

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to voice my support for HB 2181 because it seeks to preserve our religious liberties when the government limits religion due to an emergency which is when the church is needed most.

America was founded upon the idea of religious liberty, among other liberties.

*The Declaration of Independence began this idea with “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

*The Preamble of the US Constitution furthers this with “and secure the Blessings of Liberty”.*

*Finally, the First Amendment within the Bill of Rights concluded with “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”*

While the health care community continues to work hard and work miracles, government’s only contribution to COVID-19 has been to take away the God-given rights of Americans. Masks! Social distancing! Travel restrictions! Quarantine! They have been doing this FOR OVER A YEAR, and cannot provide a convincing argument of any positive effect.

Government is not medicine. Government never admits its mistakes.

*Shall we be compelled to mask our faces in worship?*

*Shall we be compelled to distance from fellow believers?*

*Do we revere the Governor or Mayor more than God?*

Dr. Fauci and the CDC would have us believe that it is moral and good to prohibit worshipping together. This is exactly the wrong idea. Government has benched the church when it is most needed on the field.

HB 2181 is a modest bill designed to keep government accountable when restricting the exercise of religion. This bill does three things in the context of disease response: 1) it ensures that religious activity is not treated more harshly than similar secular activity, 2) it ensures that limitations upon religion are the last recourse, and 3) it provides for a citizen’s right to pursue penalty for government overreach. It is clear that this bill is needed after the endless government overreach this past year.

Please render a DO PASS on SB 2181