

I oppose this bill because it goes against the First Amendment. The First Amendment is one of the core foundations of this country. It protects our freedom to speak, to believe, and to think without government pressure. That is essential in a free society.

The government should not threaten nonprofits for expressing their beliefs. This bill does exactly that. By allowing the State of Maryland to fine organizations or remove income tax, sales tax, and property tax exemptions from churches, parsonages, and religious schools for speaking about candidates or elections, it pressures them to stay silent. That directly interferes with constitutionally protected religious and political expression.

As a Korean-American, this issue is personal to me. In South Korea, a pastor was imprisoned for expressing his political views. I have always been proud to live in the United States because our Constitution is meant to prevent that kind of government overreach. We should never move toward a system where people are afraid to speak freely.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent and undermines the freedoms that define our country.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this bill.