



1090 Vermont Avenue, NW | Suite 850
Washington, DC 20005

July 5, 2016

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman, House Oversight & Government Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Chaffetz,

Next week the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will be holding a hearing on H.R. 2802, the First Amendment Defense Act. Log Cabin Republicans strongly urges against advancing this flawed and unnecessary legislation.

Log Cabin Republicans has long advocated for a balance between religious liberty and equality for LGBT Americans, and declared that it is possible for people of good will on all sides to come together to reach compromise. The First Amendment Defense Act does not seek compromise, and instead provides an overly broad framework that will only lead to needless litigation and unintended consequences.

In allowing people to claim “moral convictions” as a legal justification for refusal of service, the First Amendment Defense Act goes beyond protecting the free exercise of religion and provides justification for discrimination based on mere whim.

People of faith are protected by our nation’s ultimate law: The Constitution of the United States of America. LGBT Americans have no such federal protections; in 28 states there are no laws whatsoever protecting LGBT Americans from discrimination.

Log Cabin Republicans will continue in dialogue with common-sense conservatives and people of faith as we work to strike a balance between LGBT equality and religious liberty. Discussion — not legislation — is what is needed at the present time.

Gregory T. Angelo
President

cc: Oversight & Government Reform Committee members