

Project Blitz

An Attack on Equality, Secular Values, and Religious Freedom

What is it?

Project Blitz is a concerted campaign by the Christian Nationalist movement to implement radical, Christian-supremacist policies and elect officials willing to uphold them. It pushes a false narrative that the United States was founded as a Christian nation, and it uses a distorted idea of “religious freedom” to influence legislation—one state at a time—in order to undermine religious equality, attack LGBTQ non-discrimination protections, and reduce access to reproductive healthcare services.

How does it attack equality?

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, which is a major supporter of Project Blitz, has published a 116-page manual for lawmakers and activists to use as a guide for pushing their agenda. The guide includes templates for 20 legislative bills. In 2018, over 70 such bills were introduced in state legislatures around the country, with a greater number expected in 2019. Their strategy is to advance an ahistorical “Christian nation” narrative by starting with laws that are relatively easy to pass, and then gradually build momentum to proposing more dangerous bills that offer very broad exemptions for allowing religiously based discrimination.

- **Category One** - “Legislation Regarding Our Country’s Religious Heritage” includes bills such as the mandatory display of “In God We Trust” in school classrooms as well as bills that mandate classes about the Bible be taught in public schools. [Arkansas’s Act 911 was based on model legislation included in the Project Blitz legislative guide.](#)
- **Category Two** - “Resolutions and Proclamations Recognizing the Importance of Religious History and Freedom” includes resolutions that explicitly tie Christianity to American history, such as “Recognizing the Importance of the Bible in History” and “Recognizing Christian Heritage Week.”
- **Category Three** - “Religious Liberty Protection Legislation” includes bills and resolutions such as the “Resolution Establishing Public Policy Favoring Adoption by Intact Heterosexual, Marriage-based Families,” the “Child Protection Act” which allows publically-funded adoption and foster care placement agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples, and the “Teacher Protection Act” which unconstitutionally allows teachers and school administrators to proselytize to students.

These bills can also be used in “faith-baiting,” which is the practice of highlighting a wedge issue in order to make political opponents appear to not support religious freedom. **In 2018, the most successful Project Blitz-related bills were “In God We Trust” school display laws, which passed in five states. In addition, bills which allow religious discrimination in foster care and adoption passed in three states.**

Additional Reading: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/26/opinion/project-blitz-christian-nationalists.html>