

HB 207 Summary

This bill poses a great threat to our religious liberty in New Mexico for Public Contractors.

- A public contractor is anyone who contracts with the state to provide a service, such as food banks, homeless shelters, Medicaid providers, and many more.
- Many Religious organizations meet the qualifications of a “public contractor” (ie. Daycares, foster placement programs, organizations listed above, and more.)

HB207, the *Extend Human Rights Act*, prohibits public contractors, including our faith-based public contractors, from refusing or otherwise limiting or putting conditions on services to a person because of a multitude of identifiers including gender identity, sexual orientation, or even serious medical condition.

Religious Freedom Threat - This language strips a faith-based organization of the ability to refuse services *or employment* to someone who does not hold their same beliefs.

- For example, if a faith-based organization contracts with the government to provide foster care placement but refuses to recognize same sex couples as a home for placement, they will be in violation of this bill.
- The freedom to operate based on the foundation of religious beliefs will be stripped.

Religious Liberty is one of our most foundational constitutional rights, (*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...*) and once again our New Mexico legislators are passing a bill that strips our freedom and violates the United States Constitution.