



RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS: A LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE

Religious liberty is a fundamental American value, protected by the First Amendment and numerous state and federal laws. But religious liberty doesn't give anyone special rights to discriminate against others just because of who they are. Religious exemptions undermine laws meant to protect everyone.

THE GOLDEN RULE

Texans believe in treating each other as we would want to be treated. That's why, according to a recent poll, **57% of Texans oppose religious exemption laws** that create special rights based on personal religious beliefs.

Laws that protect people from discrimination are about treating others as we want to be treated. LGBTQ Texans work hard to take care of their families, pay their taxes, and contribute to their communities. When they walk into a business that's open to the public, they should be treated like everyone else.

As a country, **we decided long ago that when businesses are open to the public, they should be open to everyone** on the same terms. Expanding religious exemptions would turn the clock back. We can't sanction discrimination by letting people ignore non-discrimination laws meant to protect everyone.

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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY NOT UNDER THREAT

Texans **value religious liberty and celebrate our First Amendment** right to worship according to our own conscience. The First Amendment has made it possible for religious diversity to flourish in America as in no other country.

That's why there are numerous **laws already on the books to ensure that each of us is free to practice our faith**. For example, the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act (TRFRA) already prevents government from burdening the free exercise of religion and gives Texans the ability to sue if the government oversteps. It's one of the strictest free exercise statutes enacted by any state. Religious exemption laws simply aren't needed to protect religious liberty.

CAN OF WORMS

Religious liberty doesn't give anyone a **license to discriminate**. Imagine what would happen if each of us were free to pick and choose which laws to follow based on our personal religious beliefs. Religious exemptions open a can of worms by allowing people to ignore laws they don't like without consequences.

The negative effects aren't limited to LGBTQ discrimination. There is a coordinated effort to create religious exemptions in healthcare, in social services, in the workplace, in access to housing, in business, and even in government. Everyone's rights are at stake.

OPPOSE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAWS

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