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interfaithalliance.org

February 4, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice President Vance,

As diverse faith-based organizations, we are deeply concerned by your administration's efforts to undermine our nation's civil service and weaponize the government against the American people. We are united in our commitment to democracy and protecting the critical services benefiting the American people.

First, we object to your administration removing or sidelining qualified personnel that provide critical government services. We are concerned about your executive orders purging career senior executives in the federal government, reviving the harmful "Schedule F" to replace tens of thousands of nonpartisan federal employees with partisan loyalists, removing personnel dedicated to fostering equity and inclusion, and flooding our federal agencies with unqualified political appointees.

Second, we object to your decision to rescind President Biden's Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through The Federal Government. This order included a mandate to partner with faith-based and community organizations, including through grantmaking, as a critical component of effectively delivering government benefits and services to those in need. The deprioritization of such efforts undermines civil society and demonstrates an interest in disengaging with faith communities and others to serve the American people.

Lastly, we are particularly concerned about the weaponization of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance and your decision to rescind Executive Order 11246—the executive order signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965—that prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin in federal contracting and required federal contractors to develop affirmative action plans to ensure equal opportunity. Federal contractors constitute approximately 22% of the entire American workforce.

The federal government has an important role to play in protecting civil rights, including discrimination on the basis of religion, and protecting and uplifting all communities in our nation, including its diverse religious communities.



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Your administration's executive order attacking transgender Americans threatens federal funding for programs that "promote gender ideology," which could be loosely interpreted as threatening federal funding for institutions that do not discriminate against those seeking services. A growing number of faith-based institutions honor the dignity of transgender Americans and thus could have their federal funding threatened by this order.

As faith-based organizations, we are adding our voices in support of a strong civil service and civil society and in support of all efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Faith-based organizations were instrumental in advocating for the civil rights laws of the 1960s and we will not be silent about your administration's weaponization of the federal government to dismantle civil rights protections.

In the spirit of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's pastoral counsel, we request a meeting with you or your appropriate senior staff members to bring our concerns directly to you. We share her concern about the ability for all in our country to live freely and without fear.

Sincerely,

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Faith in Democracy
Faithful America
Freedom Road, LLC
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Hindus for Human Rights
Interfaith Alliance
Keshet
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Middle Collegiate Church
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Sojourners
The Sikh Coalition
The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice