

Statement from 43 National Organizations United in Opposition to Project Blitz and Similar Legislative Efforts

Religious freedom is a fundamental American value. It is a shield that protects everyone—the religious and nonreligious alike. Yet, an alarming effort is underway to harness the power of the government to impose its faith onto everyone else, including our public school students. This effort seeks to transform religious freedom into a sword that can be used to harm others, undermining important civil rights protections and healthcare access, especially for women, LGBTQ people, those of minority faiths, and the nonreligious.

We are united against these efforts.

In particular, we oppose “Project Blitz,” a new and coordinated national effort to enshrine Christian nationalism in state laws across the country. Project Blitz promotes a three-tiered framework of state bills meant to incrementally redefine religious freedom and tear down the separation of church and state, with each tier laying the groundwork for the next. This framework starts by pushing what its authors believe will be less controversial measures, such as requiring “In God We Trust” to be posted in public schools. Using those bills as a foothold, it then seeks to pass more dangerous legislation, like bills that allow taxpayer-funded agencies to turn away couples seeking to foster or adopt children in need of stable and loving homes because they are same-sex or the “wrong” religion.

The separation of church and state, however, is the linchpin of religious freedom and a hallmark of our democracy. It ensures that each person has the right to choose whether to practice a religion or be nonreligious without pressure from the government. It safeguards houses of worship from intrusion by the government and, at the same time, prevents religious institutions from harnessing the power of government to impose their religion on others. It protects parents who want to send their children to public schools without fear that they will be proselytized or forced to pray according to someone else’s faith tradition. And, it prohibits the government from allowing the use of religion to evade laws that protect civil rights and access to healthcare, including reproductive healthcare.

Therefore, we urge legislators across the country to oppose Project Blitz and similar legislative efforts. America—and religious freedom—are stronger when the government gives no religion or set of beliefs more power or preference than any other and when everyone is welcome and treated equally under the law.

African American Ministers in Action
Alliance of Baptists
American Atheists
American Civil Liberties Union
Americans United for Separation of Church
and State
Anti-Defamation League
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Catholics for Choice
Center for Inquiry
Center for Reproductive Rights
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Disciples Justice Action Network
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative
The Episcopal Church
Equal Partners in Faith
Equality Federation

Family Equality Council
Freedom for All Americans
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Hindu American Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
Interfaith Alliance
Lambda Legal
Muslim Advocates
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender
Equality
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National LGBTQ Task Force Action
Fund
National Partnership for Women &
Families

People For the American Way
Political Research Associates
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington
Office of Public Witness
Religious Coalition for Reproductive
Choice
Religious Institute
Secular Coalition for America
T'Ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human
Rights
The United Methodist Church - General
Board of Church & Society
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ, Justice and
Witness Ministries