



Atheists. Agnostics. Humanists.
Americans.

Summary of the *First Amendment Defense Act (FADA)*

Introduced in the 115th Congress (S. 2525)

- Religious freedom should not be used as an excuse to discriminate.
- If enacted, FADA would do just that.
- In particular, FADA would prevent the federal government from revoking the **tax-exempt status** of or withholding **federal grants** or **benefits** from **individuals, private businesses, or non-profit organizations** who “violate non-discrimination policies”¹ or refuse to serve **same sex couples, single parents, or unmarried couples** due to their “religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as a union of one man and one woman ... or that sexual relations outside marriage are improper.”²
- Enacting FADA would, therefore, legalize taxpayer-funded discrimination.
- Private companies and non-profit government contractors, for example, would be free under FADA to refuse to provide a service or benefit to those individuals who fall outside of their definition of family even though they are being paid with taxpayer dollars.
- This would result in religious liberty becoming a sword used to hurt nontraditional families, rather than a shield used “to protect religious freedom from government overreach.”³
- Although new language has been added to FADA, its purpose remains the same: to legalize discrimination against non-traditional families (same sex couples, single parents, and unmarried couples).
- In fact, the new language added to the bill is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to disguise its discriminatory purpose.

¹ See Charlotte Clymer, *HRC Responds to Anti-LGBTQ “First Amendment Defense Act” Proposed by GOP Senators*, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (Mar. 8, 2018), <https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-on-anti-lgbtq-first-amendment-defense-act-proposed-by-gop-sena>.

² See S. 2525, 115th Cong. (2018).

³ See Charlotte Clymer, *HRC Responds to Anti-LGBTQ “First Amendment Defense Act” Proposed by GOP Senators*, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (Mar. 8, 2018), <https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-on-anti-lgbtq-first-amendment-defense-act-proposed-by-gop-sena>.