

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walberg
House Committee on Education and The Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Lankford
U.S. Senate
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
U.S. Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Walberg, Senator Lankford, and Senator Scott:

The undersigned represent diverse beliefs regarding theology, but we agree on affirming the freedom of all students to meet on their public college campuses based upon their shared religious beliefs. The right to assemble together based on religiously informed beliefs is foundational to a free and truly pluralistic society. This right includes the ability to choose leaders who affirmatively support the distinctive religious messages and missions of their various groups.

Faith-based student organizations should not face discrimination on college campuses solely because they require their leaders to agree with their core religious beliefs. Basic religious freedom—and common sense—require that a religious group be permitted to require that its leaders agree with its religious message and mission. Unfortunately, on too many college campuses, religious student organizations are denied this essential freedom.

Because this problem is national in scope, a national solution is needed. If America is to continue to be a nation characterized by religious diversity, public university campuses must teach and model respect for diverse religious beliefs and practices.

The undersigned therefore support the language in the *Equal Campus Access Act of 2023* because it will provide critical protection for faith-based student organizations of all religious traditions. The language will ensure that such groups will be allowed to meet on campuses nationwide, providing authentic faith communities where students can find belonging, and enabling them to freely discuss, live out and share their religious ideas and values.

Respectfully,

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Vice President for North America and Oceania
Cru

David Nammo
CEO and Executive Director
Christian Legal Society

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman, Committee for Religious Liberty
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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