

Religious Freedom

Background:

The First Amendment guarantees free exercise of religion and prohibits the establishment of a government-favored religion. These important Constitutionally-protect freedoms are under attack by the Trump Administration.

The separation of church and state is important to the protection of each individual's right to follow his own religious conscience.

On May 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed a "Presidential Executive Order Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty". It ordered Treasury, Labor and Health and Human Services to amend the ACA regulations to "address conscience-based objections to the preventive-care mandate".

The Executive Order also ordered Treasury to refrain from taking adverse actions against religious institutions that preach politics from the pulpit, in violation of long-standing federal tax policy.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the 2017 Eighth District Democratic Convention:

1. Condemns the Trump Administration in the strongest possible terms for allowing an employer to interfere with employee health care benefits based on the employer's religious beliefs. This policy is a direct infringement of the employee's religious views.
2. Urges the Congress to overturn these hasty and ill-advised actions so as to restore the right of every citizen to hold their own religious views and to reach their own views on political issues without taxpayer subsidized lectures advocating partisan positions from the pulpit.