



April 16, 2010

## Take action now to uphold religious freedom & discrimination protection!

The following information on Senate Joint Resolution 2550 and House Joint Resolution 1399 was provided by the Anti-Defamation League. We urge you to ACT TODAY!

### FLOOR VOTE ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2550 & HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1399 IS IMMINENT

→ Urge State Legislators to Oppose Senate Joint Resolutions 2550 & House Joint Resolution 1399

#### THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION - SJR 2550 & HJR 1399

Both measures were heard and passed by committees on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Senate and House of Representatives Rules Committees will likely schedule both measures (SJR 2550 & HJR 1399) to be heard on the floors of their respective chambers as early as next week (April 19<sup>th</sup>).

#### WHAT DO THESE JOINT RESOLUTIONS DO?

- They would remove critical religious freedom and discrimination protections from Florida's Constitution, which guarantee that no citizen supports houses of worship with tax dollars.
- They would constitutionally authorize the State of Florida to use tax dollars to:
  - **Bankroll** religious groups that **espouse anti-Semitic, extremist, or anti-Israel views**;
  - **Support** religious discrimination in taxpayer-funded jobs (i.e. **Jews, Catholics, Protestants, or Muslims "Need Not Apply"**);
  - **Fund** churches, mosques, synagogues, and other religious organizations **without safeguards against unwanted proselytizing or religious indoctrination**.
- They would have **no impact** on Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, Jewish Federations, or

other religiously-affiliated organizations in obtaining state funds for social and other services.

### **ACTION YOU CAN TAKE**

Call and/or e-mail the Senators and Representatives listed below, and urge them to oppose these measures because they are unnecessary, risk funding extremist religious groups, and jeopardize individual religious liberty in Florida.

### **TALKING POINTS**

By repealing long-standing religious freedom protections from the Florida constitution, which guarantee that no citizen is required to support houses of worship with tax dollars, these amendments to the Florida Constitution:

- would constitutionally authorize state funding of religious groups that espouse anti-Semitic, extremist, or anti-Israel views;
- would constitutionally authorize state funding of religious discrimination in taxpayer-funded jobs;
- would have zero impact on religiously-affiliated organizations, like Catholic Charities, Jewish Federations, and Lutheran Social Services, which for decades have partnered with the State to provide critical services to the neediest Floridians; and
- are unnecessary because Florida already has a \$118 million – soon to be \$140 million – school vouchers program in place called the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Sandra Adams	850-488-0468	<a href="mailto:sandra.adams@myfloridahouse.gov">sandra.adams@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Tom Anderson	850-488-8528	<a href="mailto:tom.anderson@myfloridahouse.gov">tom.anderson@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
James Bush	850-488-0625	<a href="mailto:james.bush@myfloridahouse.gov">james.bush@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Faye Culp	850-488-2770	<a href="mailto:faye.culp@myfloridahouse.gov">faye.culp@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Carl Domino	850-488-0322	<a href="mailto:carl.domino@myfloridahouse.gov">carl.domino@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Ed Homan	850-488-3087	<a href="mailto:ed.homan@myfloridahouse.gov">ed.homan@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Dave Murzin	850-488-8278	<a href="mailto:dave.murzin@myfloridahouse.gov">dave.murzin@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Peter Nehr	850-488-5580	<a href="mailto:peter.nehr@myfloridahouse.gov">peter.nehr@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Pat Patterson	850-488-9873	<a href="mailto:pat.patterson@myfloridahouse.gov">pat.patterson@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Julio Robaina	850-488-6506	<a href="mailto:julio.robaina@myfloridahouse.gov">julio.robaina@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Darryl Rouson	850-488-0925	<a href="mailto:darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov">darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Ron Schultz	850-488-0805	<a href="mailto:ron.schultz@myfloridahouse.gov">ron.schultz@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Baxter Troutman	850-488-9465	<a href="mailto:baxter.troutman@myfloridahouse.gov">baxter.troutman@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
Juan Zapata	850-488-9550	<a href="mailto:juan.zapata@myfloridahouse.gov">juan.zapata@myfloridahouse.gov</a>

### **SENATE**

Paula Dockery	850-487-5040	<a href="mailto:dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov">dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov</a>
Rudy Garcia	850-487-5106	<a href="mailto:garcia.rudy.web@flsenate.gov">garcia.rudy.web@flsenate.gov</a>
Alfred Lawson	850-487-5004	<a href="mailto:lawson.alfred.web@flsenate.gov">lawson.alfred.web@flsenate.gov</a>
Evelyn Lynn	850-487-5033	<a href="mailto:lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov">lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov</a>
Gary Siplin	850-487-5190	<a href="mailto:siplin.gary.web@flsenate.gov">siplin.gary.web@flsenate.gov</a>

→ Respond to the *Action Alert*

The **Action Alert** is a newsletter designed to educate the Jewish community. This newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the JCRC or the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. To respond to the **Action Alert**, contact [Lori Dearman](mailto:LDearman@gmjf.org) at [LDearman@gmjf.org](mailto:LDearman@gmjf.org).

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Greater Miami Jewish Federation  
Stanley C. Myers Building  
4200 Biscayne Blvd  
Miami, FL 33137  
[www.JewishMiami.org](http://www.JewishMiami.org)

(305) 576-4000

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