



Resolution

Urging the Supreme Court to Uphold Religious Liberty as a Primary and not Secondary Right

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- WHEREAS** The United States Supreme Court in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges required states to recognize the legality of same-sex marriages;
- WHEREAS** In that same Supreme Court decision the Court pledged to protect the religious liberty rights of those who hold traditional views of marriage and family, by stating: “Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered.”
- WHEREAS** Members of NRB hold to the historic text and orthodox Christian interpretation of Scripture which compels them to preach, teach and communicate a Biblical view of marriage and family;
- WHEREAS** Lawsuits are arising across the nation where state or local laws that provide protection for “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” are colliding with the Free Exercise of Religion and Free Speech rights of Christian ministries, and Christian business people who find that aspects of such laws are a substantial burden on their rights of conscience and freedom of religion as well as freedom of speech;
- NOW
THEREFORE** NRB urges the United States Supreme Court to resolve this tension that exists between recently created laws intended to protect the categories of sexual orientation and gender identity on the one hand and the historic and fundamental rights of free exercise of religions and freedom of speech on the other hand, by determining that religious freedom and freedom of speech are primary and not subservient liberties, and in the event of a conflict between those laws and such fundamental rights, that religious liberty and freedom of speech must prevail.