



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY
from
Americans for Freedom of Religion

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"There is no religious liberty if we are not free to express our faith in the public square and if we are not free to act on that faith." - Archbishop William E. Lori

Religious Discrimination Against Fired Flight Attendants

A federal judge ordered that a fired Southwest Airlines flight attendant's lawsuit proceed to trial. "(This) decision acknowledges that, at its core, this case is about an individual worker's right to object to how forced union dues are spent by union officials to take positions that are completely contrary to the (religious) beliefs of many workers forced under the union's so-called 'representation,'" said President Mark Mix, National Right to Work Foundation.⁽¹⁾ When Charleen Carter objected to union officials using union dues to attend a pro-abortion event in Washington D.C. in 2017, she was fired. "What we have here is Southwest Airlines, ...and the Transport Workers Union basically teaming up to thwart the (religious) ideological views of one of their employees," said Mr. Mix. ⁽²⁾

Two fired Alaska Airlines flight attendants sued the carrier and the Association of Flight Attendants union, saying they were discriminated against for posting "biblically based" comments to a company message board. They had each questioned the airlines public support for the federal Equality Act, a bill now in Congress, that would remove protections granted under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). "Alaska Airlines 'canceled' Lacey and Marli because of their religious beliefs, flagrantly disregarding federal civil rights laws that protect people of faith from discrimination," said senior counsel for First Liberty Institute. ⁽³⁾

The so-called Equality Act is strongly opposed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), since it would erode religious freedom and enshrine the redefinition of marriage and gender ideology into law, requiring people to conform regardless of their religious beliefs. "Instead of respecting differences in beliefs about marriage and sexuality, the Equality Act would discriminate against people of faith," the USCCB warned. ⁽⁴⁾ "It cancels by name specific provisions of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993, putting religious employers such as churches and private religious schools, hospitals, adoption agencies, and others at severe risk or lawsuits," wrote CEO Robert Netzly, in the Christian Post. ⁽⁵⁾

(americanews.com, 5/17/22(1); matthewadum.com, 5/15/22(2); thechristianpost.com, 5/18/22(3)(5); catholicworld.com, 2/19/21(4); washingtontimes.com, 5/17/22)

"Religious freedom is the lifeblood of the American people, the cornerstone of the American government." - Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan