

FACT SHEET

Project Blitz

A State-Based Campaign Against Equality and Freedom of Religion

What is it?

Project Blitz is a concerted campaign by the Christian nationalist movement to implement radical, anti-equality state policies and attack lawmakers who oppose them. It uses a distorted idea of “religious freedom” to influence legislation—one state law at a time—to undermine religious equality, attack LGBTQ discrimination protections, and reduce access to reproductive health care.

How does it attack equality?

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, which is a major supporter of Project Blitz, has published a 148-page policy manual that includes templates for 21 legislative bills. In 2018, over 70 such bills were introduced in state legislatures around the country, with even more expected in 2019. Unfortunately, some lawmakers who have supported these bills are unaware of the true nature and motivations of Project Blitz.

The manual advises that advocates start with measures that Project Blitz considers relatively easy to pass, and then build momentum by proposing more dangerous bills that offer very broad exemptions for allowing religiously based discrimination. Project Blitz encourages the growth and spread of “prayer caucuses” in state legislatures to advocate for these bills, and it is succeeding—about 33 states have now established prayer caucuses in their legislatures. The campaign also encourages “faith-baiting,” seeking to brand opponents of these bills as being against freedom of religion. The proposed legislation falls under three categories:

Category One: Legislation Regarding Our Country's Religious Heritage includes bills such as the mandatory display of “In God We Trust” in school classrooms as well as bills that mandate Bible instruction in public schools. According to the guide, these measures “do not garner much organized outside opposition,” and even if a bill doesn’t pass, it can still “provide the basis to shore up later support for other governmental entities to support religious displays.”

Category Two: Resolutions and Proclamations Recognizing the Importance of Religious History and Freedom includes measures like “Recognizing the Importance of the Bible in History” and “Recognizing Christian Heritage Week” in order to promote the false narrative of the U.S. being founded as a Christian nation. The guide warns that while these measures will be criticized as favoring Christianity, such opposition does “not play well among members of the general public,” and “making opponents take a recorded vote against them is a win in and of itself. For such measures, a vote is a win, regardless of whether the bill passes.”

Category Three: Religious Liberty Protection Legislation includes the “most hotly contested” measures such as the “Resolution Establishing Public Policy Favoring Adoption by Intact Heterosexual, Marriage-based Families,” the “Child Protection Act,” which allows publically-funded adoption and foster care placement agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples, and the “Teacher Protection Act” which unconstitutionally allows teachers and school administrators to proselytize to students. The guide says such legislation should not be proposed unless it can win, and that success is more likely with measures narrowly crafted to focus on “small business owners, government employees, health care providers, pastors, adoption agencies, and so on.”

In 2018, the most successful Project Blitz-related bills were “In God We Trust” school display laws, which passed in five states, and bills which allow religious discrimination in foster care and adoption, which passed in three states.

For more information or to find out how we can help you oppose the Project Blitz agenda in your state, please visit www.BlitzWatch.org