



June 4, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of a coalition of religious liberty, medical liberty, related organizations, and religious leaders, we applaud your unwavering commitment to religious freedom through the creation of the Religious Liberty Commission and urgently call for your bold leadership to address critical First Amendment violations in four states—New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine—whose policies defy your America First mission to protect faith and freedom. These states deny religious exemptions to childhood vaccination requirements, barring children of religious families from schools, including faith-based ones, and denying healthcare access. This forces families to choose between their sincere religious beliefs and their children's education and healthcare.

Attached is our letter to the Religious Liberty Commission, which details how these states' unconstitutional policies violate the First Amendment. Children have suffered irreversible academic and emotional harm from exclusion in these four states and continue to suffer under these oppressive conditions. These states' policies disproportionately persecute communities such as conservative Jewish and Amish families, deepening their marginalization. To safeguard this fundamental right, we respectfully urge you to take the following actions:

- **Issue an Executive Order on Independence Day:** Issue an Executive Order on **July 4, 2025 (exactly one month from today)**, modeled after your February 14, 2025 order ending COVID-19 vaccine mandates by withholding discretionary federal funds from educational institutions denying religious exemptions to federally recommended vaccines, ensuring access to education and daycare for religious families. Attached is a proposed draft Executive Order for your consideration.
- **Direct Legal Action to Enforce the First Amendment:** Instruct Attorney General Pam Bondi to initiate legal action against these states for First Amendment violations.
- **Protect Access to Healthcare:** Direct HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to prohibit federally funded medical providers from denying non-emergency care based on religious objections to vaccination.

Your February 14, 2025 order freed Americans from COVID-19 mandate tyranny, setting the stage for a historic defense of faith. **On Independence Day, your Executive Order can reaffirm America as a beacon of faith and freedom, ending this persecution of religious families.** Mr. President, your legacy as liberty's champion can shine—lead our nation to protect every American's sacred right to live and learn by their faith.

Sincerely,

**Guiding The Impact** (Lead Organization)

Attachments:

- Letter to the Religious Liberty Commission, June 4, 2025
- Draft Executive Order, Preserving Access to Education and Free Exercise of Religion, July 4, 2025

*GuidingTheImpact@gmail.com*



June 4, 2025

Religious Liberty Commission  
c/o White House Faith Office  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Members of the Religious Liberty Commission,

The undersigned religious liberty, medical liberty, related organizations, and religious leaders write to commend the establishment of the Religious Liberty Commission and to urge immediate action to address critical violations of religious liberty in four states—New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine—that deny religious exemptions to childhood vaccination requirements for school attendance and cause discriminatory practices in healthcare. These policies unconstitutionally infringe upon the First Amendment rights of religious families, barring children from public schools as well as private schools that wish to accept these children, and denying access to publicly-funded medical care based on their sincerely held religious beliefs which prevent these families from injecting their children with one or more vaccines.

We respectfully request that the Commission include specific recommendations in its report to the White House Faith Office and the Domestic Policy Council, including: (1) an Executive Order and legislation to withhold federal funds from educational institutions denying religious exemptions to vaccination requirements, ensuring access to education; (2) legal action by the Attorney General against New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine for First Amendment violations; and (3) regulations and legislation to prohibit medical providers receiving federal funds from denying non-emergency care based on religious objections to vaccinations, ensuring healthcare access.

The United States Constitution enshrines the fundamental right to religious liberty in the First Amendment. As President Trump has stated, “Our Founders understood that no right is more fundamental to a peaceful, prosperous, and virtuous society than the right to follow one’s religious convictions.” The Founders envisioned a nation where religious people and institutions are free to practice their faith without fear of

discrimination or hostility from the government. To safeguard this principle, the executive branch has committed to vigorously enforcing the robust protections for religious liberty enshrined in federal law. However, the policies of New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine directly undermine this right by targeting conscience protections and denying parents the ability to direct the upbringing and education of their children in accordance with their faith.

While 46 states allow religious exemptions to childhood vaccination requirements for school attendance, the four states at issue permit only medical exemptions – and even then in name only - directly discriminating against families of faith. Education is compulsory in every state, so parents face potential referrals to child protective agencies, fines, court proceedings, or even criminal charges, despite schools blocking their child's access over vaccination status. This denial forces religious parents into three untenable options: (1) vaccinate their children against their sincerely held religious beliefs, with eternal consequences; (2) homeschool, which is impractical for most due to work, financial, or educational constraints; or (3) relocate to a state that respects religious freedom, a choice burdened by career, financial, and family obligations. These often-impossible choices have led to profound consequences for children and families in these states. Since 2015 in California, 2019 in New York and Maine, and 2021 in Connecticut, significant numbers of children have faced substantial challenges due to restricted access to education. These challenges have impacted their academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being—particularly during critical developmental years. The long-term consequences of disrupted educational opportunities are profound and, in many cases, irreversible. These policies violate the U.S. Constitution and contradict the liberty our Founding Fathers fought to protect.

The urgency of addressing these violations is underscored by widespread religious objections to vaccination, as evidenced by millions of evangelicals who, as reported by the New York Times, decline certain vaccinations due to "deeply held spiritual convictions." These beliefs, shared by many within faith communities, highlight the significance of this issue to the Commission's mandate. Yet, liberal courts in Democrat-controlled states like New York and California dismiss such convictions. For instance, in March 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York rejected Amish families' claims against vaccination requirements, stating that the burden on their religious beliefs did not constitute an "existential threat" (*Miller v. McDonald*, 130 F.4th 258, 271 (2d Cir. 2025)). This precedent was swiftly used by a California federal court to deny a similar claim (*Royce v. Pan*, No. 3:23-cv-02012-H-BLM (S.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2025)), leaving families without timely relief. Across faiths—Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and others—believers object to vaccines, particularly those derived from aborted fetal cell lines, viewing their bodies as sacred temples of God. These sincerely held beliefs, protected by the First Amendment, are unjustly disregarded by New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine, necessitating immediate action to restore religious liberty.

Religious objections to vaccination are diverse, individualized, and deeply rooted in faith, and they include but are in no way limited to:

- Viewing the body as God's temple, sacred and inviolable by foreign substances.
- Trusting in divine protection over human medical intervention.
- Ethical concerns about vaccines developed using aborted fetal cell lines, which may suggest acceptance of abortion, and supporting companies that use aborted fetal cell lines.
- Beliefs that injecting DNA fragments from aborted fetuses is impure or unclean.
- Objections to vaccines for sexually transmitted diseases, which may imply condoning premarital sex.
- The view that injecting disease to prevent disease is ungodly.
- Adherence to halal dietary laws that conflict with vaccine ingredients.

These objections reflect the deeply personal and spiritual convictions of religious families, which the First Amendment protects. Yet, the policies of these four states penalize children for their families' beliefs, denying them access to education—a fundamental right essential to their development and participation in a pluralistic democracy. Some of the most severe violations of religious liberty have occurred in New York State, where strict vaccination policies without religious exemptions have disproportionately affected

conservative Jewish and Amish communities, barring them from attending even their own faith-based schools and deepening their marginalization. This pattern of religious hostility extends beyond schools, as doctors' offices in these states, and increasingly across the U.S., often deny basic medical care to families who, due to religious objections, do not comply with the CDC's recommended vaccination schedule, further restricting their access to essential services.

A federal judicial precedent supports the unconstitutionality of such policies. In August 2023, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (*Bosarge v. Edney*) ruled that Mississippi's law, which allowed only medical exemptions to school vaccination requirements, violated the First Amendment. The court found that favoring secular medical exemptions over religious exemptions unconstitutionally prioritized secular conduct over religious conduct. By this logic, New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine are in clear violation of the United States Constitution. Despite this ruling, these states persist in their unconstitutional policies, discriminating against religious families and undermining America's tradition of religious liberty.

We respectfully request that the Religious Liberty Commission recommend the following actions in its report to the White House Faith Office and the Domestic Policy Council:

- **Protect Religious Freedom in Education through Executive and Legislative Action:** Issue an Executive Order barring discretionary federal funds from being used to support any educational service agency, state educational agency, local education agency, elementary school, secondary school, or institution of higher education that does not permit religious exemptions to vaccination requirements. Congress should then enact a statute to codify this policy, ensuring alignment with First Amendment protections and safeguarding the rights of religious families to access education without compromising their faith.
- **Initiate Legal Action and Enforce the First Amendment:** Notify the Attorney General that New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine are in violation of the First Amendment, as articulated by the Mississippi precedent. Request they initiate appropriate legal action against these states to enforce constitutional protections for religious families so they can access education without compromising their faith.
- **Protect Access to Healthcare for Religious Families:** Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to issue guidance or regulations prohibiting medical providers receiving federal funds, such as through Medicare or Medicaid, from denying non-emergency care to patients based on religious objections to vaccinations, and collaborate with Congress to enact a statute codifying this protection. This would ensure that religious families maintain access to essential healthcare services without compromising their faith, reinforcing First Amendment protections against discriminatory practices.

The Religious Liberty Commission's mandate to investigate emerging threats to religious liberty and recommend policies to safeguard this fundamental right is critical to addressing these violations. Your focus on parental rights, conscience protections, and the First Amendment rights of students aligns directly with the plight of religious families in these four states. President Trump's proven commitment to defending religious liberty, as evidenced by his establishment of this Commission, underscores the urgency of restoring the freedom of these families to practice their faith without government interference.

We have gathered substantial evidence from families in New York, California, Connecticut, and Maine documenting the religious discrimination and hostility they face due to these unconstitutional policies, and we respectfully request a meeting in June to deliver this evidence and discuss further action. Please kindly contact us at [GuidingTheImpact@gmail.com](mailto:GuidingTheImpact@gmail.com) to arrange this meeting.

We implore the Commission to act swiftly to protect the children and families suffering under these unconstitutional policies. By including these recommendations in your report, you can help ensure that America remains a nation where religious liberty is celebrated and protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

**Guiding The Impact** (Lead Organization) in collaboration with:

Mary Holland, President and CEO, **Children's Health Defense**

Aimee Villella McBride, Executive Director, **Global Wellness Forum**

Catharine Layton, Chief Operating Officer, **Informed Consent Action Network**

Leland Lehrman, **MAHA Institute**

Dr. Aaron Lewis, **Family of God International**

Pastor Robert A. Schuller, **Robert Schuller Ministries**

Reverend Jeffrey A. Graves, **Church ONEighty**

Reverend Victoria LaRowe, **Universal Life Church**

The Rev. Jacob W. Dell, Pastor, **The First Congregational Church of Woodbury**

Craig Unruh, **Restoration Church**

Pastor John Vigneri, **Northford Community Church**

Mona Colwell, CT State Leader, **Intercessors for America**

Chip Murray, Co-Founder, **Christian Leaders of The Hudson**

Chip Murray, Founder, **Orange Strong NY**

Yusuf M. Saleeby, MD, **Priority Health Healing Ministry**

Chaplain Matthew T. Miller, President, **First Responders Assistance Team, Inc.**

Jamie Bailey, **Beautiful Minds of Tomorrow Ministry**

Reverend Cait Corrigan

Reverend Kathryn S. Mercado

Reverend Jacquelyn Elizabeth Bizewski

Dr. Christiane Northrup, MD, Co-Founder, **Maine Stands Up**

Tiffany Kreck, Co-Founder, **Health Choice Maine**

Rita Palma, President, **My Kids My Choice**

John Gilmore, Executive Director, **Autism Action Network**

Christina Hildebrand, President and Founder, **A Voice for Choice Advocacy, Inc.**

Kate Prokop, President and Founder, **Connecticut Residents Against Medical Mandates Inc.**

Jackie Homan, **Greenwich Patriots**

Emily Tarsell, LCPC, President, **Health Choice Maryland**

Bob Runnells, Director, **Informed Choice Washington**

Maureen H. McDonnell, Executive Director, **Millions Against Mandates**

Andy Schlafly, General Counsel, **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons**

Shira Miller, M.D., Founder and President, **Physicians for Informed Consent**

Brucha Weisberger, Founder, **Macabim**

Dian Dossias, Advocate, **Stop College Mandates**

Ginger Taylor, **No Deception**

Michael Kane, Founder, **Teachers for Choice**

Sujata S. Gibson, Esq., **Gibson Law Firm, PLLC**

Kevin Barry, Esq., Founder, **LIBERTY NOW**

Giulia Miller, Esq., **Law Office of Giulia Miller**

CC: The Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States

The Honorable Pam Bondi, Attorney General

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education

Mr. Vince Haley, Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Ms. Harmeet K. Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

Mr. Calley Means, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services

# **Preserving Access to Education and Free Exercise of Religion**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. The United States is founded on the principle of religious liberty, enshrined in the First Amendment, which guarantees the free exercise of religion. No right is more fundamental to a free and virtuous society than the ability of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs. The Founders envisioned a nation in which religious families and institutions are free to practice their faith without fear of discrimination or hostility from the government. Yet, in certain states, policies that deny children access to education or daycare because of their religious objections to vaccination unconstitutionally infringe upon these rights. Such actions disproportionately harm religious communities, including Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and others, who object to vaccines on grounds such as the sanctity of the body, divine protection, or ethical concerns about vaccine development, particularly the use of aborted fetal cell lines. My Administration is committed to protecting the liberty and freedom of our religious communities and students and has a longstanding commitment to safeguarding the fundamental right to religious freedom.

It is the policy of the United States to ensure that no child is denied access to in-person education or daycare due to their parents' religious objections to federally recommended vaccines, and that discretionary Federal funds should not be used to directly or indirectly support or subsidize an early childhood education program, elementary school, local educational agency, State educational agency, secondary school, clinical training program, or institution of higher education that violate the First Amendment by denying religious exemptions.

Sec. 2. Findings. Based on available evidence and constitutional analysis, the President finds that:

- (a) Categorical denial of religious exemptions to vaccination requirements, without individualized assessment or alternative protective measures, constitutes a substantial burden on religious exercise;
- (b) Any compelling governmental interest in preventing disease transmission can be achieved through less restrictive means, including but not limited to: individualized health assessments, temporary exclusions during outbreaks,

enhanced health monitoring, alternative educational arrangements, or other accommodations that protect both public health and religious exercise;

(c) Blanket policies that provide medical exemptions while categorically denying religious exemptions fail to satisfy the Religious Freedom Restoration Act's least restrictive means requirement and may violate equal treatment principles; and

(d) Therefore, federal funding of educational institutions that maintain such overbroad policies would violate the federal government's obligations under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Sec. 3. Definitions. For the purposes of this order:

(a) The term “educational service agency” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. 1401(5).

(b) The term “elementary school” has the meaning given in 34 C.F.R. 77.1(c).

(c) The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. 1001(a).

(d) The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given in 34 C.F.R. 77.1(c).

(e) The term “secondary school” has the meaning given in 34 C.F.R. 77.1(c).

(f) The term “State educational agency” has the meaning given in 34 C.F.R. 77.1(c).

(g) The term “early childhood education program” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. § 1161i–1 and includes summer camps providing care and educational services to children typically aged birth to 5 years, designed to promote early learning and development, operated by public, private, or nonprofit entities.

(h) The term “clinical training program” means any educational program or component of an institution of higher education or secondary school that involves supervised practical training in a healthcare setting, including but not limited to hospitals, clinics, or other medical facilities, as part of a course of study in fields such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, or allied health professions.

(i) The term “federally recommended vaccines” means vaccines included in the childhood immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

(j) The term “religious exemption” means an exemption from vaccination requirements requested by and granted to a parent or guardian based on sincerely held religious beliefs, as protected by the First Amendment and applicable Federal law, provided such requests are honored without undue burden or denial by entities receiving discretionary federal funds.



Sec. 4. Ending Vaccine Mandates that Do Not Provide Religious Accommodation. (a) The Secretary of Education shall as soon as practicable issue guidelines to early childhood education programs, elementary schools, local educational agencies, State educational agencies, secondary schools, clinical training programs, and institutions of higher education regarding those entities' legal obligations with respect to parental authority, religious freedom, disability accommodations, and equal protection under law, as relevant to coercive vaccination mandates that deny religious exemptions.

(b) Within 45 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, a plan to end coercive vaccination mandates that preclude religious exemptions, consistent with applicable law, and including, as appropriate, any proposed legislation. Such plan shall also include:

(i) a list of discretionary Federal grants and contracts provided to early childhood education programs, elementary schools, local educational agencies, State educational agencies, secondary schools, clinical training programs, and institutions of higher education that are non-compliant with the guidelines issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) each executive department or agency's process for, to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, preventing Federal funds from being provided to, and rescinding Federal funds from, early childhood education programs, elementary schools, local educational agencies, State educational agencies, secondary schools, clinical training programs, and institutions of higher education that are non-compliant with the guidelines issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 5. Enforcement and Legal Coordination. (a) The Attorney General shall, within 90 days of the date of this order, review state policies in New York, California, Connecticut, Maine, and any other states that deny religious exemptions to federally recommended vaccines for school or daycare attendance. The Attorney General shall:

(i) Identify violations of the First Amendment or federal law, consistent with precedents such as *Bosarge v. Edney* (S.D. Miss. 2023), which found that favoring medical exemptions over religious exemptions is unconstitutional; and

(ii) Initiate or support legal action, as appropriate, to enforce constitutional protections for religious families, including through amicus briefs or federal lawsuits, while preserving the ability of private plaintiffs to pursue ongoing litigation.

Sec. 6. Scope and Limitations. (a) This order applies only to discretionary federal funds and does not preempt state authority to establish vaccination requirements, provided such requirements include religious exemptions consistent with the First Amendment.

(b) This order is not intended to moot or otherwise interfere with ongoing litigation challenging state vaccination policies, including lawsuits seeking declaratory or injunctive relief to protect religious exemptions.

(c) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority of states to grant medical or other exemptions to vaccination requirements, provided such exemptions do not discriminate against religious beliefs.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.