



Resolution

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AMERICA

- WHEREAS** The Forward to the NRB Constitution and Bylaws declares that NRB shall, among other things, work to “keep the channels of communication open to evangelical Christianity,” and in the effort to pursue this goal it is appropriate for NRB to promote, in judicial, legislative, and regulatory arenas, a constitutionally sound and robust protection for religious freedom in America, including protection for those who wish to assert Bible-based claims of conscience regarding moral and spiritual issues, as well as encouragement for those governmental offices, whether local, state, or federal, that desire to lawfully honor the religious freedom heritage of our nation and to accommodate the religious faith of Americans;
- WHEREAS** There is currently pending before the United States Supreme Court, the consolidated cases of *Kathleen Sebelius, Sec. of Health and Human Services (HHS) v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* (Hobby Lobby), and *Conestoga Wood Specialities Corp. (Conestoga) v. Kathleen Sebelius, Sec. of Health and Human Services (HHS)*. Both cases involve claims by faith-based, closely-held, for-profit companies that seek to exercise their free exercise of religion rights so as to be exempted from that portion of the HHS “preventative services” mandate of the Affordable Care Act that would require Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, in violation of their Biblical beliefs, to make available to their employees and their family members, insurance coverage that would include abortion-inducing drugs and services. The federal government is opposing the religious freedom claims of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga;
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters, through its Office of General Counsel, has filed an *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court) brief with the United States Supreme Court, supporting the religious freedom claims of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, while also arguing for a constitutionally sound and robust protection for religious freedom in America;
- WHEREAS** The United States Supreme Court is also considering the case of *Town of Greece v. Susan Galloway and Linda Stephens*, where Galloway and Stephens are opposing, on the grounds of “separation of church and state” pursuant to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, the practice of the Town of Greece, New York, to begin its town meeting with prayers offered by a variety of clergy and religious representative volunteers selected from a broad category of faith groups. Such practice is supported by the 1983 Supreme Court case of *Marsh v. Chambers* where the Court stated that prayers at the beginning of legislative meetings is constitutional because it “is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country;”
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters urge the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the free exercise of religion rights of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, and to uphold the constitutionality of the Town of Greece, and other governmental units, to continue to acknowledge, through practices consistent with the First Amendment, the religious beliefs widely held among people in this country; and NRB further calls on its members to pray for the Justices of the United States Supreme Court that they may render just decisions which provide constitutionally sound and robust protections for the exercise of religious freedom in America.