# YOUR FAITH IS BEING PROTECTED.

# Politicians Should Protect Our Faith, Not Rewrite It.

As Catholics, we're called to live out our faith every day-not just Sunday. We serve the poor and needy, protect life at all stages, welcome immigrants and fight for social justice. Our service flows directly from our faith; the two cannot be separated. These are matters of conscience and principle, not subjects for political negotiation or compromise.

As Americans, we've always enjoyed our First Amendment right to religious freedom – not just the freedom to worship in the sanctuary, but to act on our faith in the world. And for nearly forty years, both political parties have backed federal laws that protect conscience. But now, all across America, our faith is being rewritten by the government.

### Rewritten: How We Define Our Faith

The Department of Health & Human Services recently decided that Catholic schools, charities, and hospitals are not "religious employers" that deserve religious freedom protection. As a result, these ministries will be forced to pay for health insurance coverage of sterilization and contraception - including abortion-inducing drugs – forcing them to choose between violating the Church's teaching and breaking the law.

In Connecticut, legislators recently proposed a bill that would have forced the Catholic Church to change how it is structured and governed — allowing the State to remake the Church in its own image.

# **Rewritten:** How We Serve the Needy

After years of providing excellent service to the federal government in aiding victims of human trafficking, the Church was disqualified from continuing that service because the federal government – now for the first time – required the Church to help fund abortions.

A number of states have pushed for legislation that prevents Catholics from providing food, shelter, and medical services to undocumented immigrants in need.

## **Protect Our First American Freedom**

In these and other areas, our First Amendment right to religious freedom is under increasing attack. If this pattern continues, being a Catholic in America will look very different in just a few years.

We need your help to defend our religious freedom! Here's what you can do today:

**LEARN** To stay updated on religious freedom by cell phone, text the word **FREEDOM** to **377377**. For more, visit <u>www.firstamericanfreedom.com</u>.

- **PRAY** With God, all things are possible; without God, we can do nothing. So pray that our freedom will be protected.
  - ACT Call your elected officials to find out where they stand on religious freedom, and urge them to protect it!





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