

Peter C. Hwang

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Committee of Maryland Legislative District 13

Opposition of Senate Bill 4

I am writing as a Maryland constituent, residing in the 13th Legislative District, to urge you to oppose SB 4.

This bill represents a serious and unconstitutional assault on religious liberty, free speech, and the autonomy of churches and faith-based charities. By using the tax code to regulate what churches and ministries may preach or teach regarding candidates, elections, and the ideas that shape our public life, SB 4 crosses a bright constitutional line.

I respectfully ask that you vote NO on SB 4 in committee and on the floor, and that you reject any attempt to punish churches or faith-based organizations for exercising their First Amendment rights. The government should not be in the business of policing sermons, religious instruction, or moral teaching.

To personally attest to the importance of this liberty, a short anecdote of the impact that changed my perspective of faith-based politics begins in the earlier semester of 2024. Until the revelation of the importance of politics in my life as a Christian, I conducted my life in a manner of political indifference as well as the avoidance of public discussion on the matter because I believed that such implications and enforcements would have no direct effect on my own faith: I was wrong. Through the guidance and teaching from the pastors and leaders of my church, I realized that by advocating and supporting my political stance and beliefs, I am "loving my neighbors as I love myself". Although these words are typically applied in a manner of passive public conduct, this new perspective on it helped me to become a more involved and grateful member of the entity I love and support, the United States of America. I am deeply troubled to see such a pivotal freedom that defines this country be stripped from the people who have been guiding me, teaching me, and advocating for me.

Again, I respectfully ask that you vote NO on SB 4 in committee and on the floor, and that you reject any attempt to punish churches or faith-based organizations for exercising their First Amendment rights. I am deeply grateful for your time and consideration of my stance on this matter. Please defend the freedom that I love and take pride in.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Hwang

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