Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Subcommittee Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin drafting the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2024, we respectfully request that you include language prohibiting the federal government from taking any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

Without this language, we fear that the federal government will begin to systematically discriminate against religious schools, faith-based organizations, and other non-profits by barring their participation in federal programs, and removing their tax-exempt status, for their views on marriage. The First Amendment is sacred. It secures the right to write, pray, think, speak, and associate as one pleases. These fundamental rights are uncontroversial and must be protected.

We therefore request that you include the following language in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

1) *IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.*

2) *DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.—As used in subsection 1, a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—*

a) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection 1;

b) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

c) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

d) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

e) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

3) ACCREDITATION; LICENSURE; CERTIFICATION.— The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection 1.

We urge the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to include language prohibiting the federal government from punishing religious belief and to protect the First Amendment for all Americans in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2024. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

Eric A. “Rick” Crawford
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