

Attn: Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings

ID: LFG-2015-HCOGR-0013

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

2157 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Sent via: Mail

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Chairman Jason Chaffetz and Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings,

My name is Isaiah X. Smith and I am sending you this letter for the purpose of writing in regards to H.R.2802, also known as the “**First Amendment Defense Act.**” I strongly urge both of you to read this letter and to fully oppose the First Amendment Defense Act.

**I. General Information on the First Amendment Defense Act**

H.R.2802 is a bill that was submitted on the floor by Representative Raul Labrador of Idaho. The bill is an attempt to legalize and to make the practice of discriminating against “minority” Americans by:

1. Allowing and permitting government employees to refuse to process tax returns, visa applications or Social Security checks of all non-heterosexual couples
2. Allowing and permitting recipients of federal grants and contracts, including those for social services programs like homeless shelters and substance abuse treatment programs, to turn away all non-heterosexual individuals
3. Allowing and permitting discriminations to anyone who is outside of a “heterosexual” marriage to be perfectly legal
4. Allow and permitting an educational institution receiving federal funds to fire a staff member for merely being an individual attracted to a member of the same-sex
5. Allowing and permitting hospitals and hospices to deny lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered or transsexual and unmarried couples spousal visitation rights and privileges

The First Amendment Defense Act is an anti-American piece of legislation and should not have ever been sponsored, promoted or endorsed by any representative. All of the things that the bill wants to legalize are crazy, and asinine. It is very non compos mentis for a “public servant” to propose such an unconstitutional piece of legislation. A public servant’s job is to treat all individuals the same and to respect the constitutional rights of all Americans. The religious liberty of individuals and organizations, including clergy and houses of worship, who have a disfavorable ideology on same-sex marriage are already protected by the First Amendment, federal law and vice versa in respect to individuals who have a favorable view of same-sex marriages. The First Amendment Defense Act wants to give public servants and government officials the right to discriminate against our own people. The proposed piece of legislation also wants to use tax payer dollars for the purpose of funding and preventing the United

States Federal Government from defunding entities that discriminate against already protected classes. The right to believe is fundamental however the right to use taxpayer dollars to fund discrimination it not.

## II. United States history involving discrimination

The United States of America does not have a favorable history when it comes to discrimination. A couple of years ago segregation in public educational institutions was perfectly legal. However thanks to **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)**, that practice was ruled illegal by being unconstitutional. Interracial marriage was once illegal due to some states having anti-miscegenation laws, however thanks to **Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967)**, that practice was ruled illegal by being constitutional. Even same-sex marriages were once illegal in some states in the United States, however once again thanks to a landmark Supreme Court case known as **Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2015)**, that practice too was declared illegal by being unconstitutional.

If the First Amendment Defense Act is passed by Congress, President Barack Obama is going to most likely veto that bill. Even if that unlawful and discriminatory piece of legislation makes its way through congress and somehow becomes a law, a federal lawsuit will be filed for the purpose of making sure that bill ceases. That will most likely be declared unconstitutional by the federal courts if such a law passes.

## III. Conclusion

The First Amendment Defense Act violates the domestic constitutional and international rights of American citizens and permits discrimination to occur against minorities. The proposed act opens the door to tax payer funded discrimination against the LGBT community, women, children and that cannot be accepted or tolerated. Needless to say, those minority groups have already been victims of a lot of discrimination which looking into the history of the United States of America. Please do not allow the United States of America to go back in history by further allowing this “proposed discrimination” to occur against our own people.

It would be a national embarrassment for the United States of America to openly pass that piece of legislation into law. It would also be hypocritical for the United States of America to make that bill into law while pressuring other countries to fully respect the domestic constitutional and international rights of a foreign country’s people. That is because making that bill into law would openly allow and permit individuals and entities to violate the domestic constitutional and international rights of our own people. That cannot be accepted or even slightly tolerated.

Therefore I am specifically asking you Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings to please oppose H.R.2802 (the First Amendment Defense Act). It is an unnecessary, unconstitutional, and an asinine piece of legislation. It would be very non compos mentis for any “public servant” to support that disgusting and atrocious proposed piece of legislation!

**IV. Acknowledgment letter**

If you need to contact me or to send me any type of acknowledgement letter, you can reach me via electronic mail at: [iscampaign@usa.com](mailto:iscampaign@usa.com). You can also reach me by mail at the following:

Isaiah Smith Campaign  
P.O Box 163411  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76161

Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith

Isaiah Smith Campaign  
P.O Box 163411  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76161  
[www.isaiahsmith.com](http://www.isaiahsmith.com)