WHEREAS Persecution of Christians is growing more severe worldwide;

WHEREAS Attacks by Islamist militants, particularly ISIS in the Middle East and Boko Haram in Nigeria, have been particularly horrific and barbaric. Moreover, the brutal mistreatment of Christians worldwide for their faith in Christ continues unabated.

WHEREAS In North Korea, long a prime oppressor, Christians attempting to fellowship with one another or suspected of practicing their faith may be arrested, tortured, or executed. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom estimates that tens of thousands of North Koreans suffer in harsh labor camps for their faith;

WHEREAS Christians also appear to be increasingly targeted in the world's two most populous countries, China and India, as well as numerous other nations. In fact, Christians in more than 60 countries face government or community persecution;

WHEREAS The United States continues to stand as a beacon of liberty in the world;

THEREFORE NRB encourages the U.S. Government to advocate to the international community the principles of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and to urge the adoption of similar standards in the rest of the world. NRB further urges the U.S. to be loud and lucid in its condemnation of attacks on Christians and other religious minorities overseas.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 23, 2016