

Statements From Faith Leaders Supporting The Do No Harm Act

“The rights of religious minorities should and must be protected, but those rights cannot be used in such a way that they allow for others to be discriminated against. The Do No Harm Act will help ensure that RFRA operates as it was intended.”

Jim Winkler
President and General Secretary
National Council of Churches

“In recent years, fundamentalist Christians have tried—and often succeeded—to discriminate against LGBTQIA people in areas such as adoption and foster parenting, employment, and public businesses. In the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, it was determined that discrimination of Blacks and other racial minorities was not legal, even if someone had religious convictions that would support the discrimination. Constitutionally protected religious freedom is not a license to discriminate against others, but a shield to protect religious minorities and the non-religious from the tyranny of those who would like to make their religious views the law of the land.”

The Rev. Nancy E. Brink
The Donna (Ford) and Fahmy Attallah Endowed Director of Church Relations
Office of Church Relations
Chapman University
Orange, CA

“As a proclaimer of the Gospel, which is good news, I raise my voice in support of the Do No Harm Act. The protections enumerated in the act align with the core values of love for our neighbors while carefully avoiding infringement upon religious freedom. Assuring that religion is not used as the basis for discrimination, or denial of access to government services, the Do No Harm Act is consistent with the highest ideals of religious teaching. Finally, the act provides necessary protection for religious minorities, women and LGBTQ people who are far too often subjected to harsh and harmful barriers.”

The Rev. Cedric A. Harmon
Executive Director
Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice

“Back in the 1990s, I personally knew the individuals responsible for crafting and passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Never did they imagine that their piece of legislation would be used to discriminate against others. They were trying to prevent discrimination. As a religious leader for almost forty years, I strongly encourage the passage of The Do No Harm Act. We need it now more than ever to protect those who are vulnerable in our country.”

The Rev. David W. Key Sr.
Founding Pastor
Lake Oconee Community Church
Greensboro, Georgia

“The fabric of our nation is frayed when people are discriminated against in the name of religion. As a religious leader, it pains me to see religion used to infringe upon others’ fundamental rights. Regrettably, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a law meant to protect religious freedom, has been misused by those who seek to use religion as a tool to impose their values on others. In our nation this cannot be accepted or tolerated. The Do No Harm Act will correct the misuse of RFRA and restore its original intent.

“Freedom of religion is a sacred principle in our country, but so too is the principle of equal rights under law. Our nation is made stronger when every person is treated fairly, equally, and with dignity. Thus, all who value living in a nation where freedom of religion and equal rights are celebrated should welcome the reintroduction of the Do No Harm Act.”

Rabbi Robert B. Barr
Congregation Beth Adam
Loveland, Ohio