



June 24, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We the undersigned participants and supporters of the Weyrich Lunch write to you with deep concern about the wording of the answer to question 51 on the study materials for the civics portion of the naturalization exam. The question asks students to provide two rights guaranteed to everyone living in the United States, and listed among the possible correct answers is "Freedom of Worship." We write to you requesting that this answer be immediately corrected to the constitutionally accurate answer—"Freedom of Religion."

We believe that the wording change we are requesting represents much more than a "distinction without a difference." Many totalitarian forms of government have allowed for the Freedom of Worship in their governmental documents but in practice severely restricted individual religious freedoms. The phrase Freedom of Worship, as it has been used throughout history, articulates an intentionally limited freedom that restricts a citizen's rights to the four walls of a government-sanctioned house of worship and only for specific times and events.

This certainly is not how our Founders envisioned the intrinsic rights of all Americans secured by the Constitution. The use of the phrase Freedom of Religion accurately represents the broad freedom guaranteed to every citizen—religious and non-religious alike—to live life in the public square according to the dictates of conscience or religious sensibility. Freedom of Religion is wholly different from Freedom of Worship, in that the former is broad and robust and the latter is narrow and limited.

As a student of history and law, we expect that you already know of the multitude of quotes by our Founders articulating the important differences between these two ideas, so we do not offer them to you to support our case. However, this important distinction is so thoroughly part of the American identity that we want to share with you the words of our First Lady when she called the attendees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church gathering to greater civic involvement.

“Our faith journey isn’t just about showing up on Sunday for a good sermon and good music and a good meal. It’s about what we do Monday through Saturday as well....Jesus didn’t limit his ministry to the four walls of the church, He was out there fighting injustice and speaking truth to power every single day.”

--Address to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, June 28, 2012

We agree with our First Lady and trust that you see the importance of properly articulating this important distinction. We request that the change be made as soon as possible wherever it appears in the naturalization process but especially in the study materials, so that those preparing for and taking the naturalization exam can have an accurate understanding of the foundational freedoms so beautifully expressed in our Constitution.

As Americans, we are thankful that we enjoy Freedom of Religion and not merely Freedom of Worship and wish to secure this idea to all those who join us and to our posterity. Please help restore this idea to its proper place by correcting the naturalization materials.

Sincerely,

Morton Blackwell, Chairman
The Weyrich Lunch

Colin A. Hanna
Chairman, Coalitions for America
Co-Chairman, The Weyrich Lunch

Tony Perkins, President
Family Research Council

Penny Young Nance, CEO & President
Concerned Women for America

Phyllis Schlafly, Founder
Eagle Forum

Richard Viguerie, Chairman
ConservativeHQ.com

Gary Bauer, President
American Values

Hon. J. Kenneth Blackwell, Visiting Professor
Liberty University School of Law

Dr Alveda King, Director, African American Outreach
Priests for Life

Tom Fitton, President
Judicial Watch

Jim Martin, Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association

Star Parker, President
Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE)

Tim Wildmon, President
American Family Association

Ron Robinson, President
Young America's Foundation

Mathew Staver, Founder & Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Galen Carey, Vice President, Government Relations
National Association of Evangelicals

Jerry A. Johnson, Ph.D., President
National Religious Broadcasters

Dan Schneider, Executive Director
American Conservative Union

Rick Scarborough, President
Vision America Action

Robert D. Thompson, Administrator
The Weyrich Lunch

Mark Tooley, President
The Institute on Religion and Democracy

Faith J. H. McDonnell, Director
Religious Liberty Program and Church Alliance for a New Sudan
The Institute on Religion and Democracy

Ted Baehr, President
MOVIEGUIDE (R) and Member, Broadcast Film Critics Association

Dr. Jim Garlow
Senior Pastor – Skyline Church, La Mesa, CA
Founder – Pastors Rapid Response Team

Janet Porter, President
Faith2Action

Rev Lou Sheldon, Chairman
Traditional Values Coalition (TVC)

Andrea Lafferty, President
Traditional Values Coalition (TVC)

Susan Carleson, President
American Civil Rights Union (ACRU)

Brian S. Brown, President
National Organization for Marriage (NOM)

Timothy Head, Executive Director
Faith & Freedom Coalition

P. George Tryfiates, Director of Governmental Affairs
Association of Christian Schools International

Dr. Keith Wiebe, President
The American Association of Christian Schools

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director
Priests for Life

Janet Morana, Executive Director
Priests for Life

Joseph Farah, Editor and Chief Executive Officer
WND.com

Kay Daly, President
Coalition for a Fair Judiciary

Henry F. Cooper, Chairman
High Frontier

Dan Weber, CEO
Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC)

Phillip L. Jauregui, President
Judicial Action Group

David Nammo, CEO & Executive Director
Christian Legal Society

Bruce Chapman, Founding Fellow
Discovery Institute

William J. Murray, Chairman
Religious Freedom Coalition

C. Preston Noell III, President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

George Landrith, President
Frontiers of Freedom

Elaine Donnelly, President
Center for Military Readiness

Ron Pearson, President
Council for America

Larry Cirignano
American Catholic Citizens

Alex St. James, Executive Director
Blacks Economic Security Trust (BEST)

Mal Kline, Executive Director
Accuracy in Academia

Seton Motley, President
Less Government

Kenneth R. Timmerman, President
Foundation for Democracy in Iran

CH (COL) Ronald A. Crews, USA Retired, Executive Director
Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty

Dr. Carl Herbster
AdvanceUSA

Shapri D. LoMaglio, J.D., Vice President for Government & External Relations
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Robert K. Fischer
Meeting Coordinator for Conservatives of Faith

Cathie Adams, President
Texas Eagle Forum

Christopher R. Long, President
Ohio Christian Alliance

John F. Tate, President
Campaign for Liberty

Richard Ford, President
Heritage Alliance

Day Gardner, President
National Black Pro-Life Union

Demos Chrissos, President
Rapid Response Media

Rabbi Aryeh Spero, President
Caucus for America and Author of *Push Back*

Douglas E. Lee
Chaplain (Brig Gen) USAR (Ret)
President, CALL

Maurine Jensen Proctor
Meridian Magazine

Arthur Schulcz, ICECE Counsel
International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers (ICECE)

Willes K. Lee, Vice President
National Federation of Republican Assemblies

Peter Weyrich