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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



September 19, 2017

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Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Assembly Bill 569

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 569.

AB 569 is a First Amendment attack on faith-based employers.

According to the bill's author, "It is true that most instances of gender or pregnancy discrimination are prohibited under existing Labor Code, statutes in the Fair Housing and Employment Act (FEHA), or FEHA regulations." So what is AB 569 really about?

The intent of AB 569 is to create a conflict with current law that already grants religious employers the authority to infuse their policies with tenets of a particular faith, as protected by the First Amendment.

This bill will be used as tool for anti-religion activists to sue faith-based employers out of existence. Religious institutions that choose to remain faithful to their religious beliefs and practices will likely not be able to survive the crippling financial toll of lawsuits, damage awards, and court injunctions.

We all have a right to agree or disagree with the beliefs and practices of a particular faith. It is not our right to single out individual groups and silence their First Amendment rights as an organization specifically chartered to support or oppose a specific set of beliefs or actions.

I thank you for your time to read this letter and am available to answer any questions if they arise. I can be contacted at (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone
Senator, 28th District