



"Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burdened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion..."

--Thomas Jefferson, Act For Establishing Religious Freedom

Keep America a Free and Secular Nation! No Religion Tax, No Tax Subsidies for Faith-Based Programs!

* **The faith-based initiative is unfair.** With over 30 million Americans describing themselves as Atheists, Freethinkers, Humanists or nonbelievers of some kind, this initiative forces citizens who do not accept religious creeds to subsidize faith-based groups and projects. This amounts to a "Religion Tax" on the American people! It also forces many "people of faith" to support sectarian groups they may not agree with!

* **The initiative has no oversight and accountability mechanisms.** There will be minimal supervision of religious groups once they receive our money. It's a disingenuous "honor system" as religious groups simply promise not to spend money on sectarian proselytizing. Many will find it impossible, or are unwilling to separate the "secular component" of any social program from their religious mission.

* **Social programs operated by religious groups are not necessarily cheaper or more efficient than their secular counterparts.** Public policy makers question the unsubstantiated claims of religion-based programs. A study in Texas found that faith-based programs are often *less* efficient and *more* expensive than secular outreaches!

* **The faith-based initiative is out of control, and beyond even congressional oversight.** President Bush simply bypassed our elected representatives and issued Executive Orders to create his White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Worse yet, he is making an "end run" around Congress and our Constitution by ordering major federal departments to divert budget money to religious groups. This is being done without holding any public hearings, or even asking for a vote on Capitol Hill.

* **Americans should not be forced to pay for the construction of churches, mosques, temples or other houses of worship.** Over a year ago, then-OFBCI Director John DiIulio scolded taxpayers for being "behind the curve" on using money to repair dilapidated churches. President Bush has now ordered HUD to start making money available for church-mosque-temple construction, so long as facilities also house religion-based social programs. That's wrong, it's unfair, and it's unconstitutional!

Interested in learning more?

Check out the other side of this brochure for additional information on American Atheists.