



November 22, 2013

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The Honorable Dan Coats  
United States Senate  
493 Russell Office Bldg  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Coats:

Thank you for your stand on behalf of the First Amendment during the recent Senate debate on *The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)*. In particular, I thank you for your powerful statement on the Senate Floor. While many others remained silent, you reminded your colleagues that the United States Constitution is not something to be upheld only if it seems politically expedient.

The First Amendment, the very first, guarantees fundamental rights for the citizens of our Republic – among them, the rights to free speech and free exercise of religion. Those provisions are not mere technicalities or obstructions to ignore at the behest of powerful lobbies, and your speech made a strong case for why this bill threatens those liberties. Indeed, I believe *ENDA*, even as amended by some well-meaning Senators, promises a legal burden and chill on employers committed to honoring the tenets of their faith in the workplace.

Again I thank you, Senator Coats. Your strong and courageous stand for the Constitution is deeply appreciated.

Respectfully,

  
Jerry A. Johnson, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

*I hope we can  
meet soon.*