

Exhibit P



Governor Phil Bryant
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

My name is Rev. Tony Suarez. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1523: The Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act. I serve as the Executive Vice President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. The NHCLC is the nation's largest Hispanic Christian organization representing millions of Evangelicals across the country. We have worked with close to 180 churches all across Mississippi.

Our mission is to reconcile evangelist Billy Graham's message of salvation with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march of prophetic activism through our "7 Directives" of Life, Family, Compassionate Evangelism, Stewardship, Justice, Education and Youth.

As Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right." Right now, HB 1523 may not seem popular – at least for some in the media. Yet, recent polling shows nearly two-thirds of Mississippi voters support the bill. Right now, HB 1523 may not seem safe or politic – as its sponsors and supporters have been exposed, literally, to threats against themselves and their children.

But I am writing to you today about whether HB 1523 is right. Is it the right thing to do? As a religious leader, I have joined hands with fellow pastors in defending the innate dignity of every person, regardless of color, or even religion and sexual orientation. People tend to forget that the Christian religion has been the single most important force in fighting against discrimination in the history of the world. From the beginning, Christianity embraced different races and cultures, seeking to unite all men and woman as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thomas Jefferson reminds us that "no provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority." As

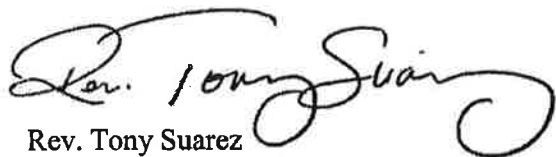
we all know, America was founded as a refuge for those seeking to live out their faith according to the dictates of conscience.

In defending the rights of conscience of public employees, HB 1523 is the right thing to do. (Just ask Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran, fired for writing a Christian Bible study on his own time.) In defending the rights of conscience of adoption agencies and other nonprofits, HB 1523 is the right thing to do. (Just ask Catholic Charities, forced to close or deny its beliefs about marriage in some states.) In defending the rights of conscience of pastors, HB 1523 is the right thing to do. (Just ask ministers Donald and Evelyn Knapp of Idaho, faced with jail time and fines for refusing to participate in a same-sex marriage ceremony.)

These are real cases of discrimination happening all across the country. And, as an organization dedicated to racial and social justice, we are very concerned about becoming targets of government-sponsored discrimination.

HB 1523 is a carefully written bill that provides commonsense – and constitutional – protections for freedom of conscience. I urge you to support HB 1523 and stand with Christians all across the country in defending our most basic right of freedom of conscience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Tony Suarez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Rev. Tony Suarez