

2021 STATE OF THE **SECULAR STATES**

*A Review of State Legislation Affecting the
Separation of Religion and Government*





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Table of Contents

4	INTRODUCTION TO THIS REPORT
6	KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN STATE LEGISLATION IN 2021
	<small>PARTNER PERSPECTIVE</small>
7	DANGEROUS “EMERGENCY DISASTER” BILLS SEEK UNPRECEDENTED RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS
	<small>PARTNER PERSPECTIVE</small>
9	ANTI-DIVERSITY EDUCATION LAWS CHILL CLASSROOM SPEECH AND THREATEN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
12	STATE LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK FOR 2022
	<small>PARTNER PERSPECTIVE</small>
14	MAKING HEALTH EQUITY A PRIORITY WHEN HOSPITALS PROPOSE MERGERS
15	SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY MAPS
19	ISSUE ANALYSIS & CATEGORIZATION
	<small>PARTNER PERSPECTIVE</small>
26	THE SILENT HARMFUL IMPACT OF ANTI-TRANSGENDER BILLS ON YOUTH
28	ACKNOWLEDGING CONTEXT
29	NATIONAL SUMMARY SCORECARD
30	STATE ASSESSMENTS & SCORECARDS
84	OUR ORGANIZATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Introduction

For the past two years, nearly every aspect of American life has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and our governments' responses to the unprecedented challenges of this crisis. The repercussions of the legislative and executive actions taken in response, at both the federal and state levels, will continue to be felt for years to come. And while some state legislatures will take the lessons learned from the past two years and ensure that public health agencies are adequately funded, schools have the resources they need to safely reopen, and pro-democracy measures like voting by mail, virtual committee hearings, and increased government transparency are continued, others will spend 2022 doing exactly the opposite.

As we predicted in last year's edition of this report, some state legislatures used the most recent session to clamp down on the emergency powers of executive agencies and governors, limiting their ability to quickly respond to the next pandemic. These measures have often been framed in the context of individual or religious liberty, prohibiting health departments from enacting limitations on large gatherings, banning the imposition of mask mandates or vaccine requirements, and even preventing officials from doing anything that burdens houses of worship or religious organizations more broadly.

These challenges have found some success in federal court, particularly as they relate to regulations impacting religious worship. With Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett on the Supreme Court — and the more than 225 judges former President Trump appointed to lower federal courts — courts were more likely to block regulations limiting the ability of churches to gather or actions that didn't sufficiently privilege religious beliefs by including exemptions. Many of these rulings were at odds with decades of precedent and were issued on an emergency basis, often without legal reasoning to explain the decisions, leaving state and local governments with uncertainty about how to best proceed.

This uncertainty, taken together with the false perception that religious exercise has been unfairly targeted by measures aimed at ending the pandemic, have given rise to a flurry of state legislation aimed at codifying these religious carve-outs and exemptions. Advocates are introducing new Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs) and finding new success in messaging them as a necessary response to government overreach during the pandemic. These RFRAs are identical to earlier bills that have undermined protections for atheists and other religious minority groups, LGBTQ people, and those in need of reproductive health care. So, despite the use of pandemic-related concerns to justify their passage, these bills will have the same ruinous effects on civil rights protections for vulnerable groups.

The politicization of a whole range of issues, including vaccinations, masking, and other public health measures, continues to undermine our ability to move past the pandemic and return to some sense of normalcy. Perhaps most concerning, the counter-democratic intuitions of some lawmakers continue to go unchecked. Those making their legislatures less accessible, less transparent, and less accountable to voters are not paying a political price for their attacks on our institutions or, indeed, on democracy itself. Instead, these lawmakers are leveraging these attacks for political gain.

We believe that the most effective advocacy happens in our communities. It's vital that advocates know what state law currently says, what policy goals they can achieve, and how to get there. That's why this report, with its more than 50 areas of evaluation and analysis, examines the state of the law in every state, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

This report is intended as a tool for advocates committed to improving their state's laws and policies. But beyond that, it's a reminder that engagement with our elected officials — and our stubborn insistence that they be responsive to our concerns — is our duty as citizens and as atheists. Our commitment to building a better future for those who come after us is at the core of who we are and a fundamental value that animates us as an organization.

While presidential actions and federal legislation often get the most coverage in the media and animate the most discussion, what happens in your state house has a more direct impact on your daily life. State legislatures have a greater ability to actually pass legislation, whether commendable or repugnant, than Congress. And because of this, local advocates have a greater capacity to stop the bad bills and push the good ones toward passage.

American Atheists will continue to invest in advocacy at this level, but our work isn't possible without the people on the ground who make it happen. We hope you find this fourth edition of our State of the Secular States report a valuable resource in this fight.



Nick Fish

NICK FISH
President
American Atheists



Key Developments in State Legislation in 2021

Due to a combination of factors, in 2021 there was a relentless onslaught of negative legislation to erode civil rights and religious freedom in states across the country. While most of these harmful bills did not pass, a greater number than in recent years did so.

A Jurisprudence of Privilege and Confusion

Even compared to recent years, state legislation in 2021 was significantly impacted by events taking place at the U.S. Supreme Court. As in 2020, the increasingly ideological makeup of the Court has prompted more states to pass laws imposing severe limitations on abortion access. Among the most notable of these laws was Texas S.B. 8, which insidiously sought to evade court review by setting up a system where individuals, not the state, enforced harsh abortion restrictions. This law, as well as a Mississippi law prohibiting abortion past 15 weeks of pregnancy, are being reviewed by the Supreme Court, and the outcome will certainly impact legislation in this area in 2022 and beyond.

In October 2020, after Justice Amy Coney Barrett assumed her seat on the bench, the Court swiftly reversed course on long-standing precedent concerning religion and public health. Previously, the Court had recognized that religious organizations were subject to public health orders, such as those limiting public gatherings or requiring masks and social distancing, so long as they were treated the same as comparable secular organizations. In effect, courts have long deferred to public health experts and the political branches unless public health orders applied to religious organizations in a discriminatory way. However, after the elevation of Justice Barrett, the Court began to especially favor claims by religious organizations that sought to defy public health orders, granting them an exemption if even wildly dissimilar secular businesses (such as grocery stores) were allowed to remain open.

This abrupt change in the law was accomplished through peremptory orders rather than fully reasoned decisions, meaning that policymakers and lower courts had little guidance regarding how and whether the government can protect public health during the pandemic (until April 2021, when the

Court provided a bit more detail). Religious extremists and their lawmaker allies took advantage of this confusion and introduced more than 50 bills to partially or completely exempt religious organizations from public health emergency orders in more than 20 states. At least 8 states passed these bills into law, ranging from exemptions from emergency orders to even broader bills that provide civil and criminal immunity to liability for religious organizations (see page 7).

A Resurgence of RFRA

Before the 2021 legislative session, Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA) — broad religious exemptions that apply whenever religious exercise is burdened by state action — had not been successfully passed in any state since 2015. In that year, as a result of public campaigns and media attention, these bills were seen for what they clearly are: efforts to undermine civil rights protections by granting exemptions to discriminatory religious organizations. In fact, LGBTQ advocates were so successful in demonstrating the harmful result of these exemptions that the bill passed in Indiana in 2015 was quickly amended to ensure that it could not be used to allow discrimination.

Unfortunately, the pandemic granted religious extremists and their lawmaker allies a new messaging strategy for these bills: state RFRA are necessary in order to allow churches to gather in person because of discriminatory public health orders. This is objectively false, of course. RFRA apply to all state law — so even if religious organizations were truly facing unfair restrictions, a RFRA would be a broad solution to a narrow problem. But the limited public health orders issued in the relevant states did not apply to religious organizations in the first place, proving the perfidy of these claims. Nevertheless, this messaging strategy was used to successfully pass RFRA in three states: Arkansas, Montana, and South Dakota.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Dangerous “Emergency Disaster” Bills Seek Unprecedented Religious Exemptions

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State legislation authorizing religious exemptions from non-discrimination laws and other vital legal protections has been of constant concern in recent years. Earlier this year, however, “emergency disaster” bills proposed in several states took religious exemptions to a whole new, never-before-seen level. Exploiting the controversy over in-person gathering restrictions put in place at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the bills sought to give religious organizations, their officers, and their employees blanket immunity from all civil and criminal liability as long as they claim to be exercising their faith while engaging in the unlawful conduct — all under the guise of protecting the ability to worship during public emergencies or disasters.

Arizona’s H.B. 2648, for example, would have added an entirely new article, entitled “Religion is Essential,” to the state’s civil rights code. Like many narrower bills proposed and enacted in other states, the legislation would have allowed in-person worship services during emergency disasters, no matter the danger they may pose to public health or others. But H.B. 2648 went much further: It would have applied beyond the disaster and public emergency context to allow an array of unprecedented religious exemptions from nearly any law at any time.

If it had passed, Arizona’s H.B. 2648 would have meant that:

- religious organizations could claim immunity from criminal prosecution or civil liability for the sexual abuse or physical harm of children in connection with religious activities or rituals;
- religious organizations could be shielded from the consequences of violating state nondiscrimination laws that conflict with their religious beliefs;
- houses of worship that violate fire codes by exceeding capacity limits during religious services could not be fined or otherwise forced to comply with the law;
- religiously motivated hate group could avoid prosecution for criminal activities associated with exercising their beliefs; and
- patients at religious hospitals would be unable to sue for medically negligent or reckless care that was provided based on the hospital’s religious beliefs.

Religious organizations would have even been exempt from more mundane laws. For example, the bill’s provisions could have allowed a church to refuse to pay speeding tickets

incurred by church-owned vehicles while they were transporting congregants to and from religious activities.

Moreover, the bill would have prohibited the state from denying state contracts, licenses and certifications, and tax exemptions based on religious organizations’ exercise of their faith, forcing officials to give government contracts to groups like the KKK, which claim to be religiously based, or organizations that claim a religious right to discriminate against certain social-services beneficiaries. The state also would have been barred from recovering public funds used by religious organizations for fraudulent or improper purposes (as long as the funds were used while engaging in religious activities) and from denying a religious daycare a license or accreditation to operate even if the organization’s religious beliefs and practices prevent it from complying with relevant child-protection laws. H.B. 2648 even would have required Arizona to approve tax-exempt status for a religious charity that refuses to hire Black people.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of opponents, including the ACLU, American Atheists, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and numerous advocates and religious groups on the ground in Arizona, H.B. 2648 was narrowly defeated. A similar bill proposed in South Carolina, H.B. 3105, would have amended the state’s Religious Freedom Act, but it also failed.

Unfortunately, however, both Montana and Arkansas enacted their own versions of the bill, exempting religious organizations and individuals from various laws during public emergencies and disasters, without any regard for the danger posed and despite the fact that secular activities of comparable risk may be prohibited. Fortunately, both states appear to have amended only their emergency and disaster codes, which strongly suggests that the exemptions will at least be limited to that context—unlike with the Arizona and South Carolina measures.

Granting religious organizations sweeping immunity from nearly every law—from the mundane to our most critical legal protections—is dangerous, especially during disasters and public emergencies. We will be on alert for similar bills in the upcoming state legislative sessions across the country and will continue to vigorously oppose efforts to pass these religious exemptions on steroids.

Moral Panic at the Schoolhouse

A moral panic is a widespread fear of some (usually imaginary) evil that threatens the closely held values or interests of a community, often involving children. A well-known example is the Satanic panic of the 1980-90s, when society collectively imagined that alternative music, roleplaying games, and imaginary satanic rituals were being used to lure “good Christian children” into drug use, pornography, and suicide. In recent years, and especially in 2021, we have seen a proliferation of moral panics that are being used to drive harmful policies that affect public schools. In 2021, dozens of bills were introduced targeting trans youth because of a fear of “gender ideology” being taught in schools. Similarly, fears of “critical race theory” were used to advance legislation to undermine diversity education, ban books, and suppress uncomfortable historical realities.

Trans young people face significant stigma and marginalization. Unfortunately, in 2021 they were targeted by lawmakers seeking to capitalize on public fear and ignorance for political gain. Lawmakers passed laws in nine states that ban trans youth from school sports and in two states that limit access to appropriate medical care (see page 26). In addition to the harms caused by these laws, the uncertainty and public debate on their lives have a profoundly negative impact on trans young people.



A protestor holds a "Separation of Church and State" sign at a protest against the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

Photo by Stephanie Kenner via Shutterstock.com

Critical race theory is an obscure branch of legal study that considers how racial inequality is perpetuated in legal systems. However, the term has come to mean whatever morally panicked activists and parents fear children are learning in schools, be it diversity education, the history of slavery or the Holocaust, or the continued existence of racism in our society. As school boards and classrooms are besieged by fearful and angry activists, laws have been passed in eight states to protect children from this imaginary menace (see page 9). In some states, the law extends beyond race to religion and/or sexuality. The impact of such vague laws will become more clear over time, but they are already being used to strip racially diverse materials from libraries and to harass or fine educators who teach in a historically accurate and inclusive way.

It is no coincidence that these issues are being used to target public schools at the same time that there is a concerted effort to push states to divert more and more public education funding to private religious schools through school voucher and tax credit scholarship programs. For example, in 2021 school voucher or tax credit bills passed in states such as Georgia, Florida, Missouri, and Montana, several of which already had voucher programs in place. These efforts should be understood as a multi-pronged effort to undermine secular public education in the United States.

Prioritizing “Conscience” Over Care

Since 2020, several states have introduced bills to allow health care providers to refuse to provide services based on their religious beliefs. While many states have laws that allow providers to deny specific services, such as abortion, these bills are distinctive in that they apply to any health care service to which there is a religious or moral objection. Moreover, these bills apply not only to doctors, but also to anyone who works for a health care provider as well as to hospital systems and even health care payers, such as insurers and employers. For example, under such a law, a receptionist could refuse to check in a patient who is receiving care they disapprove of or an employer could deny coverage to a pregnant employee who is single.

In 2021, these broad denial of care bills were introduced in even more states, framed as Medical Conscience Acts. (Apparently it is an act of “conscience” to deny care to someone who may suffer medical complications or even die as a result, for the sake of one’s personal religious beliefs.) Unfortunately, for the first time, these bills were passed into law in Arkansas and Ohio. At this time, it is unclear what the consequences of this exceptionally dangerous legislation will be in those states.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Anti-Diversity Education Laws Chill Classroom Speech and Threaten Inclusive Education

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Over the past year, several conservative lawmakers have been engaged in a concerted effort to severely restrict teaching about race and gender in schools, censoring teachers from providing a more complete, truthful account of history and its present-day effects. While these laws are commonly labeled “anti-critical race theory” bills, they in fact chill speech far more broadly: attacking culturally responsive curricula, banning anti-racist practices, and prohibiting a variety of diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) training programs. Ultimately, the laws target legitimate and long overdue steps taken by thoughtful public educators who seek to acknowledge and address the past and present inequities faced by Black people and other historically marginalized groups. Educators redoubled these efforts following the national reckoning on racial injustice in 2020. These laws are a transparent attempt to halt and reverse such progress.

Oklahoma is just one example of a state where anti-diversity and anti-inclusion campaigns are already having a detrimental effect on students. Last spring, the legislature passed H.B. 1775, which restricts discussions on “race and sex” in elementary and secondary schools, as well as in higher education. State lawmakers explained that the law’s purpose is to end the use of words like “diversity” and “equity,” to protect children from the “lies” of “police brutality” and intersectionality, to curb instruction on “implicit bias,” and to erase lessons on the concept of “institutionalized racism.” Those who refuse to be silenced face stiff penalties: teachers who fail to comply can be stripped of their professional licenses, and districts can lose state accreditation.

H.B. 1775 is having its intended effect. Some districts have stricken books by Black and female authors such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* from their reading lists. School officials have instructed teachers to avoid the terms “diversity” and “white privilege” in the classroom. Some teachers are no longer teaching about the historical contributions of women of color because they fear running afoul of the law. Even university professors are modifying lessons to refrain from discussions about racism, sexism, and oppression.

This censorship is not limited to Oklahoma. Since January, more than half of all U.S. states have introduced bills or taken other steps that seek to restrict how teachers can discuss racism and sexism. At least eight states have signed such bans into law, while several others have censored and chilled classroom

speech through the issuance of rules, resolutions, or attorney general opinions. These state laws vary in some particulars, but they all follow a similar formula. They are patterned on President Trump’s Executive Order 13950, which prohibited federal agencies and contractors from discussing certain “banned concepts” related to race and sex. A federal court partially enjoined EO 13950 under the First Amendment because its vague terms chilled important speech, but state legislators have copied these constitutionally infirm provisions—often verbatim—to silence any viewpoints that deviate from their own preferred narratives about our country.

The suppression of speech in places like Oklahoma robs students of the information, ideas, and tools necessary to support the type of robust dialogue long recognized by courts as essential to America’s democratic system. As recently as 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court described America’s schools as the “nurseries of democracy,” *Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B. L. & through Levy* (2021), and the Court has repeatedly emphasized that “the Nation’s future depends on leaders trained through wide exposure to that robust exchange of ideas which discovers truth ‘out of a multitude of tongues, rather than through any kind of authoritative selection.’” *Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.* (1969) (quoting *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* (1967)).

The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law—along with the ACLU and pro bono counsel Schulte, Roth, and Zabel—has filed a lawsuit challenging Oklahoma’s law under the First and Fourteenth Amendments, and more lawsuits are likely to follow in other states. However, additional advocacy is needed to counter the slew of state laws that have emerged over the past year to erode and eliminate schools’ diversity and inclusion efforts. Such advocacy will help ensure public schools can develop the next generation of analytical, open-minded thinkers who have the skills to tackle today’s most pressing issues that often fall along the fault lines of sex, race, and inequality.

Dismissal of Democratic Norms

Last but certainly not least, in 2021 we saw a substantial erosion of support for democratic norms such as voting rights and freedom of speech reflected in legislatures across the country. Texas, Georgia, Florida, and other states have taken steps to erode voting rights in response to false claims of election irregularities. The U.S. Supreme Court has both gutted the Voting Rights Act, the landmark 1965 legislation that protected the rights of racial minorities to vote in response to segregation and Jim Crow laws, and made clear that it will not address even egregious partisan gerrymandering, giving states free rein to adopt discriminatory voting restrictions. And the states did not waste any time, using strategies such as closing polling places in urban areas, reducing voting days and hours of operation, restricting the use of absentee ballots, mandating rigid identification requirements, and forbidding practices intended to help people vote, such as voter registration and vote collection. This partisan vote-rigging will likely worsen in 2022 as states use the redistricting process following the 2020 Census to gerrymander their legislative districts in even more racially discriminatory ways.

At the same time, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states have passed bills that restrict the freedoms of speech and assembly in ways unseen since the civil rights era. For example, a newly signed Oklahoma bill will excuse Oklahoma drivers from liability for running over protestors if “fleeing from a riot ...

under reasonable belief that fleeing was necessary to protect the motor vehicle operator from serious injury or death.” Florida goes even further, labeling three or more people a “riot” if there is danger of injury to another person or damage to property. With such easily abused definitions and state-sanctioned violence, the right to peaceful protest is very much in danger in these states.

This flood of negative legislation has been exacerbated by the lack of scrutiny of state legislatures as a result of pandemic restrictions over the past two years. Legislatures have learned that they can perform their responsibilities remotely, and perhaps more importantly, that this allows them to evade public supervision. During this pandemic, many legislatures closed their doors to the public, committees held their meetings without hearing from witnesses, and in some instances, no avenue at all was provided for meaningful public comment. We saw the result of this in 2021 — a flood of ideological legislation driven forward by well-funded out-of-state special interests, intent on fomenting culture war rather than governance. Too many lawmakers flagrantly reject vital constitutional principles, such as freedom of speech and the separation of religion and government. In 2022, we will see whether this trend continues or whether state legislatures can recover their former transparency and openness as the pandemic subsides.



Christian nationalist symbolism was prevalent at the January 6 riot at the United States Capitol building.


Photo by Lev Radin via Shutterstock.com

2021 State Legislative Highlights

New York & Rhode Island
Passed laws to prohibit child marriage.



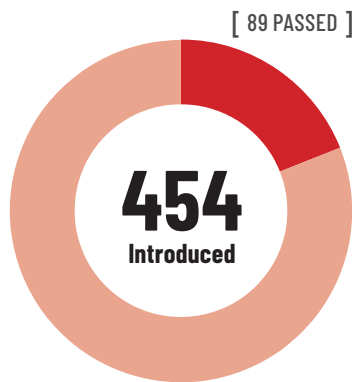
Montana & South Dakota
Passed Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs), broad religious exemptions impacting every area of state law.



Arkansas & Ohio
Passed laws to allow health facilities and insurers to refuse to provide necessary care based on their religious beliefs.

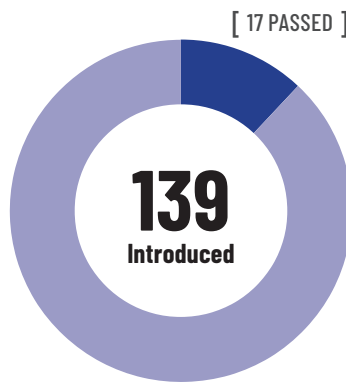


Connecticut
Repealed religious exemptions to required school vaccination.

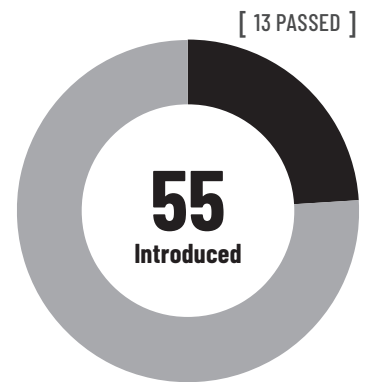
Negative Legislation

We tracked and opposed 454 bills which would have undermined religious equality during the 2021 legislative session. Of these, 89 bills passed and 365 failed.



Positive Legislation

We tracked and supported 139 bills which would have enhanced religious equality during the 2021 legislative session. Of these, 17 bills passed and 122 failed.



Project Blitz

We tracked and opposed 55 Project Blitz-type bills during the 2021 legislative session. Of these, 13 bills passed and 42 failed. Learn more about Project Blitz at www.BlitzWatch.org.

State Legislative Outlook for 2022

The continuing assault on civil liberties by the U.S. Supreme Court and state legislatures is unlikely to relent in 2022. Divisive politics will continue to drive state legislation, and civil rights organizations must adapt their messaging to effectively oppose these new legislative threats.

After the election of President Biden, opponents of civil liberties quickly turned their agenda to distract the public with fringe issues in order to stymie his agenda. However, this focus on the moral panics of the day (see Key Developments in State Legislation in 2021, page 6) has had an even greater impact on state politics. There is no reason to believe that the flood of state legislation on these issues will cease as we head into the pre-election 2022 legislative session. Similarly, election politics, pertaining to both 2020 and 2022, will continue to drive forward legislation impacting voting rights, freedom of speech, and redistricting. Finally, high stakes cases set to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court this term will have a tumultuous impact on state legislation, particularly with regard to health care, education, and civil rights protections.

As in 2021, a lack of transparency in the legislative process will continue to impact state legislatures by limiting scrutiny by and interaction with the public. Many of the restrictions on in-person meetings, hearings, and other forms of public oversight imposed during the pandemic are still in place as we head into the 2022 legislative session. Moreover, advocates have increasingly complained about their inability to “break through” the noise of the media cycle to focus on the important issues of the day, rather than the daily outrages and distractions. It is more important now than ever for individuals and organizations to engage the lawmakers elected to represent them, to organize and raise their voices to fight for civil rights and equality, and to actively vote for the future of our country.

Religion & Health Care

In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court will issue a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, a case which will likely have a momentous impact on the right to obtain an abortion in the U.S. Through this case, Mississippi is urging the Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, or at least to narrow the decision to allow even more restrictions on the right to abortion. However, other developments have put that right in even greater danger. In 2021, Texas passed S.B. 8, a bill that allows any private citizen

to sue someone they believe helped a woman get an abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy and greatly stacks the litigation in the plaintiff's favor. The impact of this bill is that reproductive health clinics across Texas were forced to immediately close or face ruinous liability, effectively eliminating access to abortion in most cases. If this type of manipulation of the legal system is allowed to continue, bills like this affecting abortion will certainly propagate to other states, and it will not be long before we see similar schemes intended to elide other constitutionally protected rights. Already, lawmakers in states like Florida, Arkansas, and Ohio have said they will introduce similar bills in 2022. At this point, legislative development in this area will be heavily influenced by the outcome of these court challenges.

Another area where court decisions play an outsize role is legislation pertaining to vaccination. Because of rapid legal developments at the U.S. Supreme Court, there is uncertainty among policymakers and lower courts whether vaccine mandates can be imposed by the government and whether religious exemptions are required. Cases currently before the courts in this area will certainly play a role as states consider vaccine mandates or prohibitions on mandates by governmental entities. Although vaccine requirements by businesses are more clearly allowable, some states are considering ways to force businesses to provide religious exemptions. Florida Governor DeSantis, for example, has proposed legislation that would make it financially ruinous for any business to impose a vaccine mandate without religious exemptions. It is possible that other states will follow this example.

Also in 2021, several states considered legislation that would prevent trans young people from accessing appropriate medical care. Two states passed such laws, which are currently subject to court challenge. Driven as they are by political division and religious disapproval of trans people, we will very likely see more of these bills in 2022. Because they threaten parents of trans youth with loss of custody and providers with criminal liability, these bills are considered even more extreme and harmful than other anti-trans legislation.

Lastly, since 2020 there has been an increasing number of extremely broad denial of care bills considered by state legislatures. Unlike previous denial of care bills focused on specific services such as abortion or contraception, these bills allow denial of any type of care that the provider, hospital, or even insurance company or employer disagrees with for religious or moral reasons. In 2021, the first of these dangerous bills passed into law in Arkansas and Ohio. There is clearly a concerted campaign pushing forward these bills, and therefore it is very likely we will see an increased focus on them in several states in 2022. Notably, although this legislation does not specifically discuss trans people, these bills are likely intended to allow religious refusal of trans-related medical care and other types of care of which conservative Christians disapprove.

Recognizing this increasingly dangerous trend to deny health care on the basis of religion, American Atheists is working to advance legislation intended to help protect access to care. For example, we are working with lawmakers in several states to introduce Health Care Transparency Acts, which ensure that, as part of the informed consent process, patients are informed when they may be denied care by providers. We are hopeful that this proposed legislation may be passed into law in one or more states in 2022. Similarly, we are supporting legislation to ensure that when mergers of health care institutions occur, they do not reduce access to essential services or result in discrimination (see page 14).

Religious Exemptions

In 2021, numerous bills creating new exemptions for religious organizations were justified as necessary responses to emergency orders preventing churches from gathering in person during the pandemic. Now that those orders have expired, it is unclear whether this same messaging approach will be as effective in 2022. Nevertheless, it is likely that at least some bills that exempt religious organizations from emergency orders meant to protect public health will be considered in the next legislative session.

Even more likely, however, is that this messaging strategy will be used to push forward broad religious exemptions that are only tangentially related to emergency orders. In 2021, for example, three states passed Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA), which affect every area of state law and require accommodation whenever religious exercise is burdened by a government action. Despite their efforts through legislative campaigns like Project Blitz, Christian nationalists have been unable to pass RFRA bills since 2015 because they are widely understood to target LGBTQ people and to undermine nondiscrimination protections. By focusing on churches

whose religious freedom was supposedly trampled during the pandemic, activists were able to advance these broad religious exemptions. (Note, however, that this messaging is based on a lie — churches were not subject to substantial public health restrictions in states where these bills passed.) With this level of success, there is every reason to believe that religious extremists and their allies will attempt to use this strategy to its fullest extent in 2022.

Control Over Education

Public schools are, of course, frequently the focus of state legislation. However, 2021 was unique in that so much legislation attempted to stop things that were already not happening in schools, such as indoctrinating students with critical race theory or destroying women's sports in favor of trans students. Because legislation related to these issues is driven more by widespread fear and political advantage than any underlying reality, it is very likely that state legislatures will continue to focus on these matters in 2022, in preparation for the general election.

Moreover, we will likely see convergence of these trends in 2022, resulting in hybrid bills that target several of these “hot button” issues at once. For example, in 2021 there were already examples of “sex” and “religion” being added to anti-diversity education bills, which are typically focused on race. Similarly, bills that target trans youth in public schools may incorporate special privileges based on the religious beliefs of parents, teachers, and other students.

As we saw in states like Florida in 2021, legislatures can also wrap these various concepts together through legislation focusing on “parental rights” (in contrast to the rights of students). In parallel to a RFRA, these bills prohibit any infringement on “the fundamental rights of a parent” unless there is a “compelling state interest.” In addition, these bills frequently: 1) restrict any ability of schools to require masking or vaccination, 2) prevent the teaching of any material of which a parent religiously disapproves, and 3) require disclosure to a parent if a student confides an LGBTQ identity to a teacher or counselor. Especially given the continued controversy of issues relating to masking and vaccination in public schools, it is likely that we will see a surge in this type of legislation in 2022.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

Making Health Equity a Priority When Hospitals Propose Mergers

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Rampant hospital consolidation is threatening access to comprehensive reproductive health services and LGBTQ-inclusive care across the United States. This is especially true when secular community hospitals are merging with giant national Catholic health systems that have prohibitions on the delivery of services such as abortions, contraception, sterilizations, infertility treatments, safer sex counseling, and LGBTQ-inclusive care such as gender-affirming surgery. Typically, community hospitals are required to adopt these restrictive policies as a condition of mergers with Catholic health systems.

The patients most affected by these losses of health care services are women and LGBTQ people — especially those who are Black, Latinx, immigrants, uninsured, people with disabilities, rural residents, and others who are medically underserved. These patients have the least ability to travel elsewhere for care that becomes prohibited at their local hospitals. People living in 52 communities around the nation have only a hospital that uses such non-medical policy-based restrictions on care.

Recently, health care policy analysts, advocates and policymakers have begun to look at this situation as part of a bigger health equity problem being created by hospital consolidation. Decades of downsizing and closings of urban safety net hospitals and the loss of dozens of rural hospitals in recent years meant there was not enough hospital inpatient capacity to handle the surge of COVID-19 patients who have been disproportionately Black and Latinx. Moreover, closures of hospital maternity units, especially in rural areas, have forced pregnant people to travel long distances for labor and delivery services.

Two state legislatures took action this year to ensure that health equity is a consideration when state regulators consider proposed hospital mergers, downsizing, and closings:

In New York, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed into law S1451A, which adds a requirement for an independent health equity assessment to the state Certificate of Need process through which regulators consider proposed

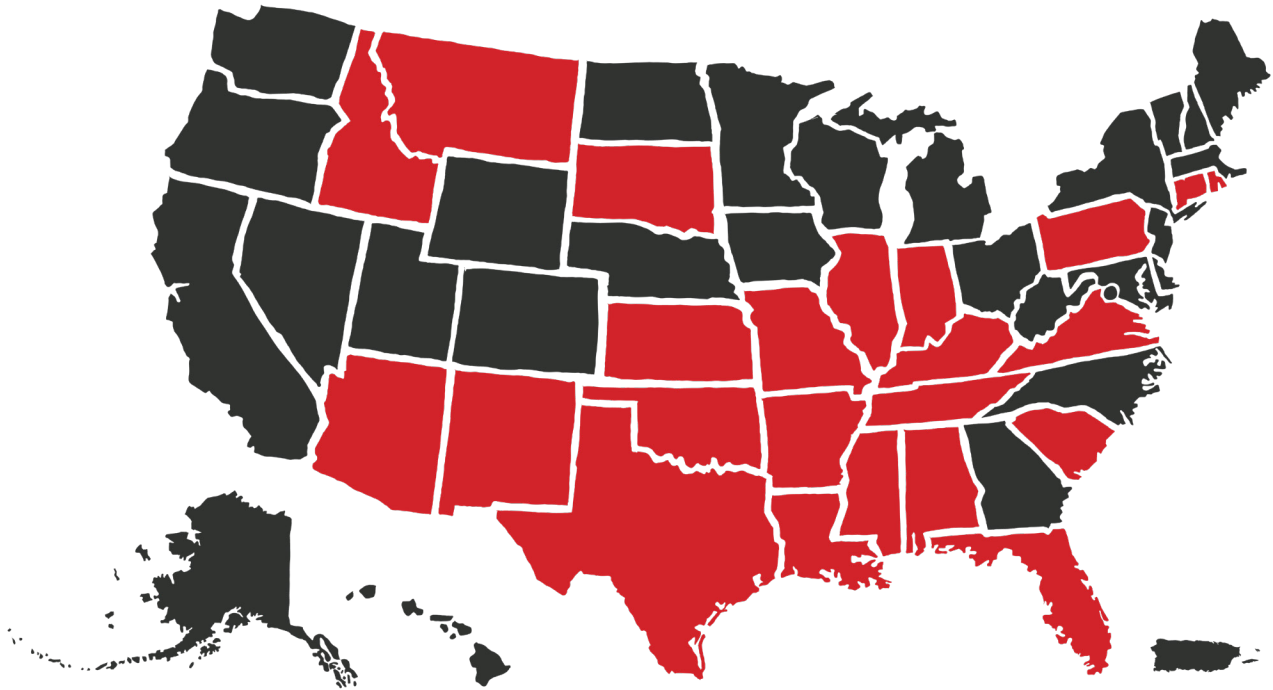
health facility transactions. The assessments will determine the likely impact of a proposed merger on women, LGBTQ people, people of color, people with low incomes, and other medically underserved groups. The assessment process must include engagement with the affected community, and the final assessment document will have to be posted on the website of the NYS Department of Health, where community members will be able to read it and submit comments. Advocates are planning to engage with the new state health commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett, a recognized authority on health equity, to implement this newly passed legislation.

In Oregon, H.B. 2362 was just signed into law on September 25 by Gov. Kate Brown. This measure gives the Oregon Health Authority jurisdiction over large-size proposed mergers, acquisitions, and affiliations. The authority could deny approval if the applicants can't show that the transaction would increase access to services in medically underserved areas, improve health outcomes, or reduce patient costs. Transactions that would cause a loss of "essential services," which are enumerated on a list previously issued by the state, would receive special scrutiny. The long list of services includes treatment for pregnancy, maternity care, termination of pregnancy, ectopic pregnancy, and other key reproductive health services.

There is also potential for action at the federal level, where President Joe Biden's Executive Order on industry consolidation is prompting examination of the impact of health industry consolidation on access to services, as well as price. Biden said hospital mergers "left many areas, especially rural communities, without good options for convenient and affordable health care service." That order followed a Biden administration request for suggestions on how to ensure health equity is included in all government policies, programs, services, processes, and operations.

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Religious Freedom Restoration Acts



Based on U.S. Supreme Court precedent, the U.S. Constitution's Free Exercise Clause does not limit the ability of the federal government to pass neutral laws that apply to everyone regardless of their religion, even if they incidentally burden religious exercise. The Court has noted that to do otherwise would allow individual religious belief to supersede the laws of the land, resulting in an unworkable society where laws could not be applied evenly.

Despite this warning, Congress passed the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in 1993, and 23 states have since passed their own version of this law. RFRAs require the government to meet a rigid legal test when they take any action that burdens religious expression—they must demonstrate that the government interest is compelling and that they used the least restrictive means to achieve that interest.

Over time, as predicted by the Supreme Court and by organizations such as American Atheists who opposed passage of RFRA, these laws have been misused at both the state and federal levels to carve out exemptions that privilege religious expression. Religious extremists and their lawmaker allies seek to apply these laws in new ways, such as undermining civil rights laws that protect LGBTQ people and women from discrimination.

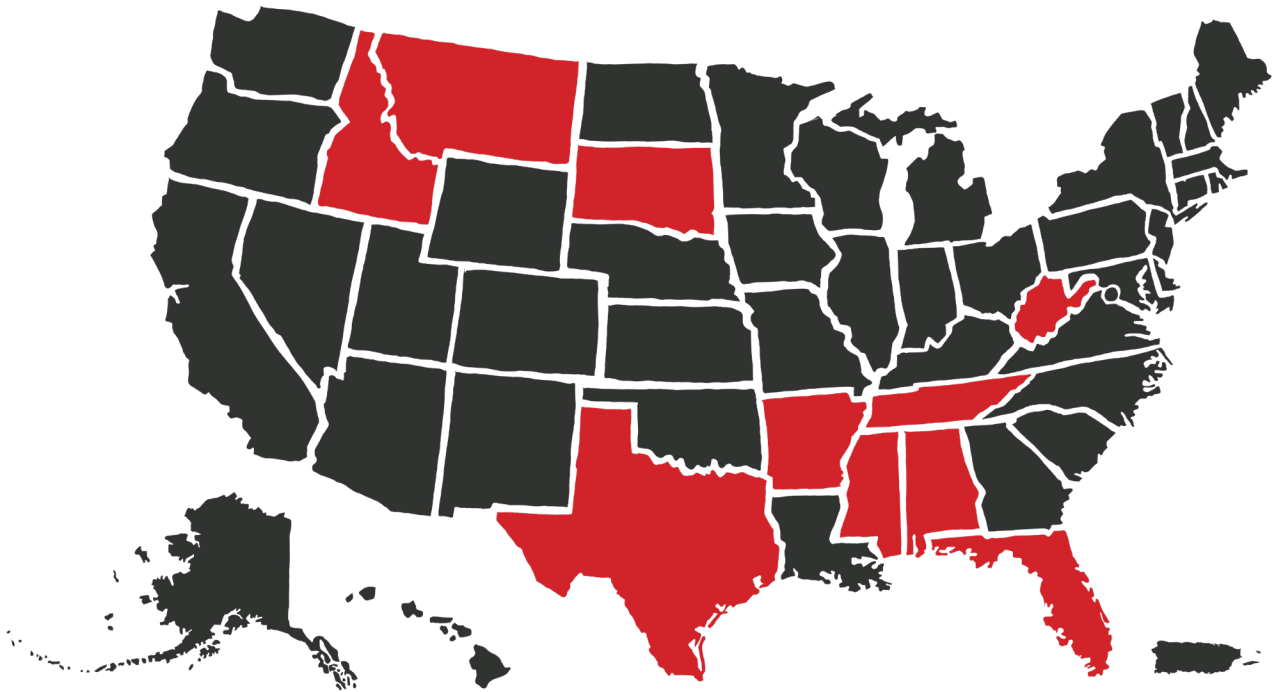
● States with statutory Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs)

[23 STATES]

Alabama	Missouri
Arizona	Montana
Arkansas	New Mexico
Connecticut	Oklahoma
Florida	Pennsylvania
Idaho	Rhode Island
Illinois	South Carolina
Indiana	South Dakota
Kansas	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia
Mississippi	

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Bans on Trans Youth Participation in Sports



Since 2020, an increasing number of states have passed legislation that limits the ability of trans youth to engage in public school sports and other educational activities. Although these bills are justified by their supporters as protecting women's sports, they are clearly driven by religious opprobrium against trans people. The vast majority of school sports are casual, not competitive, so concerns about fairness are misplaced. Even in states that have had inclusive nondiscrimination laws for more than 20 years, there is no evidence that women's sports have been undermined because of the inclusion of trans students.

However, it is clear that trans students suffer irreparable harm from these athletics bans. Not only are they denied the learning and growth that participating in team sports provides, they are stigmatized within the school community and excluded from participating in activities with their peers. Based on both recent U.S. Supreme Court precedent interpreting federal civil rights protections and constitutional protections, it is unlikely that these laws can withstand court scrutiny. But until and unless they are struck down, religious extremists and their lawmaker allies will continue to use this legislation to target vulnerable students.

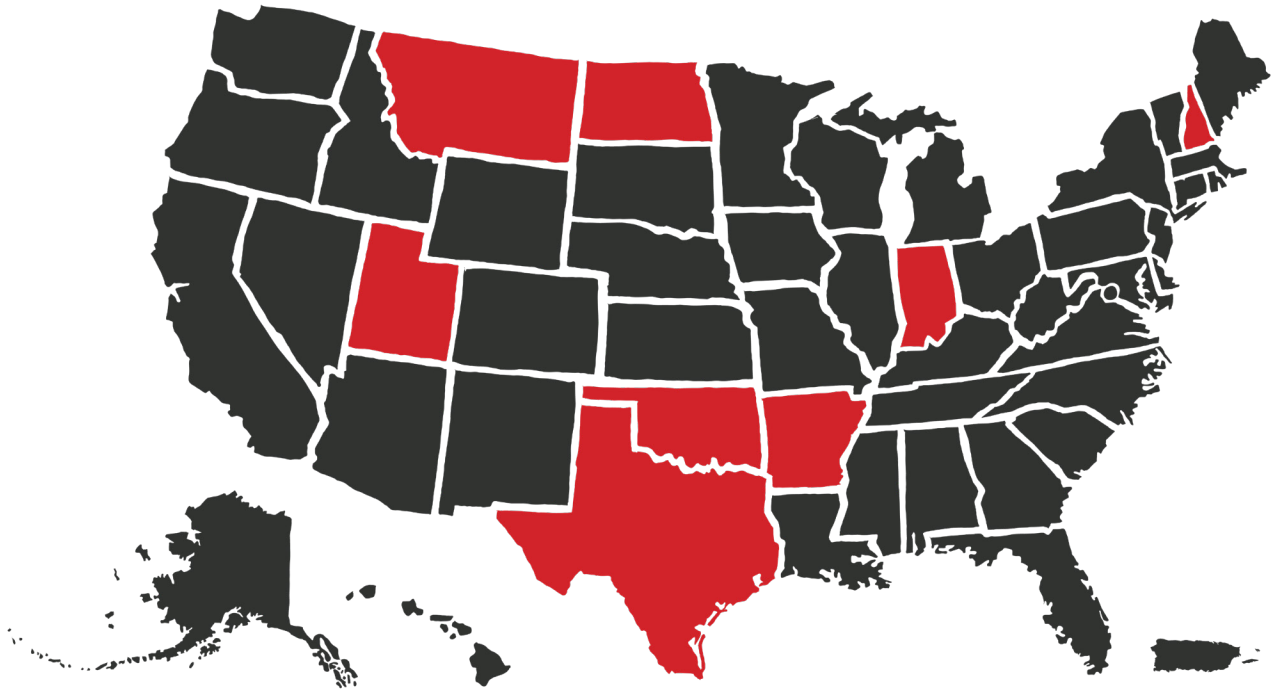
● States that exclude trans youth from school athletics

[10 STATES]

Alabama	Montana
Arkansas	South Dakota
Florida	Tennessee
Idaho	Texas
Mississippi	West Virginia

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Religious Exemptions to Public Health Protections



Beginning in 2021, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, state legislatures considered more than 50 bills that limit the ability of states to restrict religious organizations when they pass emergency orders to protect public health. As shown in this map, these religious exemption bills were passed into law in at least 8 states. These exemptions risk public health and safety, including that of individuals who belong to affected religious organizations, in order to privilege certain religious beliefs.

These laws vary significantly. Some allow in-person gathering so long as other rules are followed, while others completely eliminate the ability of the state to enforce public health rules on religious organizations. Generally, these laws: 1) directly create exemptions for religious organizations in the statutes authorizing emergency orders; 2) impose a requirement similar to a Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) pertaining to these orders, meaning that the state cannot burden the religious exercise of these organizations unless it meets a very difficult test; or 3) create false equivalency with secular organizations, so that if any secular organization is not subject to a rule (such as a hospital or grocery store being allowed to remain open), then churches must be exempted as well.

In a few states, lawmakers passed sweeping exemptions that shield religious organizations from civil and criminal liability, potentially even outside the context of public health emergencies. These laws are exceptionally dangerous as they could result in religious organizations, including schools, hospitals, and others, never being held accountable for wrongs they commit. It remains to be seen how courts will apply such broad exemptions.

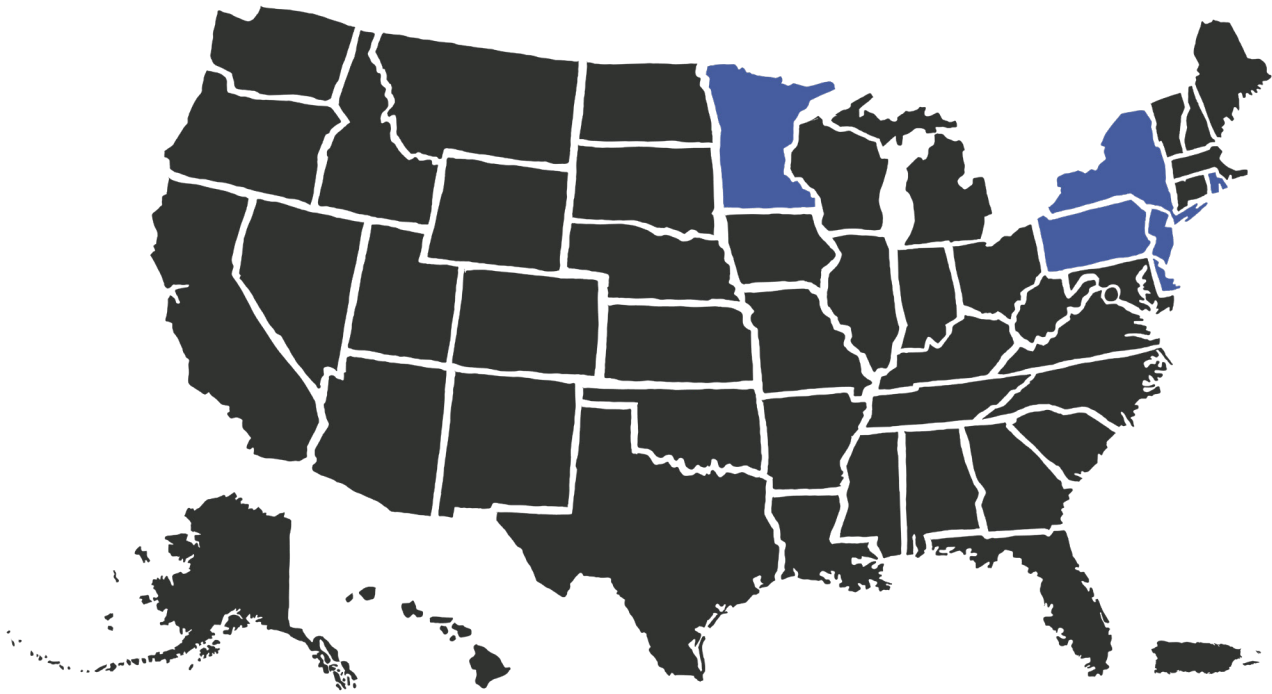
● States with laws providing religious exemptions to public health orders

[8 STATES]

Arkansas	New Hampshire
Indiana	Oklahoma
Montana	Texas
North Dakota	Utah

NATIONAL ISSUE SUMMARY

Protection from Child Marriage



Most Americans believe that child marriage is a practice that occurs only in other countries. But in fact, until 2018, no state had laws completely prohibiting marriage for minors, and even today, only six states ban this harmful and antiquated practice. Unchained at Last, an organization that focuses on ending child marriage, has estimated, based on the available data, that nearly 300,000 child marriages occurred in the U.S. between 2000 and 2018.

Most states allow marriages under age 18 with certain loopholes, such as requiring parental or court approval. However, because these exceptions can be misused to force children to marry, we only count the six states with laws which flatly prohibit the marriage of minors.

This issue is critically important because too frequently these marriages occur in religious sects where very young girls are forced to marry much older men. Child brides forced into marriage have few options. As minors, they face legal dead ends if they want to end their marriage. In states where their parents (or spouse) have custody rights, organizations and shelters are unable to interfere with those rights. As a result, these children have no legal avenues to escape an abusive family or husband. They are too often removed from school, raped, and forced to live in poverty. The only way to give child brides the legal right to say “no” to marriage is to prohibit marriage among minors altogether.

States that prohibit marriage below age of majority

[6 STATES]

Delaware
Minnesota
New Jersey

New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island

Issue Analysis & Categorization

This report analyzes four categories of public policy in each state that affect religious equality and the separation of religion and government: Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections, Special Privileges for Religion, Health Care & Wellness, and Education & Youth. Within each category, laws and policies that positively and negatively impact religious equality are listed along with a brief explanation of the topic.

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for freedom of religion created by the U.S. Constitution. These protections form the bedrock of our constitutional order by ensuring both that everyone is entitled to their beliefs and that no one's beliefs are favored by the government. They are meant to ensure that the government treats everyone equally, regardless of their religion or if they reject religion altogether. Similarly, most states have passed nondiscrimination laws that prohibit discrimination based on protected characteristics, including religious beliefs or lack thereof.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause

These items indicate whether the state constitution has a provision analogous to the First Amendment's Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Many state constitutions reiterate these important protections enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. These clauses may be interpreted in accordance with federal precedent or state courts may interpret them to provide a greater level of protection for the separation of religion and government than under federal law.

Strong Taxpayer Standing

This item indicates whether the court systems in a state recognize standing for taxpayers to bring suit against unconstitu-

tional expenditures of state funds. Standing is a legal term that indicates whether someone is qualified to pursue a claim in court. When a state or local government exceeds the bounds of its constitution or the U.S. Constitution (by spending public money to endorse a religion, for example), generally the only way to prevent that expenditure is for individuals to bring suit in court.

At the federal level, there has been a gradual erosion of taxpayer standing, which may prevent individuals from suing the government in federal court. States, however, are not bound by this federal court precedent, and while some states have incorporated elements of federal standing doctrine into their jurisprudence, others use different approaches to ensure access to their state courts. Strong taxpayer standing allows citizens to challenge unconstitutional uses of taxpayer funds, including violations of the separation of religion and government.

Nondiscrimination Laws

This item indicates whether the state has nondiscrimination laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion in various areas of the law, such as employment, housing, public accommodations, and education. The majority of states provide protection in at least some of these areas, and they typically cover a number of other protected characteristics such as race, color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. It is important to note that, while these nondiscrimination laws typically list "religion" or "creed" as protected characteristics, this category covers discrimination against atheists and nonreligious people as well as people with religious beliefs. Discrimination prohibited by these types of laws can take many forms, including failure to hire a person, failure to promote a person, taking adverse actions in the workplace against a person, failure to address harassment, refusal to admit or serve a person, or firing a person because of a protected characteristic.

Many nondiscrimination laws exempt religious organizations, either by excluding them from the definitions of covered organizations or by including a specific exemption. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that in some instances, religious organizations are entitled to be exempt from employment nondiscrimination laws. This is called the “ministerial exemption” because it has generally applied to clergy and faith leaders. Similarly, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which federally prohibits employment discrimination, has an exemption for religious organizations: “This subchapter shall not apply... to a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities.” However, some states have nondiscrimination laws that provide an even broader allowance for religious organizations to discriminate. If a state’s nondiscrimination law has exemptions that go beyond those in Title VII or the ministerial exemption, this item will indicate that the state has religious exemptions.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Religious Tests for Office

While the U.S. Constitution states that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States,” this provision has not always been understood to apply to state offices. Consequently, several state constitutions require office-holders to swear a religious oath or require candidates to practice a specific religion. Others explicitly prohibit atheists or nonreligious people from holding office. It is generally understood that these provisions are unconstitutional and without effect, but they may remain in state law or the state constitution despite being voided by a court. This item indicates that these inactive provisions remain in the state constitution or state law.

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws that privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs. For example, nearly half of states have broad statutes that may allow religious individuals and organizations to avoid general legal requirements that burden their exercise of religion. Similarly, most states have created special privileges for religious organizations and places of worship, allowing them to avoid taxes or other legal requirements that apply to other types of nonprofits.

Rather than enhancing religious freedom, these laws and policies undermine it. They often seek to enshrine a particular set of religious beliefs (such as those held by Christian nationalists) into the law by creating exceptions to specific legal requirements tailored to suit those groups.

For example, a state law may create a religious exemption to civil rights laws specifically for wedding service providers so that they are not required to serve same-sex couples. Alternately, the law may purport to protect individuals and businesses from discrimination because of their beliefs, but only to protect only certain narrow beliefs, such as the belief that the only moral form of sexual intercourse is between heterosexual married couples. Although limited religious exemptions must be included in some laws in order for them to comply with the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, the exemptions Christian nationalists seek are significantly broader, in some cases undermining the very purpose of the law.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Limitations on Clergy Privilege

This item identifies state laws that limit clergy privilege to protect the safety and well-being of children. Clergy-penitent privilege is a right recognized in all 50 states that provides confidentiality for discussions between religious leaders and their followers. This privilege is most frequently referenced in the Catholic practice of confession, but it pertains to other religions as well. When it applies, this privilege generally prohibits any court from compelling testimony from a clergy member. Unfortunately, because the privilege is so broad, it can sometimes prevent the reporting of child abuse and lead to other negative outcomes.

A significant number of states seek to protect youth by making clergy mandatory reporters for suspected child abuse and neglect, like educators and health care providers. This means that if there is a reasonable cause for a clergy member to believe a child is being abused, they are required to report this suspicion to state authorities. A smaller number of states provide explicit exceptions to the clergy privilege for child abuse. This is important because, even with mandatory reporting, if communication is still privileged, it is difficult or impossible to investigate the situation or enforce the required reporting.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

State Religious Freedom Restoration Acts

Based on U.S. Supreme Court precedent, the First Amendment’s Free Exercise Clause does not limit the ability of the federal government to pass neutral laws of general applica-

bility, even if they incidentally burden religious exercise. The Court has noted that to do otherwise would allow individual religious belief to supersede the law of the land, resulting in an unworkable society where laws could not be applied evenly.

Despite this warning, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) at the federal level, and a number of states have followed by passing their own version of this law. RFRA requires the government to meet a very difficult test whenever it burdens religious exercise—they must show that the government interest is compelling and that the government used the least restrictive means to achieve that interest.

Over time, as predicted by the Supreme Court, RFRA has been misused at both the state and federal levels to carve out exemptions that privilege particular religious viewpoints. Christian nationalists seek to apply these laws in new ways, such as undermining civil rights laws that protect LGBTQ people and women from discrimination. This item indicates that states have statutory language similar to that of the federal RFRA.

Religious Exemptions to Enforcement

This item assesses state laws that include religious exemptions to rules that otherwise apply to everyone else. Many of these religious exemptions are specifically sought by Christian nationalists because they align with their beliefs, and therefore the exemptions allow them to ignore provisions of law with which they disagree.

For example, several states allow religious foster care and adoption agencies that receive state funding to discriminate against potential parents and, in some states, even the vulnerable youth themselves, based on their beliefs. This most negatively impacts single people, LGBTQ people, atheists, and religious minorities. These laws are especially harmful to foster youth because they reduce the number of qualified families, which in turn denies them the chance to find loving, permanent homes.

A handful of states have created exemptions to civil rights laws, allowing individuals and businesses to discriminate against same-sex couples based on their religious beliefs about marriage. Not surprisingly, in each case these states fail to provide any nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people in the first place. Regardless, these religious exemptions are stigmatizing and harmful, and they can override local nondiscrimination protections.

A few states allow government officials, such as county clerks and judges, to invoke their religious beliefs about marriage as a legitimate reason to opt out of providing government services to same-sex couples. Although these laws typically require that

the couple be served by other officials, that may not be possible in some offices. Regardless, under these circumstances, same-sex couples are subject to stigmatization and discrimination that is based on religion and sponsored by the government.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of states passed exemptions that excuse religious organizations from being required to follow public health restrictions implemented during emergencies. These laws vary significantly. Some allow in-person gatherings so long as other precautionary rules are followed, while others completely eliminate the ability of the state to enforce public health rules on religious organizations, whether they are due to the pandemic or other emergencies. In a few states, lawmakers passed sweeping exemptions that shield religious organizations from civil and criminal liability, potentially even outside the context of public health emergencies. These laws are exceptionally dangerous as they could result in religious organizations, including schools, hospitals, and others, never being held accountable for wrongs they commit. It remains to be seen how courts will apply such broad exemptions.

Tax Exemptions for Places of Worship

Most states exempt churches and other places of worship, as well as other religious organizations and nonprofits, from various state taxes. However, this item indicates laws or policies that provide special tax exemptions or limited filing requirements for religious organizations or places of worship that are not available to secular nonprofits. For example, some states allow religious organizations or places of worship to omit initially filing for tax exemption, while others may exempt these organizations from filing any annual return. Without these important filings, it is impossible for the government to detect fraud and misconduct within these religious organizations.

Most states offer tax exemptions for parsonages or other dwellings provided to clergy, in effect subsidizing their housing. Such exemptions are not typically available to secular nonprofits. Although similar provisions exist in federal law, this item indicates exemptions from state-level taxes.

Nearly every state offers tax exemptions for property owned by religious organizations and places of worship, but such exemptions are not typically available to other nonprofits. In some instances, these exemptions are granted automatically to places of worship, but only granted conditionally to other nonprofits or granted after a lengthy approval process.

Some states offer religious organizations and places of worship an exemption from state sales tax that is not available to other nonprofits. For example, these states may limit the types of nonprofits that can apply sales tax exemptions, or they might automatically approve religious organizations for these exemp-

tions while requiring other types of nonprofits to apply for approval.

Anti-Blasphemy Laws

State anti-blasphemy laws were long ago ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. The *Joseph Burstyn, Inc. v. Wilson* (1952) decision held that “[i]t is not the business of government in our nation to suppress real or imagined attacks upon a particular religious doctrine, whether they appear in publications, speeches, or motion pictures.” This item indicates that the state law still contains inactive anti-blasphemy provisions.

Distribution of Religious License Plate Funding

This item indicates laws or policies that permit funding from the sale of specialty religious license plates (such as “In God We Trust” plates) to go to non-governmental organizations. In some states, such as Arizona, this mechanism has been used to secretly provide funding to Christian nationalist groups without informing the purchasers of these license plates.



Anti-mask, anti-testing, and anti-testing protesters stage a demonstration.

Photo by Ilyas Tayfun Salci via Shutterstock.com

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious extremists and their lawmaker allies have sought to impose their beliefs on health care laws, targeting women’s health care in particular. While court precedents have limited the effect that these extremist groups can have on federal law, these organizations nonetheless have been able to push through religious exemptions and privileges affecting health care in nearly every state.

Negative laws affecting health care generally relate to issues of paramount concern to religious conservatives: abortion, contraception, sterilization, end-of-life care, and faith healing. Moreover, as a result of the pandemic, vaccination issues have become higher profile. In addition to compromising the separation of religion and government, these intrusive laws and policies can have a drastically negative impact on people by limiting access to essential health care, especially for groups that already face discrimination or are otherwise vulnerable.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Medical Aid-in-Dying Laws

This item indicates laws that allow a terminally ill, mentally competent adult to request and obtain medication that brings about a peaceful death. Prohibitions on suicide, assisted suicide, and homicide do not apply to individuals taking appropriate actions in accordance with these laws.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Denial of Care Laws

This item indicates laws and policies that allow religious providers (including individual health care workers and institutional providers like hospitals) to refrain from providing various types of health care that conflict with their religious beliefs. Sometimes called “freedom of conscience” laws or “religious refusals,” these provisions may effectively supersede rules of professional ethics, medical best practices, and protections against medical negligence in order to privilege the religious beliefs of providers. These laws most often allow providers to refuse services relating to abortion, contraception, and sterilization, but some states have even broader exemptions.

While many denial of care laws echo existing exemptions at the federal level, states may pass laws that apply exemptions more broadly or extend them to additional types of institutions, including those that do not receive federal funding. As indicated on each scorecard, many states have laws that allow various types of institutions to refuse to provide abortion services. States may also have laws that allow at least some health care

providers to refuse to provide contraception and/or sterilization services.

Some states specifically allow health care providers to receive licensure or accreditation, or to be treated as if they were licensed or accredited, if they are initially denied licensure or accreditation for a reason that conflicts with their religious beliefs. For example, if a professional accrediting organization prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ patients, a health care provider might still be considered accredited if they discriminate against these patients because of their religious beliefs.

Child Negligence Exemptions for Faith Healing

This item indicates laws that carve holes into state law protections against child negligence or medical neglect, protecting individuals from legal consequences for the far-too-frequent tragic outcomes of faith healing imposed on minors. These laws typically protect the faith healers and parents or guardians from any penalties when a child dies or is severely harmed as a result of these practices or when a child is denied appropriate treatment for religious reasons. With these exemptions in place, law enforcement has limited ability to prosecute. State laws may include religious exemptions to civil liability, criminal laws, or both.

Nonmedical Exemptions to Vaccination

Every state has laws that require children to receive various vaccinations prior to attending public school. This item indicates that the state has nonmedical exemptions to those laws, which endanger young people and risk public health. Personal exemptions allow a parent to opt their child out of the vaccination requirement for basically any reason, which is often framed as a philosophy or belief. Religious exemptions allow a parent to opt their child out of the vaccination requirement based on their religious beliefs, which may or may not be associated with their particular denomination. There is evidence that those who seek to avoid vaccination will take advantage of either type of nonmedical exemption, depending on what is available under state law.

Education & Youth

Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, the bulk of negative legislation sought by Christian nationalists, such as those behind Project Blitz, targets schools and youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, can be an especially appealing target for indoctrination. Research shows that individuals raised within a particular religious faith are likely to remain in that faith as they age. Younger children are particularly vulnerable to peer pressure, as they are still

in the process of identity development and have yet to fully develop their capacity for reason.

In recent years there has been significant advocacy by Christian nationalists to pass legislation to convince young people that America was founded as a Christian nation, in order to propagate this false version of history. These efforts seek to enshrine revisionist history into the law, conflate founding documents with religious ones, teach the bible in a devotional manner in schools, and require the display of religious messages and symbolism in schools.

Moreover, because young people depend on the care of others, they are especially vulnerable to harms caused by the religious beliefs of their parents and caretakers. Sadly, religious beliefs are all too often used to justify conduct that can have a severely negative and lifelong impact on young people, including denial of medical care or dangerous practices like conversion therapy.

POSITIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Protection from Child Marriage

This item indicates laws that prohibit individuals below the age of majority (usually 18) from marrying. Because exceptions, such as those allowing parental consent, can be misused to force children to marry, we are only counting those laws which flatly prohibit the marriage of minors.

This issue is critically important because too frequently these marriages occur in religious sects where very young girls are forced to marry much older men. Child brides forced into marriage have few options. As minors, they face legal dead ends if they want to end their marriage. In states where their parents (or spouse) have custody rights, organizations and shelters are unable to interfere with those rights. As a result, these children have no legal avenues to escape an abusive family or husband. They are too often removed from school, raped, and forced to live in poverty. The only way to give child brides the legal right to say "no" to marriage is to prohibit marriage among minors altogether.

Protection from Conversion Therapy

This item indicates laws designed to protect LGBTQ youth from dangerous and discredited conversion therapy. Conversion therapy consists of a variety of harmful practices which falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These laws generally apply through licensing restrictions that prevent licensed medical and mental health providers from conducting conversion therapy on youth under the age of 18. Generally, however, these laws are unable to regulate conversion therapy that is provided by religious clergy because they are usually not licensed providers.

Protection from Female Genital Mutilation

This item indicates laws designed to protect young girls and women from female genital mutilation (FGM), which is the ritual cutting or alteration of female genitalia for nonmedical purposes. This dangerous practice is predominantly forced upon young girls, often for religious or cultural reasons, and performed by non-licensed practitioners. Fortunately, the majority of states prohibit FGM and make subjecting minors to this practice a felony. Comprehensive state laws also provide public education about FGM, create programs to raise awareness about this dangerous practice, and offer resources to girls and young women who are at risk for FGM.

Homeschooling Laws

This item provides an assessment of state laws that regulate homeschooling. Although homeschooling is not always a religious issue, it cannot be denied that religious groups have long dominated this issue area. Unfortunately, such organizations have worked to stymie any efforts to impose reasonable requirements for homeschooling or to ensure the safety and well-being of homeschooled students.

For this assessment, we examined state homeschooling laws to determine if there are a few minimal educational and safety requirements. First, we determined whether state law requires homeschooling instructors (whether parents or outside instructors) to meet any qualification requirements. This is critical to ensure that those teaching homeschooled students (usually, but not always, parents) are capable of providing quality instruction.

Second, we examined whether state law requires evaluation of homeschooled students' academic progress at least annually. Some states use standardized testing to measure progress, while other states require progress reports detailing what a child learned during a certain period of time. As part of this evaluation, we also looked for some type of remediation process so that efforts can be made to help homeschooled children when they fall behind.

Third, we examined whether state law protects children by disallowing homeschooling where an adult in the household has been convicted of certain crimes, such as homicide, aggravated assault, rape, or child abuse. Unfortunately, research has clearly shown that homeschooled children are at greater risk for abuse and neglect. Without basic protections in place, homeschooling can allow child abuse to go undetected because there can be a lack of contact with adults outside the home.

Finally, we looked at religious or other exemptions to homeschooling requirements. For example, some states exempt parents from homeschooling laws and oversight if the parents claim a religious objection to such requirements. This item

also assesses broader limitations on oversight of homeschooling, such as state laws that explicitly prohibit any oversight of homeschooling by school districts.

Sex Education

This item examines how state laws and policies affect the quality of sex education in each state's public schools, which can and should play an important role in providing comprehensive and medically accurate sex education. Comprehensive sex education helps to foster healthy relationships and development, reduces the risk of unintended pregnancy, and lowers the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Under this analysis, a state is considered to offer comprehensive sex education if school districts are required to offer such education and the curriculum covers a wide range of relevant issues beyond abstinence. A comprehensive curriculum generally teaches abstinence as the best method for avoiding STIs and unintended pregnancies while also teaching that contraception reduces the risk of unintended pregnancy and STIs, including HIV. Such programs should be inclusive and provide age-appropriate education about gender roles, sexual orientation, and gender identity. These programs also develop interpersonal and other communication skills and help young people explore their own values, goals, and options.

A state's public school sex education curriculum is considered "abstinence only" if there are laws mandating that programs must exclusively or primarily promote abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage. By doing so, these programs tell students that abstinence is an unmarried person's only moral option. This category also includes "abstinence-plus" programs, which provide some information about contraception in the context of strong abstinence messages. Many abstinence only programs offered in schools based on these state laws incorporate religious elements or promote religious values in ways that conflict with the separation of religion and government.

Some states have laws that prohibit educators from discussing LGBTQ topics in school or mandate that such topics be presented negatively. While these laws usually apply only to sex education, they are frequently applied more broadly by school districts. While many school districts do not enforce these laws even where they exist, they may still stigmatize LGBTQ students and have a negative impact on the school environment.

NEGATIVE LAWS & POLICIES

Religious Daycare Exemption

This item indicates laws that exempt daycares that are operated by a church, ministry, or parochial school from obtaining necessary licenses, paying annual fees, or meeting other legal requirements that apply to secular daycare programs. While some states still require religious daycares to maintain standard health and safety requirements, others do not require any licensure or regulation whatsoever. These exemptions are harmful because the preferences given to religious daycares incentivize those programs and reduce the availability of nonreligious daycare programs, which are required to follow significantly more stringent rules. For example, secular daycares must maintain a license, be subject to inspections, staff training requirements, and required child-staff ratios, which may increase costs compared to the relatively unregulated religious programs. At the same time, the lack of these safeguards in religious daycares can result in abuse, fraud, and neglect.

Anti-Trans Youth Laws

Several states have considered bills that target trans children, or their parents and medical providers, generally based on religious disapproval of trans identities. Although there is significant variation in these bills, those that have passed into law tend to either seek to prevent trans youth from accessing medical care or to exclude them from school athletics.

Displaying a fundamental lack of understanding of trans children, trans youth medical bans prevent trans youth from accessing the standards of necessary medical care that are backed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and other leading health authorities. Some of these bills go so far as to threaten parents with prosecution if they help their child receive the medical care recommended by the child's doctor. When lawmakers prohibit medical care based on their beliefs, they risk the safety of others and undermine their religious freedom. No one should have authority to put their religious beliefs before the health and well-being of others.

Trans children, like other students, deserve the opportunity to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and self-discipline, and to build a sense of belonging with their peers through school athletics. Unfortunately, some states have passed legislation that prevents trans children from accessing school sports and related programs. These attacks on trans youth are rooted in religious disapproval rather than educational best practices. These bills are not about fairness — the overwhelming majority of trans youth, like most children, don't play at elite levels. Instead, these laws result in exclusion and isolate trans youth from their classmates.



Anti-Science / Anti-Evolution Laws

This item indicates laws that allow or require public school educators to present non-scientific religious doctrine as scientific fact, most often relating to evolution. For example, these laws may require public schools to teach about “controversies” in areas where religious doctrine conflicts with generally accepted science.

Bible Class Laws

This item indicates laws that require or encourage public schools to offer elective classes on the Christian bible as a historical or literary document. While it may be technically possible for a public school to offer a course on the bible that uses it solely for historical or literary purposes, studies have shown it is very challenging for schools to consistently teach the bible in a non-devotional manner. Instead, many schools that offer such courses purposefully use them to proselytize and engage students in religious activities. Note that the classes authorized by these bills differ significantly from comparative religion classes, which examine many different religious perspectives.

PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

The Silent Harmful Impact of Anti-Transgender Bills on Youth

D. OJEDA*Policy Advocate, National Center for Transgender Equality*

In 2021, a slew of anti-transgender bills considered in states across the country has resulted in widespread public alarm. Although the majority of these bills did not pass, and several of those that did are already being challenged in the courts, the mere consideration of these anti-transgender bills inflicts cultural violence on our transgender youth. According to the Equality Federation's Equality Tracker, about 374 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced in 2021, and of those, 183 bills were specifically anti-transgender. The two most prevalent types of legislation considered that impact transgender youth were 1) anti-transgender athletic bans and 2) anti-transgender medical care bans. Out of 183 bills, there were about 93 bills that infringe on the ability of transgender students to participate in public school sports and 51 bills that prohibit gender-affirming care for transgender youth.

Anti-transgender athlete ban bills vary quite widely. Most apply to primary and secondary school, and some extend to higher education; some also include private institutions (for example, Wisconsin's S.B. 322; South Carolina's H4153). Many of these bills attempt to define gender based on the theory of gender essentialism, a theory that has been widely discredited and outdated. These bills force transgender student athletes to participate in sports that don't match their authentic gender identity or quit sports altogether. These bills may also impact transgender youth's perceptions of safety in physical education. According to GLSEN's 2019 National School Climate Survey, about 60% of transgender youth avoid gym/physical education, 70% have reported avoiding locker rooms, and more than 80% avoid bathrooms due to fear of anti-transgender violence."

As for anti-transgender medical bans, these insidious bills undermine health care systems and infringe on transgender youths' access to medically necessary health care services. They impact critical aspects of health care for young people, including medical providers, mental health counselors, medication, and insurance. Most of these medical bans limit the ability of health care providers to provide gender-affirming care through fines and, in some cases, criminalization. Other

bills classify gender-affirming care as child abuse, a cruel tactic that not only effectively limits medical access but endangers parental custody rights and fosters family rejection of transgender children.

Transgender communities understand that anti-transgender rhetoric too often ultimately results in violence. This was especially evident during the Trump Administration, where anti-transgender propaganda and policymaking was paired with a dramatic increase in anti-transgender violence. And in the wake of these waves of anti-transgender legislation, homicides based on transgender-related hate continue to increase. According to a report published in 2017 by the Human Rights Campaign, the Trump Administration's hateful agenda and anti-transgender state-wide legislation contributed "to a toxic environment that puts too many of our most vulnerable citizens at risk for fatal violence."

These political attacks in states have a profound effect on transgender youth. For example, the anti-transgender medical ban that was passed into law in Arkansas (and, for now at least, stayed by a court) was followed by increased rate of teen suicide attempts. Not only do these bills stigmatize transgender youth, but they also negatively impact protective factors that boost social interaction and self-esteem, such as access to gender affirming health care and sports activities. This results in transgender youth feeling socially isolated within their communities, even as they are subject to oppressive, anti-transgender rhetoric.

Even when states fail to pass anti-transgender legislation, the consideration of these hateful bills needlessly traumatizes transgender youth, resulting in worse psychological outcomes and potentially lifelong harm. Consequently, it is imperative the federal government and the courts make it abundantly clear that these anti-transgender bills violate both federal law and the U.S. Constitution. Only then will states cease to legislatively target this vulnerable population.

Mandatory National Motto Displays

This item indicates laws that require schools (and sometimes other public buildings) to display the national motto, “In God We Trust.” Some of these laws mandate the size, format, and location (requiring display, for example, in “every classroom” or “a prominent location”) of these displays, while others leave these details to the individual school or district. Some of these laws require that the displays be donated rather than paid for with taxpayer funds.

School Vouchers & Tax Credits

This item indicates whether state law establishes school voucher or tax credit programs. School vouchers divert taxpayer funding from public education to private educational institutions, the majority of which are religious. Many states have laws that either create statewide school voucher or pilot voucher programs. Alternatively, some states have tax credit programs that create a more complex process to achieve the same result. States with these programs give tax credits to individuals who donate to third party scholarship organizations. These organizations then give students vouchers to attend private, usually religious, schools. So, in effect, these programs are subsidized by the state.

School Prayer Laws

This item indicates state laws that allow schools to improperly promote religious activities. For example, this includes state laws that allow school staff to participate in religious activities on school grounds or facilities before, during, and/or after school hours. Courts have made clear that the First Amendment prohibits school staff from promoting religion or engaging in religious expression with students because such behavior would be an official endorsement of those religious viewpoints.

This assessment also includes laws that promote the practice of religion by students in ways that are discriminatory toward other students or disruptive to the educational environment. The First Amendment guarantees students the right to engage in religious activities in schools to the same extent students can engage in secular expressive activities. At the same time, schools may set reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on these activities. However, some states have passed laws that grant religious students special privileges or allow religious expression that harasses other students.

Released Time Laws

Some state laws require or allow school districts to provide “released time” for students to attend private religious education. To meet constitutional requirements, this religious instruction must be outside school grounds, the school may not encourage participation, and school resources may not be

spent to facilitate this religious education. Unfortunately, these released time programs may compromise the education of both participating and non-participating students if they detract from class time. While most laws establishing released time are permissive, meaning they allow school districts to set their own released time policies, at least one state has a mandatory released time law that places requirements on school districts. This item indicates state laws that allow or require released time policies and also laws that allow students to receive academic credit for religious education classes taught outside school grounds.

Campus License to Discriminate Laws

This item indicates state laws that prevent public colleges and universities from applying nondiscrimination policies to religious student organizations. The majority of public colleges and universities have nondiscrimination policies that allow students to participate in any recognized student organization, and most colleges and universities collect a fee from students that is provided to student organizations in order to support their programming.

The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that public colleges and universities must treat student organizations equally with respect to recognition and funding—they cannot discriminate based on viewpoint—but they may impose universal requirements such as nondiscrimination policies. These policies are important because they ensure that students are not forced to pay for student organizations in which they are not allowed to participate.

However, some states have Campus License to Discriminate laws that require public colleges and universities to both recognize religious student organizations and to allow them to discriminate by excluding some students based on the organization’s religious beliefs. Religious groups may advocate for these laws so that they can exclude students of other religions, nonreligious students, or other groups they disfavor, such as LGBTQ people.

There have been some legal developments in this area because the Trump Administration released regulations requiring all public colleges and universities to both recognize religious groups and also allow them to discriminate. American Atheists is currently suing the U.S. Department of Education to challenge this discriminatory rule, and the Department has indicated they will rescind or modify it in 2022.

Acknowledging Context

Research Process

Each scorecard assesses the presence or absence of state-wide laws and policies affecting the separation of religion and government, either positively or negatively. In addition to the 50 states, scorecards are provided for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Research for this project was conducted by the lawyers and law clerks at the American Atheists Legal Center, based on established criteria for each law and policy item, and compiled into a scorecard for each state. This research was drawn from publicly available sources.

The evaluations of each law and policy item are based on the nature of the item, typical statewide laws and policies concerning that issue, and our determination about best practices for that issue. States are grouped into one of the three general categories based on a subjective analysis of their laws. During the course of researching and drafting this report, a number of states passed relevant laws or policies. This report includes assessments of laws and policies passed as of November 1, 2021.

“Clauses” refer to state constitutional provisions. “Laws” refer to statewide statutes, either passed through a state’s legislative process or through referendum. “Policies” refer to administrative regulations and policies from a state executive agency that have a legal effect. “Court decisions” refer to final rulings by a relevant state or federal court with a statewide jurisdiction and for which the decision is controlling law.

Implementation of Laws & Policies

The State of the Secular States report is an assessment of state-wide laws and policies that affect the separation of religion and government in each state as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This report is intended to support advocacy on these issues, both by providing a benchmark for existing laws and policies and a roadmap for how advocates can work to preserve the separation of religion and government in their own communities and states. However, this report is not an evaluation of statewide advocacy efforts. We recognize that advocacy for statewide law and policy efforts relating to the separation of religion and government varies widely in different regions and is based on state politics, historical context, legislative concerns, state constitutions, and countless other factors.

Moreover, this report does not measure the implementation of laws and policies that affect the separation of religion and government. It reviews only the presence or absence of the listed law and policy items. For example, we note on Michigan’s scorecard that the state applies religious exemptions to foster care and adoption, even though there is currently litigation regarding the scope of that exemption. Similarly, we note that several state constitutions include a religious test for public office, even though those provisions are not currently operative.

Future Categories

This report differs from the previous edition in that it includes additional criteria as well as some modified assessments of previous criteria. We intend to continue to iterate upon this report annually in order to provide a useful resource for advocates and lawmakers. Some issues we are considering for future inclusion are:

- Broad denial of care laws, including those that apply to health care payers
- Restrictions on hospital mergers
- Laws mandating recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools
- Religion in state-required oaths
- Separation of religion and government in prison, re-entry, and recovery programs
- Privately enforced abortion prohibitions

National Summary

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲	40
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲	50
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲	21
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS		
Employment	▲	50
Housing	▲	51
Public Accommodations	▲	48
Education	▲	32
Religious Exemptions	▼	25
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼	8

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE		
Mandatory Reporting	▲	31
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲	13
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼	23
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT		
Foster Care & Adoption	▼	11
Marriage-Related Services	▼	2
State Officials	▼	2
Public Health Protections	▼	8
Broad Liability Shield	▼	2
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP		
Limited Filing Requirements	▼	17
Parsonage Exemption	▼	42
Property Tax Exemption	▼	50
Sales Tax Exemption	▼	21
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼	6
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼	13

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲	10
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS		
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼	45
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼	18
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼	20
Professional Licensure	▼	5
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING		
Civil Exemption	▼	33
Criminal Exemption	▼	31
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼	46

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲	6
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲	21
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲	40
SEX EDUCATION		
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲	8
Abstinence Only Programs	▼	27
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼	8
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS		
Instructor Qualifications	▲	12
Testing & Evaluation	▲	9
Child Abuse Prevention	▲	2
Exemptions	▼	13
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼	29
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS		
Medical Ban	▼	2
Athlete Ban	▼	10
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼	4
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼	11
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼	10
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼	30
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼	15
RELEASED TIME LAWS		
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼	27
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼	6
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼	14

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	No.	Number of states and territories with provision
	▼ Negative provision in place		

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State Assessment Categories

This report identifies four areas of public policy in each state that affect religious equality: Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections, Education & Youth, Health Care & Wellness, and Special Privileges for Religion. We assess more than 50 related law and policy measures in each state as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The states have been grouped into three broad categories, but they have not been individually ranked.

Strong Protections for Religious Equality

In addition to strong constitutional protections that protect the separation of religion and government, states in this category have laws and policies that protect individuals from religion-based harm, such as child marriage or conversion therapy. Generally, these states allow few religious exemptions or special privileges for religion.

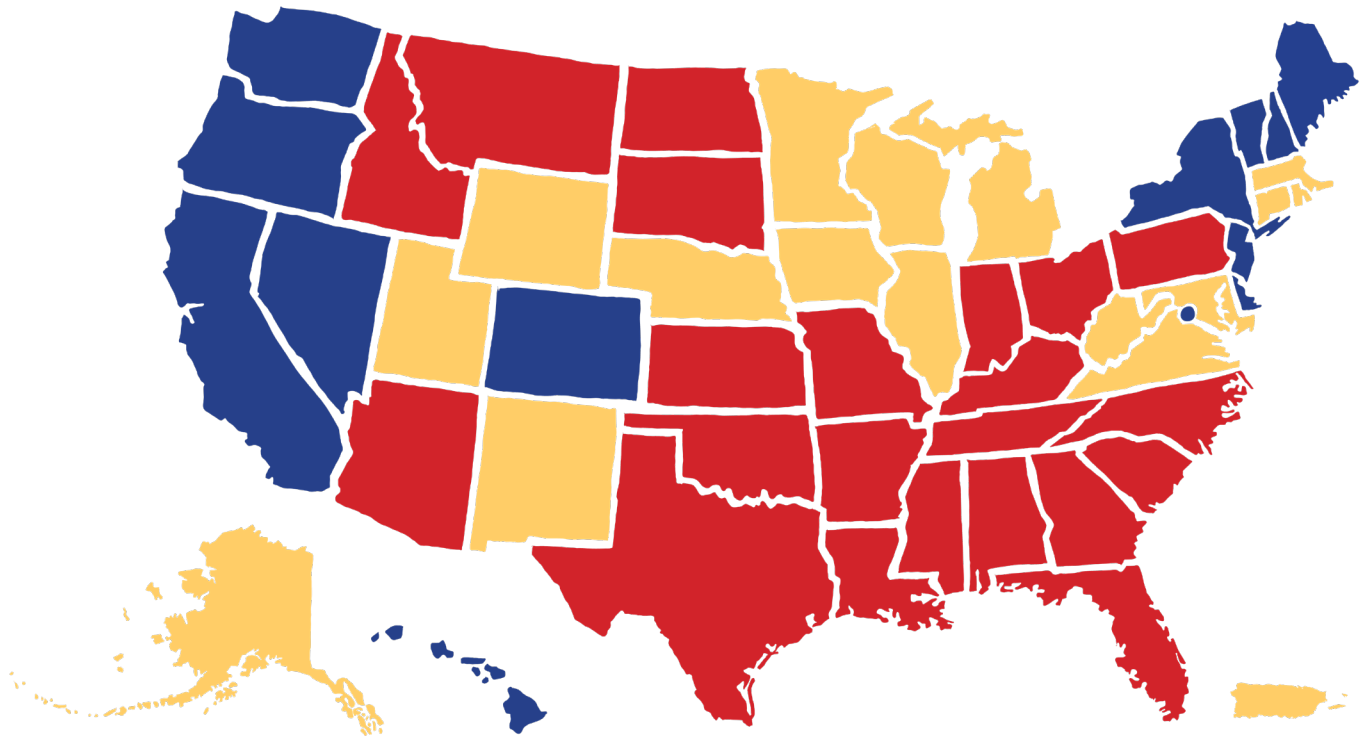
Basic Separation of Religion and Government

States in this category may have constitutional provisions that protect religious equality by ensuring the separation of religion and government, but they have few laws to protect individuals from religion-based harm. These states generally have at least some religious exemptions or special privileges for religion.

Religious Exemptions That Undermine Equality

States in this category have several laws that establish religious exemptions or special privileges for religion and provide few protections for the separation of religion and government. Some of these states have passed laws to promote false Christian nationalist narratives, to allow religious exemptions to civil rights protections, or to enshrine particular religious views into the law.

National Summary Map



Strong Protections for Religious Equality

[13 STATES & TERRITORIES]

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| California | New Jersey |
| Colorado | New York |
| Delaware | Oregon |
| Hawaii | Vermont |
| Maine | Washington |
| Nevada | Washington, DC |
| New Hampshire | |



Religious Exemptions That Undermine Equality

[22 STATES]

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Alabama | North Carolina |
| Arizona | North Dakota |
| Arkansas | Ohio |
| Florida | Oklahoma |
| Georgia | Pennsylvania |
| Idaho | South Carolina |
| Indiana | South Dakota |
| Kansas | Tennessee |
| Kentucky | Texas |
| Louisiana | |
| Mississippi | |
| Missouri | |
| Montana | |



Basic Separation of Religion and Government

[17 STATES & TERRITORIES]

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Alaska | New Mexico |
| Connecticut | Puerto Rico |
| Illinois | Rhode Island |
| Iowa | Utah |
| Maryland | Virginia |
| Massachusetts | West Virginia |
| Michigan | Wisconsin |
| Minnesota | Wyoming |
| Nebraska | |

Alabama

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Alaska

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Arizona

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Arkansas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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California

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Colorado

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Connecticut

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Delaware

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼



Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Florida

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Georgia

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Hawaii

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
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CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Idaho

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Illinois

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

- STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE ▲
- STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE ▲
- STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING ▲
- NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS
 - Employment ▲
 - Housing ▲
 - Public Accommodations ▲
 - Education ▲
 - Religious Exemptions ▼
- RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE ▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

- LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE
 - Mandatory Reporting ▲
 - Exceptions for Child Abuse ▲
- STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT ▼
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT
 - Foster Care & Adoption ▼
 - Marriage-Related Services ▼
 - State Officials ▼
 - Public Health Protections ▼
 - Broad Liability Shield ▼
- TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP
 - Limited Filing Requirements ▼
 - Parsonage Exemption ▼
 - Property Tax Exemption ▼
 - Sales Tax Exemption ▼
- ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW ▼
- DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING ▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

- MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW ▲
- DENIAL OF CARE LAWS
 - Refusals Related to Abortion ▼
 - Refusals Related to Contraception ▼
 - Refusals Related to Sterilization ▼
 - Professional Licensure ▼
- CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING
 - Civil Exemption ▼
 - Criminal Exemption ▼
- NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION ▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

- PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE ▲
- PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY ▲
- PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ▲
- SEX EDUCATION
 - Comprehensive Sex Education ▲
 - Abstinence Only Programs ▼
 - LGBTQ Topics Restricted ▼
- HOMESCHOOLING LAWS
 - Instructor Qualifications ▲
 - Testing & Evaluation ▲
 - Child Abuse Prevention ▲
 - Exemptions ▼
- RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION ▼
- ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS
 - Medical Ban ▼
 - Athlete Ban ▼
- ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW ▼
- BIBLE CLASS LAW ▼
- MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS ▼
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS ▼
- SCHOOL PRAYER LAW ▼
- RELEASED TIME LAWS
 - Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies ▼
 - Academic Credit for Religious Education ▼
- CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW ▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Indiana

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Iowa

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Kansas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Kentucky

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Louisiana

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Maine

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲	Positive provision in place	▼	Negative provision in place
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Maryland

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Massachusetts

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Michigan

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Minnesota

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Mississippi

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

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Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Missouri

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Montana

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

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STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
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Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Nebraska

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

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STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
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CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Nevada

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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New Hampshire

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE



STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE



STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING



NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS

Employment



Housing



Public Accommodations



Education



Religious Exemptions



RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE



Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE

Mandatory Reporting



Exceptions for Child Abuse



STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT



RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT

Foster Care & Adoption



Marriage-Related Services



State Officials



Public Health Protections



Broad Liability Shield



TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

Limited Filing Requirements



Parsonage Exemption



Property Tax Exemption



Sales Tax Exemption



ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW



DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING



Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW



DENIAL OF CARE LAWS

Refusals Related to Abortion



Refusals Related to Contraception



Refusals Related to Sterilization



Professional Licensure



CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING

Civil Exemption



Criminal Exemption



NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION



Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE



PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY



PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



SEX EDUCATION

Comprehensive Sex Education



Abstinence Only Programs



LGBTQ Topics Restricted



HOMESCHOOLING LAWS

Instructor Qualifications



Testing & Evaluation



Child Abuse Prevention



Exemptions



RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION



ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS

Medical Ban



Athlete Ban



ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW



BIBLE CLASS LAW



MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS



SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS



SCHOOL PRAYER LAW



RELEASED TIME LAWS

Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies



Academic Credit for Religious Education



CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW



KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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New Jersey

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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New Mexico

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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New York

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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North Carolina

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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North Dakota

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Ohio

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Oklahoma

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Oregon

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Pennsylvania

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
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Puerto Rico

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
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SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Rhode Island

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
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Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

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Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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South Carolina

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
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Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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South Dakota

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

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STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
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Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
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MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

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Tennessee

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

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Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

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MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
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Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

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PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
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ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
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MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
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Texas

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS THAT UNDERMINE EQUALITY

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Utah

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Vermont

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Virginia

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Washington

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Washington, DC

STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	N/A
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	N/A
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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West Virginia

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Wisconsin

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

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STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

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Wyoming

BASIC SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional & Nondiscrimination Protections

Nearly every state constitution has provisions that echo the critical protections for religious equality created by the U.S. Constitution. Most states also have statutory nondiscrimination protections in various areas based on religious and nonreligious belief.

STATE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE	▲
STATE FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE	▲
STRONG TAXPAYER STANDING	▲
NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS	
Employment	▲
Housing	▲
Public Accommodations	▲
Education	▲
Religious Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS TESTS FOR OFFICE	▼

Special Privileges for Religion

Many states have laws which privilege religious organizations and religious beliefs. Such measures exempt individuals, groups, or businesses from particular legal requirements that conflict with their religious beliefs.

LIMITATIONS ON CLERGY PRIVILEGE	
Mandatory Reporting	▲
Exceptions for Child Abuse	▲
STATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT	▼
RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO ENFORCEMENT	
Foster Care & Adoption	▼
Marriage-Related Services	▼
State Officials	▼
Public Health Protections	▼
Broad Liability Shield	▼
TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP	
Limited Filing Requirements	▼
Parsonage Exemption	▼
Property Tax Exemption	▼
Sales Tax Exemption	▼
ANTI-BLASPHEMY LAW	▼
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS LICENSE PLATE FUNDING	▼

Health Care & Wellness

For decades, religious conservatives have sought to impose their dogmas on health care laws, focusing on reproductive health care and parental rights. The religious beliefs of others should never interfere with a person's ability to access essential health care.

MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAW	▲
DENIAL OF CARE LAWS	
Refusals Related to Abortion	▼
Refusals Related to Contraception	▼
Refusals Related to Sterilization	▼
Professional Licensure	▼
CHILD NEGLIGENCE EXEMPTIONS FOR FAITH HEALING	
Civil Exemption	▼
Criminal Exemption	▼
NONMEDICAL EXEMPTION TO VACCINATION	▼

Education & Youth

The bulk of negative legislation sought by religious extremists targets or has a disproportionate impact on youth. Young people, particularly those who aren't already being influenced by a church, are an easy target for indoctrination.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE	▲
PROTECTION FROM CONVERSION THERAPY	▲
PROTECTION FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION	▲
SEX EDUCATION	
Comprehensive Sex Education	▲
Abstinence Only Programs	▼
LGBTQ Topics Restricted	▼
HOMESCHOOLING LAWS	
Instructor Qualifications	▲
Testing & Evaluation	▲
Child Abuse Prevention	▲
Exemptions	▼
RELIGIOUS DAYCARE EXEMPTION	▼
ANTI-TRANS YOUTH LAWS	
Medical Ban	▼
Athlete Ban	▼
ANTI-SCIENCE / ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW	▼
BIBLE CLASS LAW	▼
MANDATORY NATIONAL MOTTO DISPLAYS	▼
SCHOOL VOUCHERS & TAX CREDITS	▼
SCHOOL PRAYER LAW	▼
RELEASED TIME LAWS	
Permissive or Mandatory School District Policies	▼
Academic Credit for Religious Education	▼
CAMPUS LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE LAW	▼

KEY	▲ Positive provision in place	▼ Negative provision in place
	▲ Positive provision not in place	▼ Negative provision not in place

The State of the Secular States (2021) report is a project of American Atheists. To learn more about our critical state-level advocacy, research, and public policy work, please visit states.atheists.org

Our Organization

AMERICAN ATHEISTS is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheism and atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America.

American Atheists is committed to providing resources and tools to help our local grassroots organizers grow and sustain vibrant communities. By emphasizing activities in the four core areas of our ACES program—Activism, Community, Education, and Service—affiliate groups can provide support for their members while expanding engagement in their local community, improving policy outcomes at every level of government, and normalizing atheism across the nation. To find out more about becoming a volunteer leader or to find a local affiliate group, please email us at field@atheists.org.

American Atheists seeks to empower its constituents to be effective advocates for state and local policy change. We use cutting-edge tools to inform grassroots leaders about bills and policies that affect the separation of religion and government, which enables them to amplify their outreach to lawmakers. We support these efforts by providing advocacy resources, bill analyses, effective messaging, and assistance with coalition-building and drafting legislation. We are always eager to work with state and local advocates on the various laws and policies discussed in this report. For example, in several states we have built and support teams of advocates to focus on proactive legislation. If you are interested in engaging in this work, please email us at advocacy@atheists.org.

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American Atheists supporters march in the Cincinnati Pride Parade on June 22, 2019.

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