Threats to Religious Liberties

Conscience Rights

- Threats to the opportunity of a medical provider to refuse to provide or refer for abortions or the prescription of abortion-inducing drugs
- Threats to the rights of those opposed to purchasing health insurance that also covers contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs, abortion procedures, and sterilizations from being forced to purchase such health insurance or pay a fine
- Threats to the rights of taxpayers to refuse to subsidize elective abortions
- Threats to the rights of business owners to refuse to support same-sex unions and other activities the owner finds morally or religiously objectionable.
  - Videographers have been sued for refusing to video same-sex marriage ceremonies
  - Bakers have been sued for refusing to make rainbow cookies for a homosexual activist organization’s event
  - Sign companies have been investigated by “human rights commissions” for refusal to print t-shirts for a homosexual pride festival.
- Threats to military personnel, in the form of demotion, refusal to promote, or refusal of admission into the military, for disagreeing with homosexual conduct or simply raising questions about how heterosexuals will be accommodated now that homosexuals are also permitted to serve in the military.
  - Liberty Counsel assisted one applicant to the Coast Guard whose offer was rescinded when he asked about housing accommodations for heterosexuals and homosexuals. His offer has since been reinstated.
  - Military chaplains face similar threats and are receiving mixed signals with regard to their opportunities to only counsel and perform marriage ceremonies in ways that are aligned with the religious tenets of the Chaplains’ endorsers.
- Threats to counselors, and especially counseling students, who are penalized because of their refusal to counsel that homosexual behavior is not harmful
  - Students in Michigan and Georgia were penalized for refusing to counsel homosexuals in ways that affirmed the behavior
  - California Senate Bill 1172 would prevent counselors from counseling minors that they can change their homosexual sexual preference
- Threats to religious student groups’ associational rights, as many can no longer require leaders of those groups to agree with the religious tenets of the group. This happened at least at Hastings College of Law and Vanderbilt University
**Equal Access Rights**
- Threats to the right to place material with a religious significance in the public sphere is being limited
  - Liberty Counsel defended the right to place the Ten Commandments in the public square
  - Liberty Counsel defended religious student groups and clubs that were refused the opportunity to meet in public school facilities or were refused the type of access that other, secular student groups enjoyed

**Free Speech Rights**
- Threats to the rights of pastors to freely express their political views
- Threats to the rights of students to express their religious beliefs or positions on values-based issues in speeches at school events or through school assignments
- Threats to the rights of students to sing Christmas carols in public schools and places
- Threats to the rights of private individuals to make public acknowledgements of God
  - Liberty Counsel and Liberty Counsel Action support the Public Expression of Religion Act of 2006, which prevents attorneys fees from being awarded when a person or group files a law suit asserting an Establishment Clause violation
- Threats to the rights of private individuals who attempt to share their faith and positions on values-based issues in the public square without being arrested
  - Liberty Counsel defended a woman who was prosecuted by the Department of Justice for counseling women on a public sidewalk outside of an abortion clinic
- Threats to Christians through “Anti-bullying” campaigns that characterize Christians opposed to homosexual conduct as hateful bullies
- Threats to persons living in HUD subsidized housing who have been told that HUD rules prevent residents from displaying religious symbols in public areas and prevents Christmas carolers from entering their halls
- Threats to public employees, like teachers and library technicians who are told they cannot pray during work hours and cannot even send personal e-mails requesting prayer, while other personal e-mails are permitted