

HB207 Analysis

- HB207 poses a significant threat to religious liberty in New Mexico, particularly for public contractors.
- Public contractors encompass various entities contracting with the state, including food banks, homeless shelters, Medicaid providers, daycares, and foster placement programs, among others.
- Many religious organizations fall under the category of public contractors and are directly affected by this bill. Before the passage of HB207, churches and religious organizations generally had the ability to exercise some level of discretion in their hiring practices based on their religious beliefs. This allowance was based on the principle of religious freedom and the recognition that religious organizations have the right to select employees who align with their faith and mission.
- The Extend Human Rights Act (HB207) prohibits public contractors, including faith-based organizations, from refusing services or imposing conditions based on various identifiers such as gender identity, sexual orientation, or serious medical condition.
- This bill undermines religious freedom by stripping faith-based organizations of their ability to exercise discretion in providing services or employment based on their beliefs.
- For instance, if a faith-based organization contracted to provide foster care placement, they would be in violation of the bill if they refuse to recognize same-sex couples as suitable placements.
- This restricts the freedom to operate according to religious convictions and principles.
- The language in HB207 presents a direct threat to our constitutional right to religious liberty, as enshrined in the United States Constitution (Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...).
- By passing this bill, our New Mexico legislators are infringing upon our fundamental freedoms and violating the Constitution.

For a comprehensive understanding of the bill, it is important to review the actual text available in the provided link.

