

## **HJR 110 and SJR 4: Support Religious Freedom Protection**

- The Texas Religious Freedom Amendment, HJR 110 by Rep. Isaac and SJR 4 by Sen. Campbell, places specific language in our Texas Constitution to protect religious freedom and stop the increasing attacks on religious freedom.
- A state religious freedom constitutional amendment provides the best guarantee of lasting protection for religious liberties from an overreaching legislature, government bureaucracy, or court system.
- This Texas constitutional amendment places in our state constitution, the substantive core of the Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs) that have been enacted at the federal level (to govern federal law) and in seventeen (17) states: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (1999), and Virginia. Another thirteen (13) states have interpreted their state constitutions to provide similar protection: Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin.

### **Examples of attacks on religious freedom in Texas:**

- School students told by government that they can't write "Merry Christmas" when sending letters to our troops in Iraq. (Plano)
- High school valedictorian threatened with incarceration for using religious words in her speech at a graduation ceremony. (Medina Valley H.S.)
- A Texas city passed an ordinance that effectively banned a religious ministry from the city limits. (City of Sinton)
- Cheerleaders banned from using Bible verses on banners for sporting events. (Kountze)
- Following U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, a federal government official sought to censor a pastor's prayer, eliminating references to Jesus, during a Memorial Day ceremony honoring veterans at a national cemetery. (Houston)
- Pregnancy centers targeted by a City of Austin ordinance for their religious beliefs. (Austin)

### **Texas Religious Freedom Amendment is Supported by the Following Groups/Leaders:**

Jonathan Saenz, Texas Values  
Dave Welch, Texas Pastors Council  
Ann Hettinger, Concerned Women for America  
Cathie Adams, Texas Eagle Forum  
Tim Lambert, Texas Home School Coalition  
Southern Baptist Convention of Texas  
Elizabeth Graham, Texas Right to Life  
Margaret Hotze, Life Advocates of Houston

Carol Everett, Women's Wellness Coalition  
Dr. Steve Hotze, Conservative Republicans of Texas  
Gary Bennett, Center for the Preservation of American Ideals  
Kelly Shackelford, Religious Liberty Lawyer and Constitutional Scholar  
Numerous Law Professors from Harvard, Stanford, Notre Dame, University of Texas, St. Mary's, and more.



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