



James Piotrowski for Congress
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Piotrowski: Labrador bill threatens Constitutional rights

Boise, ID – Raul Labrador’s proposed “First Amendment Defense Act” (H.R. 2802) would open the door to unprecedented discrimination against Idahoans and millions of other Americans, 1st district Congressional candidate James Piotrowski warned today.

“This bill is dangerous and extreme,” Piotrowski said. “It does nothing to protect religious freedoms. All it does is make it easier for extremists like Raul Labrador to trample the Constitutional rights of single mothers, the LGBT community, and anyone else who doesn’t fit his view of the world.”

Labrador’s bill, the subject of a hearing today before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, would allow business owners, government contractors and government-funded institutions to run roughshod over the Constitutional rights of some Americans — under the guise of protecting religious freedom for others.

“This hearing was set exactly one month following the hateful shooting spree in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people were killed and 53 others were wounded in a gay nightclub,” Piotrowski said. “At a time when our leaders should be focusing on building a safer, more secure country, Raul Labrador is inciting more hatred and more division by advancing this bill.

“The people of Idaho want a representative who is going to bring people together to build our economy and improve our communities,” Piotrowski said. “Mr. Labrador’s bill does nothing for Idaho, and only serves to divide our society and further his personal ambitions.”

The American Civil Liberties Union says Labrador’s bill would, among other discriminatory actions:

- Let commercial landlords violate fair housing laws by refusing to rent to a single mother based solely on the belief that sexual relations are reserved for married couples.
- Allow federal contractors or grantees, including homeless shelters and other social service providers, to refuse service to LGBT people or anyone who has had a sexual relationship outside of marriage.
- Permit government employees to refuse to process tax returns, social security checks or visa applications for same-sex couples.
- Allow contractors or institutions that receive federal funds to fire female employees for getting pregnant out of wedlock.

“The U.S. Constitution is designed to protect all Americans,” Piotrowski said. “Proposals like this bill only serve Mr. Labrador’s powerful friends and their extreme ideologies. If elected, I will work to protect the rights of all Idahoans and all Americans — not just a few.”

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