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Americans United for Separation of Church and State

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Americans United Statement As Wasserman-Schultz Amendment Is Voted Down

Appropriations Amendment Would Have Protected Houses Of Worship And Nonprofits From Pressure To Endorse Or Oppose Candidates

Americans United for Separation of Church and State issued the following statement today as the House Appropriations Committee narrowly voted down (24-28) an amendment with bipartisan support from Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.) and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Texas) that would have protected the Johnson Amendment:

“Majorities of all major American religious groups oppose efforts to bring tax-exempt houses of worship into the business of endorsing and opposing candidates,” said Maggie Garrett, legislative director of Americans United. “We thank Rep. Wasserman-Schultz and the other House leaders who stood up today to fight so that churches aren’t used as political tools.”

Garrett continued, “As this issue moves to the full House, we hope members of Congress are listening to faith and community leaders from all across the country who don’t want partisan political campaigns dividing their members.”

Americans United is a religious liberty watchdog group based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1947, the organization educates Americans about the importance of church-state separation in safeguarding religious freedom.