

1,300 Faith Leaders Oppose Discrimination in the Name of Religion

Dear President Trump:

As clergy and faith leaders who serve diverse communities across the United States, we write to you to express our deep concern over the draft religious freedom executive order that some have urged you to sign. Although it purports to strengthen religious freedom, what this order would actually do is misuse this freedom, turning it into a weapon to discriminate against broad swaths of our nation, including LGBTQ people, women, and children in foster care. We urge you to turn away from all proposals that would abuse religious freedom, including any executive orders on this issue that are currently under consideration.

The religious freedom upon which our nation was founded has allowed our country's diverse religious landscape to flourish. The draft executive order flies in the face of that rich diversity by enshrining one religious perspective--on marriage, gender identity, health care, and the role of houses of worship in partisan politics--into law, above all others. This is neither what religious freedom means in the eyes of the law, nor what religion itself means to millions of Americans of faith.

The religious freedom of individuals and organizations, including that of clergy and houses of worship, is already protected by the First Amendment and federal law. Additionally, we as clergy and faith leaders, stand by the right of anyone to hold beliefs that may differ from our own.

For many of us, supporting LGBTQ individuals and families is a principle of our faith, and that needs to be respected as well.

Furthermore, freedom of religion guarantees us the right to hold any belief we choose and to act on our religious beliefs, but it does not allow us to harm others in the name of those beliefs. We are appalled by the widespread discrimination that this draft order would unleash across all areas of life--including in some cases with taxpayer dollars--on our congregants, our neighbors, our families, so many Americans we may never personally know, and indeed even many of us personally.

As people of deep faith committed to a country that supports robust religious expression, and in the spirit of equality and justice, we urge you to return to the true meaning of religious freedom. We must never allow this precious freedom to be used to discriminate against broad swaths of our nation, including LGBTQ people, women, and children in foster care. We urge you to refrain from issuing this executive order or any substantively similar policies on their own, or as amendments to existing executive orders.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jennifer Butler
Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block
Rabbi Denise Eger
Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy
Rabbi Laura Geller
Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster
Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum
Rev. Harry Knox
Rev. Dr. James Lamkin
Rev. Barry Lynn
Rev. Dr. Bryan Massingale
Rev. Rodney Mckenzie
Rev. Paul Raushenbush
Bishop Gene Robinson
Rabbi Felicia Sol
Pastor Scott Stearman
Rabbi Gil Steinlauf
Rabbi David Teutsch
Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite
Rabbi Burton Visotzky
Minister Leslie Watson Malachi
Rev. Dr. Gabriella Lettini
Rev. R.L. Gundy
Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson
Rev. Scott Vanderveer
Rev. John Vaughn
Rev. Tricia Dykers Koenig
Rev. Dr. Janet Edwards
Rev. Dr. Debra Haffner
Rev. Julie Wilson-Black
Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey
Don Golden
Rev. David Erickson
Rev. Thomas Richter
Rev. Dr. John Bush
Rev. Dr. Lance Moore
Rev. Marge Ragona

Rev. Angela Wright
Rev. Gwen Fry
Mr. Randall Graves
Rev. James Parrish
Rabbi Sharon Brous
Rabbi Aryeh Cohen
Rabbi Menachem Creditor
Rabbi Lucy Dinner
Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus
Rev. Katie Cassidy
Rabbi Robin Damsky
Rev. Nick De Los Reyes
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Minister Susan Gallegos
Minister Christiane Heyde
Rev. Delores Kropf
Rev. Eric Ledermann
Cantor Douglas Spurlin
Fr. Robert Wall
Rabbi Josh Aaronson
Rev. Marv Abrahamson
Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Minister Jay Atkinson
Rabbi Susan Averbach
Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels
Fr. William Connor
Rev. Susan Craig
Rev. Beverly Craig
Pastor Pamela Cummings
Rev. Thomas Discavage
Rev. Canon Jaime Edwards-Acton
Rabbi Amy Eilberg
Rabbi Serena Eisenberg
Rabbi Diane Elliot
Pastor Paul Feiertag
Rabbi Patricia Fenton
Pastor Dave Ferguson
Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer
Rev. Carolyn Glauz-Todrank
Rev. Stephen Glauz-Todrank

Rabbi Dr. Aubrey Glazer
Rev. Robert Goldstein
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Greider
Rev. Elizabeth Griswold
Rabbi Corey Helfand
Rev. John Hydar
Rev. Sandi John
Rev. Jeff Johnson
Rev. Kevin Jones
Rev. Allan Jones
Rabbi Dean Kertesz
Rev. D Andrew Kille
Rabbi Paul Kipnes
Rabbi Howard Laibson
Rabbi Sheldon Lewis
Rev. Emily Lin
Rabbi Richard Litvak
Minister Jim Lockard
Rev. Jeannette Love
Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin
Sr. Esther Mc Egan
Minister Stephen Mcdaniel
Rev. Diane Mettam
Rev. Barbara Meyers
Rabbi Len Muroff
Sr. Mary Jo O'Hanlon
Imam Rashid Patch
Deacon Patricia Pearson
Rev. Steve Pieters
Rev. Benita Ramsey
Rev. Sheri Randolph
Sr. Marianne Rasmussen
Rev. Wilma Reichard
Ms. Sharon Richter
Rev. Joanne Sanders
Rev. Ronald Schmit
Deacon Donna Shaw
Rabbi Becky Silverstein
Rev. Dr. Scott Sinclair
Rabbi Maggid Jhos Singer

Rabbi Suzanne Singer
Elder David Smith
Rabbi Ruth Sohn
Sr. Carol Ann Spencer
Minister Jerald Stinson
Rev. David Stoner
Rabbi Sarah Weissman
Rabbi Julia Weisz
Rabbi Laura Novak Winer
Rev. Sharon Wylie
Rabbi Bridget Wynne
Rabbi Roberta Becker
Rev. Craig Bert
Pastor Don Brenneman
Rabbi Deborah Bronstein
Pastor Paul Carlson
Rev. Dr. Neema Caughran
Pastor Stacie Dougherty
Rabbi Tirzah Firestone
Minister Edith Gause
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward
Pastor John Hild
Rev. Ted Howard
Rev. Roger Hupp
Rev. Patrick Hurley
Rev. Eve Ilsen
Rev. Mollie Landers Hatt
Rabbi Hannah Laner
Rev. Marnie Leinberger
Bishop Loan Lightoller
Rev. Mark Meeks
Rabbi Adam Morris
Rev. Dr. Stephan Papa
Minister Andrew Short
Rabbi Marc Soloway
Rev. Sandra Spahr
Rev. Danny Watson
Rev. Gary Weaver
Rev. Dr. Craig Whitcher
Rabbi Marci Bellows

Rabbi Debra Cantor
Rev. Rayzl Feuer
Pastor Paul Gilmore
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman
Rev. Thomas Hastings
Rev. Rick Haverly
Rev. Aaron Miller
Rev. Nancy Radclyffe
Minister Marion Visel
Sr. Sara Dwyer
Rev. Louise Green
Rabbi Derek Rosenbaum
Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Rev. Mary Louise Allen
Minister Jim Williams
Rev. Margaret Beard
Rabbi Courtney Berman
Rev. Felicia Bruce
Rev. Heather Erickson
Rev. Tephenn Filizzi
Rabbi Donna Friedman
Rev. Candy Holmes
Rabbi Daniel Levin
Priest Keth Luke
Rev. Mary Martin
Rabbi Goldie Milgram
Rev. Patrick O'Doherty
Minister Maureen O'Reilly
Minister Janet Onnie
Rev. Joe Parramore
Rev. Dr. Greta Reed
Fr. Lionel Repasky
Minister Earl Smith
Rev. Herschel Atkinson
Pastor Randle Eichelberger
Rabbi Pamela Gottfried
Rev. Jody Greenwood
Rev. Margaret Harney
Rev. Morgan Hay

Rev. Cy Lynch
Rev. Dr. Donna Mote
Rev. Dr. Gaye Ortiz
Rev. Curtis Rivers
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Samuels
Rev. Patricia Templeton
Deacon Janet Tidwell
Rev. Betsy Turner
Rev. Bonnie Underwood
Rev. Peter Wallace
Rev. Ben Wells
Sr. Rosita Aranita
Minister Catherine Ishida
Sr. Diane Rapozo
Minister Rosalie Rimrodt
Deacon Judith Thayer
Rev. Leslie Traylor
Rev. Joan White
Fr. Bob Spencer
Rabbi Herbert Bronstein
Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow
Rev. Harriet Dart
Rev. Adam Davis
Rev. Andrea Denney
Rev. Bruce Fowlkes
Sr. Chris Fuller
Rev. Emily Gage
Rev. Beth Galbreath
Mr. Michael Gosch
Rev. C.J. Hawking
Rev. Charles H Hensel
Rev. Sarah Jay
Rev. Mark Merrill
Rev. Kathryn Nolte
Rev. Nancy Nyberg
Rev. Barbara Peter
Sr. Donna Preston
Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg
Rev. Lisa Seiwert
Rev. Dr. Donald Sella

Rev. George Smith
Rev. Doreen Sterba Dezur
Pastor Edmond Taveirne
Rev. Jenny Weber
Sr. Mary Zrust
Rev. Alice Archer
Rev. Steven Conger
Sr. Sharon Fox
Rev. Dr. Daniel Gangler
Mr. Bert Harrison
Rabbi Shaul Magid
Rev. Carol Pfeiffer
Rev. Ann Pitman
Rev. Joan Smoke
Rev. Donald Treadwell
Rev. Rebecca Zelensky
Rabbi Leah Jordan
Rabbi Daniel Kirzane
Sr. Mary Margaret Switlik
Rev. Colleen Foley
Rev. Carla Gilbert
Pastor Greg Wright
Rev. Elizabeth Irvine
Rev. Susan Lassalle
Rev. Katherine Adams
Rev. James Boone
Rev. Lisabeth Brimm
Cantor Vera Broekhuysen
Rev. Rosa Buffone
Minister Jeanne Burke
Rev. Shelly Davis
Rev. Phyllis Frechette
Priest Anne Gilson
Rabbi Debra Goldstein
Brother Rick Klaich, Osb
Rabbi Claudia Kreiman
Rabbi Judith Kummer
Rabbi Elias Lieberman
Rev. Paul Millin
Rev. Tara Olsen Allen

Rev. Ruth Richards
Rev. Dr. Cindy Savage-King
Rev. Mary Thiel
Ms. Elizabeth Walsh
Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman
Rabbi Rachel Ackerman
Rabbi Charles Arian
Rabbi Donald Berlin
Rabbi Binyamin Biber
Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein
Rev. Jocelyn Cadwallader
Rev. Dennis Dorsch
Rabbi Donald Gluckman
Rabbi Julie Gordon
Rev. Dorothy Harris
Rev. Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris
Rev. Rebecca Hill
Rev. Abhi Janamanchi
Rabbi Sarah Meytin
Sr. Patricia Murphy
Rabbi Sid Schwarz
Rabbi Alana Suskin
Rev. Amy Williams Clark
Rev. Cathy Grigsby
Rev. Cindy Maddox
Priest Virginia Peacock
Rev. Joan Ura-neck
Rabbi Alana Alpert
Rev. Dr. Sharon Arendshorst
Rabbi Chava Bahle
Elder Charles Cubbage
Rev. Florence Ernzen
Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink
Rev. Marcia Ledford
Minister Campbell Lovett
Rabbi James Maisels
Sr. Lynne Moldenhauer
Rev. Dr. Julie Nemecek
Rev. Susan Sprowls
Sr. Shirley Thielk

Rev. Paula Bidle
Priest Harry Bury
Rev. Lauren Davis
Rev. Brenda Froisland
Rev. Walt Gordon
Rev. Rollen Halvorson
Elder Vernon Hill
Rev. Ashley Horan
Rev. Hans Jorgensen
Rev. Cathy Kolwey
Rev. Meagan McLaughlin
Rev. Donna Olsen
Rabbi Debra Rappaport
Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein
Rev. Beth Stassen
Rev. Julie Stoneberg
Rev. Lyndon Zabel
Rev. Dr. David Beebe
Rev. Kimberly Brinkmann
Rev. Donna Chavez
Sr. Mary Anne Eckstein
Deacon O. Bryan England
Rabbi Andrea Goldstein
Rev. Jeff Jaekley
Rev. Dr. Sarah Mccann
Priest Elsie Mcgrath
Sr. Claudette Schiratti
Rev. King Schoenfeld
Rev. Roger Schomburg
Rabbi Scott Shafrin
Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman
Sr. Therese Wiczorek
Rev. Robyn Morrison
Minister Kevin Baker-Rooks
Minister Ashley Calhoun
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland
Rev. J. Mark Davidson
Pastor Russell Eidmann-Hicks
Rabbi Andrew Ettin
Rabbi Jonathan Gerard

Rev. Nancy Jenkins
Rev. Dave Keck
Rev. Sumi Kim
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kisner
Rev. Dr. Thomas Lane
Minister Mary Longstreth
Rev. Dr. Russell Martin
Deacon Eileen Morgan
Rev. Kathy Muder
Rev. Robbin Mundy
Rev. Julie Peeples
Rev. Dr. Nancy Petty
Rev. Ledayne Polaski
Rev. Phil Thorsen
Rev. Margaret Torrence
Pastor Fred Ritzhaupt
Rev. Timothy Adams
Rev. Daniel Davis
Sr. Ruth Brighton
Rev. Grace Burson
Rabbi Robin Nafshi
Rev. Chris Owen
Minister Carroll Arkema
Deacon Ray Chimileski
Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz
Rev. Linda Desantis
Rev. E.J. Emerson
Rabbi Susan Falk
Rabbi Arnold Gluck
Rabbi David Greenstein
Elder Sarah Hogan
Rabbi Marc Kline
Rabbi Ben Levy
Rabbi David Levy
Rabbi Randall Mark
Rabbi Abby Michaleski
Rev. Dr. Lorena Parrish
Rev. Renee Pistone
Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán
Rev. Byron Shafer

Deacon Thomas Smith
Priest John Tarantino
Minister Michael Adee
Rabbi Malka Drucker
Rev. Sheila Hammond
Minister Terry Lund
Rev. Elizabeth McMaster
Rabbi Dr. Raysh Weiss
Minister Michaelangelo Allocca
Rev. Barbara Baxter
Rev. Aimee Iris Brown
Rev. Marian Coger
Rev. John Collins
Rabbi Rachel Cowan
Rev. Sara D'Angio White
Rabbi William Dreskin
Rabbi Judith Edelstein
Rabbi Michael Feinberg
Rabbi Michael Fessler
Rabbi Brian Fink
Bishop Francesca Fortunato
Rabbi Sarah Freidson
Rev. Rod Frohman
Rabbi Jonah Geffen
Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert
Rabbi Bob Gluck
Rabbi Lisa Goldstein
Rev. Justo Gonzalez
Rabbi Andrew Gordon
Rabbi Yael Hammerman
Rabbi Shoshana Hantman
Rabbi Jo Hirschmann
Cantor Terry Horowitz
Rabbi Mark Hurvitz
Rabbi Marisa James
Elder Doris Kersten
Rev. Douglas Kinney
Rabbi Joel Levenson
Brother James Loxham
Rev. Mark Lukens

Minister Chelsea Macmillan
Rabbi Marc Margolius
Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson
Rabbi Michael Mellen
Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer
Rabbi Avram Mlotek
Minister Hugh Nevin
Rev. Brooke Newell
Rev. Fred Noll
Sr. Judith Osterburg
Fr. Matthew Pechanio
Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits
Brother Michael Potvin-Frost
Rabbi Charles Rabinowitz
Rev. Konrad Raup
Bishop Reg Richburg
Rabbi Mira Rivera
Rabbi David Sandmel
Rabbi Drorah Setel
Rabbi Randy Sheinberg
Rev. Merle Showers
Rabbi Mia Simring
Rabbi Jonathan Slater
Rev. Dr. Bebb Stone
Elder Maria Studer
Rabbi Lennard Thal
Rev. Bruce Tischler
Rabbi Jan Uhrbach
Rabbi Seth Wax
Rabbi Pamela Wax
Rabbi Gerald Weider
Rabbi Simkha Weintraub
Rev. Dave Weissbard
Pastor Jeff Wells
Cantor Josee Wolff
Rabbi Sara Zacharia
Rev. Diane Berger
Rev. Dr. Bev Bingle
Sr. Carol Brenner
Rev. Daniel Budd

Rev. Dr. Elliott Bush
Rev. Nan Clancy
Rev. Dwight Davidson
Rabbi Megan Doherty
Rev. F. A. Gallagher
Rev. Mary Grigolia
Sr. Carren Herring
Sr. Maureen Heverin
Rev. David Hill
Rev. Sandra Huber
Rev. Dr. Paula Jackson
Rev. Mary Ellen Lucas
Fr. Lawrence Mick
Rabbi Lee Moore
Rev. Crow Swimsaway
Rev. Karen Torrez
Rev. Dr. David Woodyard
Sr. Dorothy Zwick
Rev. Ruth Broeski
Rev. Dr. Marc Brown
Rev. Karlene Clark
Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie
Rev. Mary Anne Gard
Rabbi Maurice Harris
Minister Susanne Olin
Rev. Dennis Parker
Rev. John Pitney
Minister Susan Shaw
Rev. Thomas Truby
Rev. Ruth Becker
Rabbi Phyllis Berman
Rabbi Marjorie Berman
Rev. Rebecca Booher
Minister Sylvia Carlson
Rev. Ross Carmichael
Deacon Denita Connor
Sr. Barbara Czynnik
Rev. Barry Durie
Rev. Dr. Kathryn Ellis
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell

Sr. Fran Fasolka
Rabbi Serena Fujita
Rev. Fern Gaffey
Rabbi Seth Goren
Pastor George Grubb
Pastor Gary Hackenberg
Rev. Shane Hicks-Lee
Rev. Rebecca Irwin-Diehl
Pastor Jeffrey Jordan
Rev. Dr. Marjorie Keiter
Rabbi Alan Lapayover
Rev. Megan Lecluyse
Sr. Dominica Lo Bianco
Rabbi Nathan Martin
Sr. Mary McMahon
Rabbi Brian Michelson
Deacon Jon Nelson
Rev. Debra North
Sr. Mary Lou Palas
Rev. Urbane Peachey
Rev. Dr. Kate Rohde
Rev. Joseph Ruane
Sr. Jean Rupertus
Rabbi Rebecca Schorr
Rev. Marian Shearer
Rabbi Howard Stein
Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson
Rev. Sandra Strauss
Rev. Gregory Swiderski
Rabbi Robert Tabak
Rev. Deborah Tanksley-Brown
Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Rabbi Shawn Zevit
Rabbi Simcha Zevit
Priest David Ames
Rev. Janet Cooper Nelson
Pastor Esther Irish
Rev. Ellen Quaadgras

Rev. Jovelino Ramos
Rev. Dr. Gardiner Shattuck
Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins Boseman
Elder Kathy Bradley
Pastor Evelyn Middleton
Minister Thomas Summers
Rev. Jean Mccusker
Minister Christine Jones
Rev. David Lay
Rev. John Mclean
Rabbi Kliel Rose
Rev. Denise Yeargin
Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose
Rev. Jo Bell
Minister Ryan Campbell
Deacon Paul Cardwell
Rev. Jerry Carpenter
Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas
Rabbi Michael Cohen
Rev. Helen Deleon
Rev. Jeanne Devine
Rev. Michael Dunson
Rabbi Rebecca Epstein
Rev. Dr. Kurt Friederich
Rev. Rosalind Gnatt
Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson
Pastor Edward Kern
Rev. Dr. Belinda Koenig
Rev. Teresa Mallott
Priest Mart Pool
Rev. John Price
Rev. Cassandra Roegner
Pastor Chad Stevick
Rev. Theresa Brion
Cantor Susan Caro
Rev. Joe Cobb
Rev. Larry Golemon
Rev. Ben Hadley-Goggin
Rev. David Hindman
Rev. Dr. Lilton Marks

Rev. Michael Mills
Rabbi Heena Reiter
Pastor Jan Rivero
Rev. Eugene Soud
Bishop Ronald Stephens
Rev. Dr. Duane Brown
Rev. Catherine Cadieux
Rev. Maureen Cleveland-Ryan
Rabbi Howard Cohen
Rev. Susanna Griefen
Rev. Casseniette Poulos
Rev. Dave & Louise Ransom
Minister Patricia Thompson
Rev. Josefina Beecher
Minister Scott Bishop
Rev. Carmena Capp
Rev. Maryann De Simone
Rev. Judi Edwards
Rev. Joanne Engquist
Rabbi Ted Falcon
Rev. Holly Hallman
Rev. Dr. Linda Horton
Rev. Dorothy Knudson
Rev. Ned Laird
Rabbi David Lipper
Rev. Georgann Peck
Rev. Marta Schellberg
Cantor David Serkin-Poole
Priest Vicki Western
Sr. KC Young
Sr. Lois Aceto
Rev. Dr. Timothy Berlew
Rabbi Jonathan Biatch
Sr. Patricia Brannan
Rev. Laurie Bushbaum
Sr. Patty Caraher
Elder Herb Evert
Rev. Mari Gabrielson
Sr. Grace Golata
Rev. Dr. Bobbie Groth

Rev. Dr. Linda Hansen
Rev. Sandra Hutchens
Rev. Erik Koepnick
Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen
Rev. Suzelle Lynch
Rev. Dena Mcphetres
Rev. David Nelsestuen
Rev. Diane Olson
Sr. Barbara Pfarr
Rev. Kathleen Remund
Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler
Rev. Ralph Schultz
Rev. Amy Shaw
Rev. Craig Simenson
Rev. Tory Topjian
Rev. Rose Edington
Priest Melinda Bobo
Rev. Eloise Saltzgaver
Rev. Dr. Charles Currie, Jr
Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian
Rev. Francine Grabowski
Priest Emil Kutarna
Priest Michael Murphy
Pastor Meg Riley
Rev. Elisabeth Simpson
Fr. Stephen Waters
Eric Severson
Emmy Moore