



Resolution

Declaring NRB's Commitment to Defending Freedom and Opportunity on its 75th Anniversary

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- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters is a nonpartisan, international association of Christian communicators whose member organizations reach millions of listeners, viewers, and readers.
- WHEREAS** NRB's founding in 1944 was catalyzed by corporate censorship against evangelical Christian communicators. This suppression ensued after the mainline Federal Council of Churches, unhappy with the success of evangelical ministers who purchased time on the airwaves, persuaded the national radio networks of the day to provide limited religious time slots as a free public service and to only air those religious communicators approved by denominational councils like themselves. Banding together, NRB's members successfully combatted this discriminatory censorship.
- WHEREAS** Since its founding, NRB has devoted itself to protecting First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, particularly as they undergird the mission of Christian communicators to freely and fully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on electronic media, including broadcast, cable, satellite, and Internet platforms.
- WHEREAS** In a multi-decade struggle, NRB successfully acted towards the defeat and the final removal of the damaging regulation known as the "Fairness Doctrine," which harmed all three of the First Amendment freedoms at the core of NRB's work.
- WHEREAS** These freedoms 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.
- WHEREAS** NRB has also worked to ensure Christian communicators are not unfairly denied access to broadcast, video, and online platforms through unreasonable, or even unjust, music licensing rates, carriage demands, social media restrictions, or other maneuvers.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** On its 75th anniversary, it is clear that NRB's work is needed now more than ever, as major opportunities and challenges remain to achieve full access to the fast-developing worlds of electronic media in the United States and around the world.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** NRB calls on the citizens of the United States and their elected leaders to work actively to ensure freedom in electronic media domestically and globally. In addition, we urge NRB members to pray and to ready themselves for struggles ahead to ensure freedom and fairness in access to all electronic media in order that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ may be proclaimed boldly on those platforms to listeners, viewers, and readers.



Resolution

In Support of Israel

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- WHEREAS** Israel's history, including the creation and continued existence of the modern State of Israel, reveals the providential hand of God and His commitment to fulfilling His promises in His Holy Word, the Bible.
- WHEREAS** The Bible records God's promise to Abraham, the patriarch of Israel: "I will make of you a great nation.... I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3).
- WHEREAS** The modern State of Israel shares a longstanding, special relationship with the United States as nations committed to freedom and democratic governance that respects the rule of law and the rights of minorities.
- WHEREAS** The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 established in U.S. law that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It also directed that the U.S. Embassy should be moved to its rightful place in Jerusalem, and, while previous administrations had delayed that move for decades, last year U.S. President Donald Trump courageously carried out this duty.
- WHEREAS** Israel faces violence, hostility, and existential threats from powerful state and non-state actors in the Middle East.
- WHEREAS** The United Nations and its committees have a history of unfairly targeting and condemning Israel.
- WHEREAS** The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement that seeks to isolate and economically strangle Israel is working to gain inroads into Christian communities, including evangelical Protestant institutions.
- WHEREAS** Christians are instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! 'May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!' For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, 'Peace be within you!' For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good" (Psalm 122: 6-9).
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB calls on its members to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for God's protection over all of Israel; NRB thanks the Trump administration for recognizing the rightful place of Jerusalem; NRB affirms that the democratic principles embraced by Israel promise Christians and others seeking freedom in that turbulent region hope for peace and liberty; NRB calls on the United States to continue to stand steadfastly by Israel, even as others malign, abandon, or attack her; and, furthermore, NRB calls on Christian denominations, churches, organizations, and other communities to reject and guard against the dangerous Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.



Resolution

Eliminating Government Subsidy of Public Broadcasting

- WHEREAS** The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) was established by the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.
- WHEREAS** U.S. President Lyndon Johnson, signing the bill into law, declared, “While we work every day to produce new goods and to create new wealth, we want most of all to enrich man's spirit. That is the purpose of this act.”
- WHEREAS** President Johnson also remarked, “The Corporation will assist stations and producers who aim for the best in broadcasting good music, in broadcasting exciting plays, and in broadcasting reports on the whole fascinating range of human activity. It will try to prove that what educates can also be exciting.”
- WHEREAS** CPB rejects “programming that furthers the principles of particular political or religious philosophies.”
- WHEREAS** Programming of PBS, NPR, and other CPB grantees often appear to espouse and promote the values and political philosophies of “progressive” urban elites.
- WHEREAS** A half-century after CPB’s establishment, President Donald Trump’s administration has proposed terminating its taxpayer funding, noting in budget documents, “[A]lternatives to PBS and NPR programming have grown substantially since CPB was first established in 1967, greatly reducing the need for publicly funded programming options.”
- WHEREAS** In a 2010 filing with the FCC, NRB encouraged the government not to “super-fund public broadcasting, as such increased funding would create government-funded competition against all other broadcasters, including Christian nonprofit, non-commercial stations.”
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** Unless CPB discontinues its discrimination against faith-based ministries and allows all noncommercial broadcasters and related programmers to compete for federal grants on an equal merit-based playing field, then NRB not only supports, but insists upon, the termination of federal funding for CPB.



Resolution

Advocating Internet Freedom

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- WHEREAS** Free speech and free enterprise are bedrock principles that have allowed the internet to grow and flourish.
- WHEREAS** NRB opposed the application of Title II “common carrier” powers on internet service providers without congressional authorization. Noting the poor signal such a power grab may send to nations that restrict internet communication or that may wish for an international body like the International Telecommunications Union of the United Nations to have increased authority over the internet, NRB applauded FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” proceeding to roll back the assumption of those heavy-handed new powers.
- WHEREAS** NRB has urged caution about new regulatory regimes that could stifle innovation or erode constitutional freedoms. However, NRB also has commented to the FCC, “Any regulation of broadband providers requires a broad picture that includes an evaluation of the policies and practices of edge providers in order to protect the free speech interests of citizen users.”
- WHEREAS** NRB has documented for years that censorship of religious viewpoints by major edge providers, including Google, Facebook, and Twitter, is a growing problem.
- WHEREAS** NRB has attempted to engage tech titans respectfully and constructively about this issue of viewpoint suppression, even as they have repeatedly asserted their desire to be platforms for users of diverse beliefs. NRB has also successfully urged America’s leaders in Washington, D.C. to devote attention to this issue.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges edge provider platforms to proactively and as an industry embrace their community responsibility to honor First Amendment values as refined by centuries of American jurisprudence and to faithfully apply those principles in their policies and practices.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** If ubiquitous tech titans continue to engage in viewpoint censorship, NRB urges Congress to creatively evaluate remedies aimed at discouraging such censorship and providing opportunity for citizens to seek redress against such discrimination. All the while, NRB also urges the United States to uphold and advance a position of a “light touch” toward the internet and to continue to work to ensure principles of freedom on the internet globally.



Resolution

Opposing Coercive Measures Against the Freedom to Believe the Bible on Marriage, Sexuality, and Gender

- WHEREAS** The Holy Scriptures reveal that God created human beings in His image, He created them male and female, He called them to be fruitful, and He instructs that “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:24). The Lord Jesus Christ reaffirmed these truths about gender, sexuality, and marriage—the holy union of one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6).
- WHEREAS** Christian communicators are compelled by faith to proclaim the truth in love. Since its founding 75 years ago, NRB has devoted itself to protecting First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, particularly as they undergird the mission of Christian communicators to freely and fully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through electronic media.
- WHEREAS** The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) has for decades required U.S. courts to uphold a balancing test by which the federal government must give deference to the constitutional right of religious freedom unless it can prove a “compelling government interest” achieved by the “least restrictive means.”
- WHEREAS** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has promised to advance federal legislation known as the Equality Act, which would establish “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” (SOGI) as protected classes in numerous sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Like its narrower predecessor, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which NRB opposed, it does not respect religious beliefs. In fact, its coercive nature is underscored by specifically forbidding any appeal to RFRA in court challenges arising from it.
- WHEREAS** Powerful government, corporate, media, and other activist political forces are growing more intolerant of the freedom to believe and hold views contrary to their own, and their evident intention is to wield SOGI laws as debilitating swords against citizens – among whom have been a cake artist in Colorado, a florist in Washington, a fire chief in Atlanta, pastors in Houston, and adoption service providers in cities across the country – who have shown no malice to anyone, but merely wish to live faithfully in light of their religious convictions about marriage, sexuality, and gender.
- WHEREAS** Some evangelical Christian voices in the public square, including leaders of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), have taken steps towards a “compromise” SOGI law that would reportedly negotiate protections for some religious institutions, but not all citizens of faith. Despite outreach from NRB’s president and others expressing serious concerns with this so-called “Fairness for All” approach, these leaders, whom we honor as our brothers and sisters in Christ, have stood behind this hazardous effort.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB contends that the U.S. Government must faithfully support and defend the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee that all citizens are free to speak and free to exercise the tenets of their faith in daily life. Moreover, NRB urges Congress and state legislatures to reject coercive proposals like the Equality Act and rather to pass laws preventing government intolerance and discrimination against those who – with malice toward none – simply wish to adhere to biblical understandings of gender, sexuality, and marriage. Moreover, NRB exhorts the United States to return to the truth that marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB respectfully urges our brothers and sisters in Christ in the CCCU, NAE, and elsewhere to reject any legislation that does not indisputably uphold the fundamental freedoms of all ministries and individual citizens to live, believe, and speak faithfully their biblical convictions.