



HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

HOUSE BILL 469

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION - EXCEPTIONS - RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS EMPLOYERS

TESTIMONY OF RABBI ARIEL SADWIN

OPPOSE

Agudath Israel of America and its Maryland office speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish community across Maryland – and nationally – on matters of government affairs and public policy. Agudath Israel serves as the voice for culturally sensitive advocacy on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish community.

The importance of religious liberty, and the importance of respect for all individuals, are two of the most important foundations of the United States. The benefits and importance of religious communities are recognized as beneficial, and so have strong protections in law have been put in from time immemorial for religious organizations operating within the parameters of their faith. That curtesy should be extended to all people within their employ. They should be allowed to engage in the employment practices necessary to ensure that they do not violate their religious mission.

It is for that reason that we oppose HB 469 and request an unfavorable report.