



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY  
from  
**Americans for Freedom of Religion**

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Delaware and Vermont Bills Threaten Religious Liberty:  
Their only goal, they state, is to remove the rights of priests.

**A New Threat to Religious Liberty for Catholics**

by Matt Lamb, Mar 21, 2023

Delaware and Vermont legislators are debating bills that would do away with what is called the “seal of confession,” a teaching of the Catholic Church that forbids priests from divulging what is heard during confession, when a Catholic shares his or her sins with a priest and seeks absolution.

Efforts to force Catholic priests to reveal admissions of child abuse heard in the confessional, the location where the sacrament of reconciliation is heard, are a threat to religious liberty.

While it is not clear if anti-Catholic animus is behind this legislation, it is also unclear what this bill would accomplish besides targeting Catholic priests for further questioning and forcing them to choose between going to jail or breaking a sacred promise they made never to divulge what is said in confession.

A priest who shares what someone told him in confession is automatically excommunicated, forbidden from accessing the other sacraments.

Continue reading at <http://bit.ly/412pMXb>

***“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or  
prohibiting the free exercise thereof;***

Establishment and Free-Exercise Clauses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution