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Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Mantzavinos, Spiros (LegHall) <Spiros.Mantzavinos@delaware.gov>
Subject: Committee Testimony on SB 72

Good Morning,

Sorry I was a little late raising my hand on SB 72, but I would like to submit the following testimony for the record.

Hello my name is Dustyn Thompson and I am here to as a member of the Delaware United Steering Committee speak on behalf of Delaware United in support of SB 72.

The United States has long held itself up as a bastion of religious freedom. Our founders, knowing of Europe's long history of religious intolerance and conflict, sought to enshrine within our founding documents the absolute right to freedom and conscience, and to the principle that the state and the church must remain forever separated in order for the citizens to be truly free.

In the same vein, stretching back as far as its colonial roots, Delaware has long prided itself on being a place where people of all religions can practice their beliefs and worship as they see fit without fear of reprisal from either government or from their fellow citizens.

However, people should likewise feel free to worship without fear from their employers as well. While the Delaware Equal Accommodation Act was intended to cover religion through its use of the word "creed", we nevertheless appreciate the sponsors of this bill clarifying the language of the Delaware Code to assure that there can be no mistake.

While we as a nation and as a state haven't always lived up to our highest ideals, we must continue to make strives forward towards them, and I believe that this bill, "The Religious Freedom for All Act" is an important step along that path.

Thank you,

Dustyn Thompson