

ENDORSEMENTS *for*

RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE: *A Joint Statement of Current Law*

Starting with a shared conviction that religious liberty is a fundamental right for all people, and concluding with a desire to increase understanding of current law regarding religious expression in American public life, this document, signed by liberals and conservatives, religious and non-religious people, takes a monumental step toward fostering and improving a rational, civil dialogue on these critically important issues. This document is thoughtful, thorough, reasoned and researched and I'm glad something like this has finally been written.

Mark DeMoss

The Civility Project

Author, The Little Red Book of Wisdom

This unbiased document, based on careful scholarship, gives all Americans an accurate, much-needed description of what the law actually says about religious expression in our increasingly pluralistic society. It performs an exceptional service in offering a reliable guide to the guarantees—and boundaries—of our constitutional principle of religious liberty.

The Rev. Canon Peg Chamberlin

President, National Council of Churches

We must reconcile religious liberty and expression with public engagement in a manner that respects the legal framework established in our Constitution. This critical document removes the vestiges of rhetoric and hyperbole surrounding the issues of faith and the public square while simultaneously bring clarity to the legal protections rendered upon church and state.

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez

*President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Hispanic Association of Evangelicals*

The statement reflects sound research on an essential constitutional principle, exhibits the kind of sensitivity to diversity that strengthens democracy, and promises to be a helpful guide for all concerned about the future of religious liberty in our nation. I am honored to endorse the statement and do so with profound gratitude for the good work that produced to it.

Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy

President, Interfaith Alliance

This document both clarifies and strengthens religious freedom in the United States by giving us an accurate understanding of the law. It is a key document coming at a crucial time in our nation's history. It will improve our public square dialogue by separating fact from opinion.

Dr. Joel C. Hunter

Senior Pastor, Northland – A Church Distributed

This guide is a valuable resource for religious communities that want to play an active role in public life. I plan to distribute it widely within my community.

Anju Bhargava

Founder, Hindu American Seva Charities

As our society becomes more religiously diverse, it is tempting to deal with real and feared conflict by clamping down on religious speech and activity. This statement underscores that our governments are required by constitution and law to robustly protect religious freedom.

Stanley Carlson-Thies

President, Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance

The Joint Statement is an unbiased and comprehensive guide to the current state of the law regarding the public expression of religion. It should be of great value both to those seeking to understand the issues surrounding public expression of religion and those seeking to comply with the requirements of existing law.

Jerry Biederman

*Chair, Domestic Policy Commission
The American Jewish Committee*

This document offers an accurate and authoritative summary of the state of the law related to religious expression in American public life. It is an excellent guide that I will keep next to my desk in days to come.

Dr. David P. Gushee

*Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics
Mercer University*

The intersection of religion and law seems to grow busier and more treacherous with each passing year. Those who care about religious freedom—in Texas and around the country—have long needed a reliable road map to navigate the challenging twists and turns in this area of the law. This statement provides that map—a great blessing, so to speak, for both religious and civic leaders.

Kathy Miller

President, Texas Freedom Network

* Titles and organizational affiliations listed for identification purposes only