

January 16, 2025

President-elect Donald J. Trump c/o Presidential Transition Team

Advancing Religious Freedom and the Sanctity of Life in the Second Trump Administration

Preamble

Under President Trump's unprecedented and historic leadership, religious freedom and the sanctity of life held a prominent position in American domestic and foreign policy. These founding principles are fundamental to America's identity and exceptionalism and are integral to its strength. Yet, over the past four years, these values have been dismantled through policies of the Biden administration that undermine life, liberty, and faith.

As we celebrate and prepare for a new era in our country, we have a unique opportunity to reclaim our leadership in defending life and liberty. By advancing policies that protect the inherent dignity of all people, the Trump administration can secure its legacy as a champion of these timeless truths.

On behalf of thousands of churches and Christian leaders across our country, The Danbury Institute humbly offers the following recommendations:

International Religious Freedom

- 1. Reissue President Trump's 2020 Executive Order on Advancing International Religious Freedom.
- 2. Implement policies to defend and preserve religious freedom, including:
 - a. Reaffirm the protection of religious freedom in the 2025 National Security Strategy.
 - b. Recognize and address countries of particular concern, including China, Nigeria, Armenia/Azerbaijan, India, Iran, and others.
 - c. Merge the *Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom* into a high-level commission to address religious freedom concerns, informed by the *Unalienable Rights Commission* report.
 - d. Host a summit of religious and political leaders culminating with a major public address.
- 3. Emphasize unalienable human rights as a foundational component of international foreign policy and American exceptionalism.

Domestic Religious Freedom

- 4. Reissue the policies of Executive Order 13798 Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.
- 5. Reestablish the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative.
- 6. Combat anti-Christian bias through the establishment of a dedicated task force.
- 7. Encourage Congress to enact legislation that curtails the ill effects of the Johnson Amendment and protects freedom of speech for churches and faith-based organizations.

Sanctity of Human Life

- 8. Continue nominating constitutional originalists to federal courts who will uphold the inherent sanctity and dignity of all human life.
- 9. Reinstate and strengthen the Mexico City Policy and ensure federal dollars do not fund abortion providers domestically or abroad.
- 10. Implement Executive Orders to end child genital mutilations, recognize the two genders of male and female, protect women's sports and locker rooms, and halt the rampant transgender chaos plaguing our nation.
- 11. Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood and any clinic that performs abortions.

Supporting Information

International Religious Freedom

Religious persecution is at an all-time high globally with millions of Christian believers facing imminent threats. President Trump's first term set a precedent for prioritizing these issues, as demonstrated through hosting the first-ever United Nations meeting on religious freedom. Reissuing the 2020 Executive Order will solidify U.S. leadership in this arena. Additionally, targeted advocacy in regions like China, where millions of Uyghur Muslims are held in concentration camps, and Nigeria, India, and Iran, where Christians face genocide, must remain a priority.

Domestic Religious Freedom

Religious Americans have faced increasing hostility under policies that marginalize faith. Examples include federal mandates forcing religious organizations to act against their beliefs and censorship of religious viewpoints online. Reinstating robust First Amendment protections is essential for preserving our nation's heritage of liberty.

Sanctity of Human Life

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect life at the state level and through the representative mechanisms of our republic. By prioritizing pro-life judicial appointments and reinstating the Mexico City Policy, the Trump administration can establish a

lasting culture of life. Additionally, supporting state laws and organizations defending the sanctity of life will amplify these efforts.

Conclusion

The incoming Trump administration has a rare opportunity to realign America with her foundational values of life, liberty, and faith. Through decisive action, we can solidify a legacy of justice and righteousness, ensuring that America remains a beacon of hope for future generations.

Respectfully submitted by the undersigned.

Z. Scott Colter, PhD.

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, The Danbury Institute

H. Sharayah Colter

Chief Communications Officer, The Danbury Institute

Collin M. Hain

Chief Operations Officer, The Danbury Institute