

Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings

ID: LFG-2016-HCOGR-0024

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

2157 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C., 20515

Sent via: Mail

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Re: The First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) a/k/a H.R. 2802**

Chairman Jason Chaffetz and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings,

My name is Isaiah X. Smith and I am sending you this letter as for the purpose as to discussing my objections as to the proposed First Amendment Defense Act a/k/a H.R. 2802 and as to my request for you all to not be in favor of that proposed bill.

It is to my knowledge and understanding as to the facts that the First Amendment Defense Act 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 as to 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.

H.R. 2802 is unnecessary and is unneeded. Please note that the religious liberty of individuals and organizations, including clergy and houses of worship, who have a disfavorable ideology as to same-sex marriage is already protected by the First Amendment, federal law and vice versa with respect to individuals who have a favorable view as to same-sex marriages. The proposed First Amendment Defense Act wants to give public servants and government officials the right to discriminate against our own people by refusing to serve them and to be involved in other discriminatory conduct against minorities. H.R. 2802 wants to use tax payer dollars for the purpose as to funding and preventing the United States Federal Government from defunding entities that unlawfully discriminate against

individuals. I strongly believe that the right to believe is fundamental however the right to use taxpayer dollars to fund discrimination is not.

Please note that it would be a national and an international embarrassment for the United States of America to openly pass and to support the First Amendment Defense Act a/k/a H.R 2802 into law. Not only that, it would also be extremely hypocritical for the United States of America to pressure other countries in our world to fully respect the human rights of their citizen while we support allowing discrimination to occur against our own people.

I strongly urge you all to not be in favor as to H.R.2802, a/k/a the First Amendment Defense Act. Religious freedom means the freedom to believe what one chooses and not the freedom to impose those beliefs on others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaiah X. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "I" and "S".

Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith

Isaiah Smith Campaign

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