

Send an e-mail to your Member of the House, and urge a vote for the Scott Amendment to H.R. 27

February 23, 2005

**Support Scott Amendment to H.R. 27 to
Restore Civil Rights Protections**

**Vote "NO" on Final Passage unless
Civil Rights Amendment Is Adopted**

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned religious, civil rights, labor, education, health and advocacy organizations are writing to urge you to support Scott amendment to restore critical civil rights protections to the Job Training Improvement Act (H.R. 27), in order to protect workers against religious discrimination in federally-funded job training programs. Since their inception in 1982, these job-training programs have included important civil rights protections against employment discrimination based on religion in programs that receive federal funds. Absent the adoption of a civil rights amendment on the House floor, we urge you to vote "No" on final passage of H.R. 27.

The 1998 Workforce Investment Act consolidated these earlier job-training programs and simply re-codified the nondiscrimination provision included in the original Job Training Partnership Act of 1982. The 1998 legislation, which included this nondiscrimination provision, received strong bipartisan support from both the House and Senate at the time of its passage in the 105th Congress. Since its inclusion in the 1982 JTPA, it has enjoyed bipartisan support. The original Job Training Partnership Act was sponsored by then Senator Dan Quayle, and was reported out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee then chaired by Senator Orrin Hatch. Finally, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Job Training Partnership Act, which contains the very same civil rights provision that H.R. 27 now seeks to repeal as it applies to religious organizations. This twenty-three year old provision has worked well since the inception of this program, allowing religious organizations to provide government-funded services while maintaining America's bedrock commitment to protecting both civil rights and religious liberty.

We strongly urge you to support the Scott civil rights amendment to H.R. 27 to restore current civil rights law and to oppose the unjustified and unnecessary assault in H.R. 27 on our nation's commitment to eradicating employment discrimination in government-funded jobs.

Sincerely,

American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American Counseling Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
American Federation Teachers
American Humanist Association
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
Americans for Religious Liberty
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Anti-Defamation League

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Episcopal Church, USA
Equal Partners in Faith
General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Human Rights Campaign
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense)
NAACP
National Association of Social Workers
National Education Association
National Council of Jewish Women
National PTA
OMB Watch
People for the American Way
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office
Service Employees International Union SEIU, AFL-CIO
Texas Faith Network
Texas Freedom Network
The Interfaith Alliance
The Secular Coalition for America
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries
Women of Reform Judaism

-Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory

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