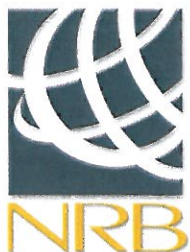




Resolution

ADVOCATING FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

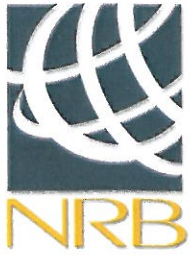
- WHEREAS** Religious liberty and the exercise of legitimate free speech are both being imperiled around the world, and recent events of unrest and violence in the Middle East are particularly troubling;
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters and other organizations have spotlighted the ongoing and brutal imprisonment of Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen imprisoned for his faith in one of Iran's most notorious prisons. Pastor Abedini was arrested by Iranian authorities in September 2012 for allegedly being a threat to Iran's national security and has been subjected to severe interrogations, periods of solitary confinement, and physical assault;
- WHEREAS** The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently approved bipartisan legislation, *The Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act* (S.653), introduced by U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) to create a special envoy at the State Department focusing specifically on the situations facing religious minorities in those areas of the world;
- WHEREAS** The U.S. House of Representatives voted 402-22 in September 2013 in favor of similar legislation (H.R. 301) authored by Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), who is a longtime hero for Christians and other persecuted minorities worldwide and has announced his retirement from Congress at the end of this session;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters urges the President and the Secretary of State to actively advocate to the international community the principles of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and to urge the adoption of similar standards in the rest of the world; calls on the President and the Secretary of State to secure the immediate release of Pastor Saeed Abedini and to advocate on behalf of other Christians similarly persecuted for their faith; prays for the comfort and re-unification of the Abedini family; honors Congressman Frank Wolf's decades of leadership on Capitol Hill on behalf of international religious freedom; and calls on the Congress to move to final passage *The Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act*.



Resolution

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO UPHOLD “MUST CARRY” LAW FOR RELIGIOUS TELEVISION

- WHEREAS** Religious television stations providing valuable content and services for their local communities have blossomed in recent decades, and legal local channel carriage responsibilities of pay-TV platforms, also known as “Must Carry” law, enable many local TV broadcast stations, including religious stations, to be viewed on those platforms. Today’s “Must Carry” rights were enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1992 and were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997;
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters many members include a significant number of television broadcasters that produce and/or telecast religious programming. The public service provided by these broadcasters is uniquely local, often showcasing programming with local churches or non-profits, and providing wholesome, family-oriented viewing choices;
- WHEREAS** History of non-carriage by cable companies prior to “Must Carry” provisions suggests that religious TV would again be ignored in the absence of those rules;
- WHEREAS** *The Next Generation Television Marketplace Act* (H.R.3720) would eliminate “Must Carry” rules for local commercial TV broadcasters. Eliminating “Must Carry” law would be of significant harm, even fatal, to TV stations that NRB represents and detrimental to the viewers that rely on these stations for community services and spiritual guidance;
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters hereby calls on Congress to uphold its decades-old commitment to carriage of local TV channels on pay-TV platforms, including cable networks; opposes legislative or regulatory efforts to eliminate or weaken current “Must Carry” law, which is sound and unobtrusive; urges Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials to uphold “Must Carry” law that is crucial to many religious television stations and programs; and, further, encourages Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials to recognize the important place of these ministries for TV consumers.



Resolution

PROTECTING BROADCASTING FREEDOMS

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters, since the time of its founding, has devoted itself to protecting the three First Amendment freedoms of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, particularly as they relate to, and undergird, the mission of Christian broadcasters and communicators to freely and fully proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ both through traditional broadcast media and over newer technological platforms as well;

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters, to that end, successfully aided in the struggle in the 1980s to end the practical force and effect of the damaging regulation known as the "Fairness Doctrine," a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule that hampered all three of the First Amendment freedoms which are at the core of NRB's mission. Broadcasting freedoms, to be sustained, require vigilance on the part of NRB and its members, including the concerted effort of NRB to identify and oppose those legislative and regulatory proposals that threaten to erode First Amendment liberties, including those proposals that carry with them similar threats to broadcasting and communications freedom as were posed by the former Fairness Doctrine;

WHEREAS

One proposal that poses such a threat is the plan of the FCC to conduct an investigation titled "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs," (the "CIN Study") which appears to be designed to gather information on how all local news outlets – whether subject to FCC rules or not – select and prioritize news coverage, as well as data on "the process by which stories are selected, station priorities ... perceived station bias, perceived percent of news dedicated to each of the eight CINs, and perceived responsiveness to underserved populations;"

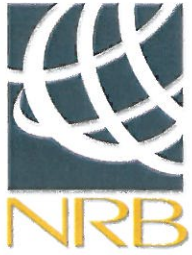
WHEREAS

The CIN study has garnered strong objections from members of the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce which has oversight jurisdiction over the FCC, and those objections were included in a letter dated December 10, 2013 to the Hon. Tom Wheeler, newly installed Chairman of the FCC. Sixteen objecting Committee members signed the letter, including Committee Chairman Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Rep. Greg Walden, Chairman Emeritus Rep. Joe Barton, and Vice Chair Rep. Marsha Blackburn, stating that the FCC study "shows a startling disregard for not only the bedrock constitutional principles that prevent government intrusion into the press and other news media, but also for the lessons learned by the Commission's experience with the Fairness Doctrine," and described the CIN study as a virtual "Fairness Doctrine 2.0;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters urges the Federal Communications Commission to suspend its plans to pursue the "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs" study (the "CIN Study"), thereby affirming that the FCC will jealously guard the First Amendment rights of all broadcasters and communicators and communications-related industries that are within its regulatory jurisdiction, and thereby also affirming that efforts to further evaluate the information needs of the American people will be performed consistently with the Commission's statutory responsibilities.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 22, 2014



Resolution

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AMERICA

WHEREAS

The Forward to the NRB Constitution and Bylaws declares that NRB shall, among other things, work to “keep the channels of communication open to evangelical Christianity,” and in the effort to pursue this goal it is appropriate for NRB to promote, in judicial, legislative, and regulatory arenas, a constitutionally sound and robust protection for religious freedom in America, including protection for those who wish to assert Bible-based claims of conscience regarding moral and spiritual issues, as well as encouragement for those governmental offices, whether local, state, or federal, that desire to lawfully honor the religious freedom heritage of our nation and to accommodate the religious faith of Americans;

WHEREAS

There is currently pending before the United States Supreme Court, the consolidated cases of *Kathleen Sebelius, Sec. of Health and Human Services (HHS) v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* (Hobby Lobby), and *Conestoga Wood Specialities Corp. (Conestoga) v. Kathleen Sebelius, Sec. of Health and Human Services (HHS)*. Both cases involve claims by faith-based, closely-held, for-profit companies that seek to exercise their free exercise of religion rights so as to be exempted from that portion of the HHS “preventative services” mandate of the Affordable Care Act that would require Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, in violation of their Biblical beliefs, to make available to their employees and their family members, insurance coverage that would include abortion-inducing drugs and services. The federal government is opposing the religious freedom claims of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga;

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters, through its Office of General Counsel, has filed an *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court) brief with the United States Supreme Court, supporting the religious freedom claims of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, while also arguing for a constitutionally sound and robust protection for religious freedom in America;

WHEREAS

The United States Supreme Court is also considering the case of *Town of Greece v. Susan Galloway and Linda Stephens*, where Galloway and Stephens are opposing, on the grounds of “separation of church and state” pursuant to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, the practice of the Town of Greece, New York, to begin its town meeting with prayers offered by a variety of clergy and religious representative volunteers selected from a broad category of faith groups. Such practice is supported by the 1983 Supreme Court case of *Marsh v. Chambers* where the Court stated that prayers at the beginning of legislative meetings is constitutional because it “is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country;”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters urge the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the free exercise of religion rights of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, and to uphold the constitutionality of the Town of Greece, and other governmental units, to continue to acknowledge, through practices consistent with the First Amendment, the religious beliefs widely held among people in this country; and NRB further calls on its members to pray for the Justices of the United States Supreme Court that they may render just decisions which provide constitutionally sound and robust protections for the exercise of religious freedom in America.