

I would like to thank you for the introduction of House Bill 16-1123 CONCERNING AN EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS LAW 101 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED PERSONS. I understand that there is some action taking place in regard to your bill this afternoon and while I wish that I might attend to represent my support of the bill, circumstances will prevent my physical presence.

“As the Executive Director of an association of 37 churches in Colorado and an additional 30 churches in the surrounding Rocky Mountain states, I am greatly concerned for the preservation of our FIRST Amendment religious rights, or laws and action that would be seen as ... *“prohibiting the free exercise thereof”*. The current cultural shift in redefining the historical definitions and perspectives of sexuality and marriage are an affront to our understanding and beliefs, that are based upon our Judeo-Christian values of a Divine Creator, authoritative biblical revelation or teachings and the moral values of that the Divine Creator revealed in those teachings.

While as religious leaders we understand that not all embrace these teachings as having universal authority, we cannot equivocate from our convictions and commitment to that Divine Creator. Your bill would help ensure not only our governments declared First Amendment rights of free exercise of religion, but would also secure freedom from the current assault on our conviction of a God-centered standard of moral truth.

Rest assured that the pastors and leaders of the churches that I represent will always place greater value on our understanding of God-centered truth, than culturally defined values.”

Thank you for introducing your bill. I would love to know how else I might be able to assist in the promotion of this effort.

Be strong and courageous,

Stan Rieb

Executive Director, RMCN



The Patriot League.

Reclaiming America's Goodness

RE: Hearing for HB16-1123

(Sponsored by Representative Klingenschmitt & Senator Lundberg)

Monday, February 8th @ 1:30p. House State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee (Room #271)

~Statement of Support~

Good afternoon Madame Chair Ryden & Members of the Committee, my name is Aaron Robertson. I am the President and Founder of The Patriot League & I speak in that capacity to support a bill that defends Religious Liberty. We are a public advocacy organization that seeks the common good of society through the advancement of America's founding principles. The Patriot League believes this bill to be consistent with the principle of Religious Liberty & asks that you vote in its favor. Section 2 of this bill states that "a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place that is principally used for religious purposes" cannot be required to provide a "public accommodation" "for the purpose of the solemnization of any marriage or religious ceremony." Coloradans who feel uncomfortable with the idea of the government compelling Christian, Jewish, Muslim & other religious groups to participate in actions or programs that violate their religious beliefs will find it easy to support the language of the bill as stated in Section 2.

In a non-ecumenical fashion, our organization works with Catholic, Evangelical, Greek Eastern Orthodox, Mormon & Muslim religious leaders who have committed to stand together in calling on their governing officials to defend Religious Liberty, a pillar of moral truth they believe to be indispensable for the welfare of society. These leaders are African-American, Arabic, Brazilian, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Native American & Vietnamese among others & actively lead over 117,000 Colorado citizens from 44 Colorado cities & towns—although they do not share a unity of faith, as the heads of their respective assemblies, they stand in solidarity for the defense of Religious Liberty.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech..." We support the right of religious groups to decline to associate themselves



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with individuals or activities that violate the free exercise of their religion. Regardless of whether or not their views are popular within society, we ask each member of this Committee to respect the Religious Liberty of Colorado's citizens and ask that the Committee acts to ensure that citizens have the right to hold, articulate & legally act upon their beliefs concerning marriage. We support the freedom of association granted to all citizens by the First Amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1958. In closing, we ask that each member of this Committee do their part to ensure that Colorado law is consistent with America's charter document, the U.S. Constitution, specifically the First Amendment, to which each of you took an oath to uphold when you said that you "solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Colorado."