



March 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the undersigned nontheistic organizations, we congratulate you on your election to become our 45th President of the United States. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and we are hopeful that you will build upon your predecessor's practice of including nontheistic Americans in your Administration.

We want you to know that we are here to serve as a resource to you and your Administration, as we do with Congress and state officials across the country. Our goal is simple: to ensure that the United States lives up to the principles of the First Amendment by upholding a secular government that protects the rights of all citizens to live free from the imposition of religion and to freely exercise their religion and beliefs—or lack thereof.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the changing demographics in the United States and to introduce you to the nontheistic community.

The United States is in the midst of its largest shift in religious demographics in history. In 1991, just 6% of Americans described themselves as unaffiliated with any religion. Today, 25%—fully one-quarter of Americans—do not identify with any religion. This shift has been most dramatic among Americans between the ages of 18 and 29. In 1996, 20% of 18–29-year-olds declared no religious affiliation. In 2016, nearly twice as many (39%) declared no religious affiliation.

Similarly, in 2007, more than 78% of Americans identified as Christian and 71% were absolutely certain that God exists. Those numbers now stand at 70.6% and 63%, respectively. The religious landscape in America is rapidly changing.

The organizations involved in drafting this letter—the Secular Coalition for America, Center for Inquiry, American Humanist Association, and American Atheists—represent a significant portion of the population of religiously unaffiliated Americans. We are secularists, humanists, atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and freethinkers ("the nontheists"). We believe in separation of religion and government, freedom of conscience, reason, empirical evidence, and the naturalistic worldview.

We seek to stress the importance of including religiously unaffiliated Americans in the policy-making process and offer our organizations as a resource to you and your Administration.

Early in his presidency, your predecessor, President Barack Obama, agreed to meet with our community and during the past eight years, we have enjoyed having a seat at the table. This level of inclusion is important and we take seriously our role in representing the 25% of Americans who do not subscribe to religion. Our community is diverse—in race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and belief—but we share collective values that include freedom, inclusion, equality, and knowledge.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you, Mr. President, and we hope that you will call upon us to help your Administration ensure religious freedom and inclusion for all Americans throughout your tenure as President of the United States. Please feel free to contact Sarah Levin, the Secular Coalition's Senior Legislative Representative, at (202) 299-1091 or sarah@secular.org.

Sincerely,



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