

**A Petition to Stop the Passage  
of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act**

The Employment Nondiscrimination Act under consideration in Congress is a threat to the religious liberties established in Article I of the first ten Amendments to the United States Constitution, which states, "Congress will make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech . . . ." The provisions of ENDA would violate all three prohibitions included in this portion of the first Amendment to the Constitution as follows:

(1) Because ENDA would force churches and other Christian organizations to hire homosexuals, in contradiction to God's commands concerning homosexual relationships, it would in essence establish that the church must accept homosexuality as a part of its religion and is, therefore, an establishment of religious doctrine contrary to the traditional biblical beliefs of the majority of Christian churches in America. ENDA would impose the same intrusion upon the religious beliefs of private business owners.

(2) Thus established, ENDA by logical progression would prohibit Christian churches from freely exercising their long-established beliefs that hiring homosexuals for positions in their congregations is a violation of God's commandment.

(3) Since hiring and releasing employees, including ministers and child care professionals, is a vital part of the expression of a church's overall ministry, ENDA also violates the freedom of speech provision and could potentially lead to total suppression of the church's voice concerning homosexual behavior.

For these and other reasons, we the undersigned, being citizens in good standing and of legal voting age, do implore the United States Congress to reject the Employment Nondiscrimination Act and any other bills that would violate the civil rights and consciences of millions of people of faith across America.

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