negatively. In addition to the 50 states, scorecards are provided for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Research for this project was conducted by the lawyers and law clerks at the American Atheists Legal Center, based on established criteria for each law and policy item, and compiled into a scorecard for each state. The data were drawn from publicly available sources.

The evaluations of each law and policy item are based on the nature of the item, typical statewide laws and policies concerning that issue, and our determination about best practices for that issue. States are grouped into one of the three general categories based on a subjective analysis of their laws. During the course of researching and drafting this report, a number of states passed relevant laws or policies. This report includes assessments of laws and policies passed as of December 1, 2019.

“Clauses” refer to state constitutional provisions. “Laws” refer to statewide statutes, either passed through a state’s legislative process or through referendum. “Policies” refer to administrative regulations and policies from a state executive agency that have a legal effect. “Court decisions” refer to final rulings by a relevant state or federal court with a statewide jurisdiction and for which the decision is controlling law.

Implementation of Laws & Policies

State of the Secular States is an assessment of statewide laws and policies that affect the separation of religion and government in each state as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This report is intended to support advocacy on these issues, both by providing a benchmark for existing laws and policies and as a roadmap for how advocates can work to sustain the separation of religion and government in

their own communities and states. However, this report is not an evaluation of statewide advocacy efforts. We recognize that advocacy for statewide law and policy efforts relating to the separation of religion and government varies widely in different regions and is based on state politics, historical context, legislative concerns, state constitutions, and countless other factors.

Moreover, this report does not measure the implementation of laws and policies that affect the separation of religion and government. It reviews only the presence or absence of the listed law and policy items. For example, we note on Michigan’s scorecard that the state applies religious exemptions to foster care and adoption, although recent settlements have narrowed the applicability of those exemptions. Similarly, we note that several state constitutions include a religious test for public office, even though those provisions are not currently operative.

Future Categories

This report differs from the previous edition in that it includes additional criteria as well as some modified assessments of the criteria. We intend to continue iterating upon this report annually in order to provide a useful resource for advocates and lawmakers. Some issues we are considering for future inclusion are:

- Clergy-penitent privilege
- Laws mandating recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools
- Religion in state-required oaths
- Separation of religion and government in prisons
- Regulation of homeschooling
- Abortion prohibitions



National Summary

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

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Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

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SCORECARDS

State Assessments

This report identifies four categories of public policy in each state that affect religious equality: State Constitutional Protections, Education & Youth, Health Care & Wellness, and Special Privileges for Religion. We assess over 40 related law and policy measures in each state. The states have been grouped into three broad categories but are not ranked individually.



Strong Protections for Religious Equality

In addition to strong constitutional protections which protect the separation of religion and government, states in this category have laws and policies that protect individuals from religion-based harm, such as child marriage or conversion therapy. Generally, these states allow few religious exemptions or special privileges for religion.



Basic Separation of Religion and Government

States in this category have constitutional provisions which protect religious equality by ensuring the separation of religion and government, but few additional laws to protect individuals from religion-based harm. These states also usually have some religious exemptions or special privileges for religion.

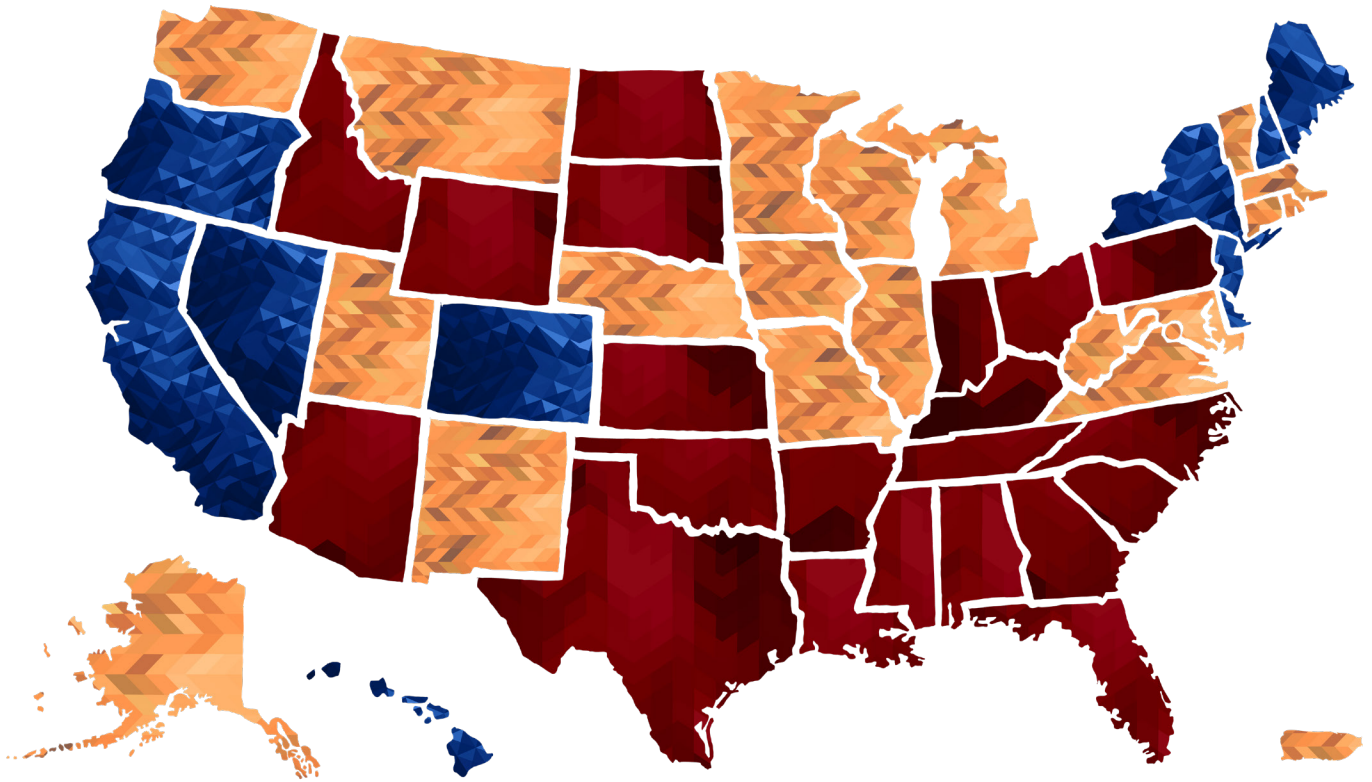


Religious Exemptions That Undermine Equality

States in this category have several laws which establish religious exemptions or special privileges for religion and provide few protections for the separation of religion and government. Some of these states have passed laws to promote false Christian nationalist narratives, allow religious exemptions to civil rights protections, and enshrine particular religious views into the law.

SCORECARDS

National Summary Map



Strong Protections for Religious Equality

[10 STATES]

- California
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Maine
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Oregon



Religious Exemptions That Undermine Equality

[21 STATES]

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Wyoming



Basic Separation of Religion and Government

[21 STATES & TERRITORIES]

- Alaska
- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- Washington, DC
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



Alabama

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Alaska

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Arizona

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Arkansas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Connecticut

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



District of Columbia

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Note: Some items in this section are not applicable because of the unique nature of the District of Columbia and its relationship with the U.S. Constitution and federal laws. Provisions which are not applicable are indicated with a symbol.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations
 - All Religious Organizations
 - Direct Funding
 - Indirect Funding
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws
 - Bible Class Laws
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws
 - School Voucher Programs
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time"

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services
 - Refusals Related to Contraception
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization
 - Professional Licensure
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions
 - Criminal Exemptions
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions
 - Religious Exemptions

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption
 - Marriage-Related Services
 - State Officials
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements
 - Parsonage Exemption
 - Property Tax Exemptions
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Positive provision in place	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Negative provision in place
<input type="radio"/> Positive provision not in place	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Negative provision not in place



Florida

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Georgia

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Idaho

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Indiana

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Kansas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place

Kentucky

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Louisiana

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Maryland

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Massachusetts

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
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Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
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Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

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STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Mississippi

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Missouri

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Montana

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place

Nebraska

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✓
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✓
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✓
 - All Religious Organizations ✓
 - Direct Funding ✓
 - Indirect Funding ✓
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✓
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✓
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✓
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✓
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✓
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✗
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✗
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✗
 - Bible Class Laws ✗
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✗
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✗
 - School Voucher Programs ✗
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✗
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✗
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✓
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✗
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✗
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✗
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✗
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✗
 - Professional Licensure ✗
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✗
 - Criminal Exemptions ✗
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✗
 - Religious Exemptions ✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✗
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✗
 - Marriage-Related Services ✗
 - State Officials ✗
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✗
 - Parsonage Exemption ✗
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✗
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✗
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Nevada

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



New Mexico

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



North Carolina

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

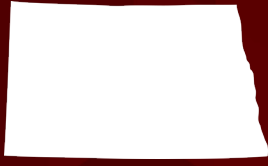
MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



North Dakota

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Ohio

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Oklahoma

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Pennsylvania

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place

Puerto Rico

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Rhode Island

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



South Carolina

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



South Dakota

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place

Tennessee

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Texas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Vermont

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Washington

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



West Virginia

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ✔
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ✔
- NO AID CLAUSES
 - Educational Organizations ✔
 - All Religious Organizations ✔
 - Direct Funding ✔
 - Indirect Funding ✔
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ✔
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ✘

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ✔
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ✔
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ✔
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ✔
 - Abstinence Only Sex Education ✘
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education ✘
- EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 - Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws ✘
 - Bible Class Laws ✘
 - Mandatory National Motto Displays ✘
 - Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws ✘
 - School Voucher Programs ✘
 - Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools ✘
- SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES
 - Permissive "Released Time" Policy ✘
 - Academic Credit for "Released Time" ✘

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS ✔
- FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS ✘
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services ✘
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ✘
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ✘
 - Professional Licensure ✘
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemptions ✘
 - Criminal Exemptions ✘
- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS
 - Personal Exemptions ✘
 - Religious Exemptions ✘

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ✘
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ✘
 - Marriage-Related Services ✘
 - State Officials ✘
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ✘
 - Parsonage Exemption ✘
 - Property Tax Exemptions ✘
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS ✘
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ✘

✔ Positive provision in place	✘ Negative provision in place
✔ Positive provision not in place	✘ Negative provision not in place



Wisconsin

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

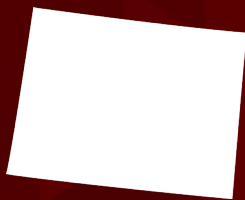
MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place



Wyoming

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

State Constitutional Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious liberty created by the U.S. Constitution. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	✓
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	✓
NO AID CLAUSES	
Educational Organizations	✓
All Religious Organizations	✓
Direct Funding	✓
Indirect Funding	✓
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	✓
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	✗

Education and Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	✓
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	✓
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	✓
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	✓
Abstinence Only Sex Education	✗
LGBTQ Topics Restricted in Sex Education	✗
EDUCATION & PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws	✗
Bible Class Laws	✗
Mandatory National Motto Displays	✗
Campus "License to Discriminate" Laws	✗
School Voucher Programs	✗
Laws Allowing Promotion of Religion by Schools	✗
SCHOOL RELEASED TIME POLICIES	
Permissive "Released Time" Policy	✗
Academic Credit for "Released Time"	✗

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on women's health care in particular.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS	✓
FETAL REMAINS DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	✗
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Private Institutions May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Any Institution May Refuse Abortion Services	✗
Refusals Related to Contraception	✗
Refusals Related to Sterilization	✗
Professional Licensure	✗
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemptions	✗
Criminal Exemptions	✗
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS	
Personal Exemptions	✗
Religious Exemptions	✗

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	✗
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	✗
Marriage-Related Services	✗
State Officials	✗
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	✗
Parsonage Exemption	✗
Property Tax Exemptions	✗
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAWS	✗
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	✗

✓ Positive provision in place	✗ Negative provision in place
✓ Positive provision not in place	✗ Negative provision not in place

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our Organization

AMERICAN ATHEISTS is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheism and atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America.

American Atheists is committed to providing resources and tools to help our local grassroots organizers grow and sustain vibrant communities. By emphasizing activities in the four core areas of our ACES program—*Activism, Community, Education, and Service*—affiliate groups can provide support for their members while expanding engagement in their local community, improving policy outcomes at every level of government, and normalizing atheism across the nation. To find out more about our State Director program or to find a local affiliate group, please email us at field@atheists.org.

American Atheists seeks to empower its constituents to be effective advocates for state and local policy change. We use cutting-edge tools to inform grassroots leaders about bills and policies that affect the separation of religion and government, which enables them to amplify their outreach to lawmakers. We support these efforts by providing advocacy resources, bill analyses, effective messaging, and assistance with coalition-building and drafting legislation. We are always eager to work with state and local advocates on the various laws and policies discussed in this report. If you are interested in engaging in this work, please email us at legal@atheists.org.

Acknowledgements

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www.atheists.org/states





American Atheists supporters rally at Capital Pride in Washington, D.C., on June 9, 2019.

Photo by Jer123 via Shutterstock



2019 STATE OF THE SECULAR STATES

*A Review of State Law and Policy Affecting the
Separation of Religion and Government*

www.atheists.org/states

