

If Teddy Roosevelt were alive today, he would never visit.

What has happened to my home state? It appears to have been overrun by politicians who want to impose their personal religious beliefs on every resident regardless of theirs. The North Dakota I knew would never do this. Teddy would have been ashamed.

In 1908, Roosevelt wrote that asking religious questions of a candidate for office was un-American, that a politician's theology was irrelevant to his qualifications for office. He would loathe North Dakota in 2025.

The greatest threat to freedom and democracy is not foreign terrorism. It's homegrown Christian nationalism and it's alive and well in the North Dakota Legislature. House Resolution 3020 is evidence of using the power of the state to sanction and elevate a single religion above the state, simply because the religion is taken as fact by believers who wish to subjugate and minimize the beliefs of others.

HR3020 is part of a triad of religious intrusions on North Dakotans:

HOUSE BILL 1145: Rep. Jeff Hoverson wants the Ten Commandments displayed in every public classroom. Like a biblical Welcome Wagon, he speculates, "That's why people want to move here — because of the freedom largely influenced by the Ten Commandments. Even atheists can appreciate them. ... You can't find a better document for freedom." I can. The Constitution. It prevents the federal

government from establishing a religion, a restriction North Dakota would be wise to follow.

SENATE BILL 2355: Sen. Michael Dwyer wants science classes to teach a deity created all that we see. He thinks the Earth is 6,000 years old. Science says 4.5 billion. House Majority Leader Mike Lefor says, "I believe that God created the universe and that there needs to be something in our instruction that relays that." There is. We have numerous houses of instruction that teach this. They're churches. Would he agree to teach science in a church? No. But religion in a science class? He wants to require it.

But, the purest definition of Christian nationalism:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 3020: This was introduced by Rep. Nico Rios, who recently posted, "Wonder if the CIA would help Trump overthrow and kick this Jew out of power in Mexico?" His resolution is equally astounding. It's un-American. It's written like a Taliban manifesto. Everyone should read it. It's copied below.

North Dakota's Constitution states, "The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall be forever guaranteed in this state." Note the "without preference" part and the "forever guarantee". Do your jobs and protect every citizen equally.

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"Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3020 of North Dakota

"Introduced by Representatives Rios, Christianson, Henderson, Holle, Hoverson, Morton, Nehring, VanWinkle, K.

Anderson, J. Johnson, Senators Walen, Weston

"A concurrent resolution urging North Dakota to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

"WHEREAS, Christ said all power is given to me in heaven and in earth (Matthew, 28:18), not only spiritual, but civil, including over this great state; and

"WHEREAS, Christ is said to have received power, and glory, and a kingdom so that all people, tribes and tongues shall serve Him (Daniel 7:14), including this great state; and

"WHEREAS, the Father is said to give to Christ all nations and the utmost parts of the earth for His inheritance and possession, and, in response, people and their leaders are called to learn and receive instruction from Him (Psalms 2:8, 10), including those in this great state; and

"WHEREAS, Christ is named the ruler of Kings on earth and the King of Kings and presented with crown and royal robe (Revelation 1:5, 17:14, 19:12-13, 16); and

"WHEREAS, the founding fathers of this great state begin the constitution with the words, "We", the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God, and, as expressed by Reverend R.C. Wiley during the First Constitutional Convention of North Dakota, we desire there shall be a recognition of Almighty God as the source of authority; of the Lord Jesus Christ as the rightful ruler of nations;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE

CONCURRING THEREIN:

"That North Dakota acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ over all the world so that this great state may at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace, and harmony; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Governor, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation."