

The 2017 Jacksonville HRO: Still the Same Dangerous Proposal

Do not be fooled. Despite the claims of “new compromise language,” the new Jacksonville Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) 2017-15, still puts women’s privacy, safety and dignity at risk when they use showers, locker rooms, spas and bathrooms because the ordinance still allows men to use these intimate facilities. It still seeks to allow the government to punish businesses and ministries who wish to live, work and serve their community in accordance with the dictates of their faith. Despite the deceptive word changes, it’s still the same dangerous anti-liberty ordinance which was twice defeated in Jacksonville and must be defeated again.

- The Jacksonville HRO still applies to any Christian ministry that is “unaffiliated” with an institutional “church”. There are dozens of independent Christian ministries and charities in Jacksonville which are doing some heavy lifting by providing social services to the poor, homeless, disadvantaged, orphaned and destitute. These ministries are motivated by faith, but because they are unaffiliated with a church the HRO’s religious exemption does not apply to them. Examples include:
 - Homeless Ministries like **City Rescue Mission** (Christian, but not affiliated with a church)
 - Pregnancy Centers like **First Coast Women’s Services** (Christian, but not affiliated with a church)
 - Foster Care Ministries like **Bundle of Hope Ministries** (Christian, but not affiliated with a church)
 - Marriage Ministries like **Live the Life** (Christian, but not affiliated with a church)
 - Inner City Ministries like **CRU** (Christian, but not affiliated with a church)
- **THE TRICKIEST CLAUSE IN THE HRO:** The HRO language rhetorically states it “*does not prohibit businesses and public accommodations from providing single-sex restrooms, locker rooms, shower facilities, bath houses....*” Business owners have always had this right. However, the ordinance also clearly gives men a right to use those showers, locker rooms and bathrooms designated for women. Business owners are then helpless to enforce their single-sex private facility policies without risking fines, penalties and punishment under the new HRO language. The 2017 HRO still applies to:
 - **Jacksonville Domestic Violence Shelters**, such as
 - Hubbard House of Jacksonville
 - Onslow’s Women Center
 - Women’s Center of Jacksonville
 - **Jacksonville Homeless Shelters**, such as
 - Trinity Rescue Mission [a Christian ministry no longer affiliated with Trinity Baptist]
 - Sulzbacher Center
 - **Jacksonville Youth Summer Camps and Campgrounds**, such as
 - Bob’s River Place & Deerwood Camps
 - Hanna Park, Huguenot Memorial Park and Little Talbot Island State Park Campgrounds
 - **Jacksonville Gyms, Spas, and Fitness Centers**, such as
 - Deerwood Country Club
 - YMCA
 - LA Fitness
- The 2017 Jacksonville HRO also still creates a weapon and a lawsuit for disgruntled employees to punish owners of small businesses. The HRO clearly still applies to the hundreds of family-owned and operated smaller businesses in Jacksonville *that have more than 14 employees*, and whose owners are religious and wish to be left free to practice their faith in the context of work. Jacksonville businesses like **Mac Papers, WW Gay Plumbing, Tools for a Time** and hundreds of others will be affected. Under the HRO, the moment a small business grows from 14 to 15 employees, they automatically lose constitutional freedoms and become a target for a lawsuit. This is unjust, unfair and wrong.
- **Do not be fooled.** The 2017 HRO still violates the privacy, safety and security of women and is an anti-liberty weapon to punish Christians for simply living, working and serving the community in accordance with their faith.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Log onto www.FloridaFamilyAction.org now for information on how you can act by sending emails and making phone calls to City Councilmen telling them to just “**SAY NO to the HRO.**” Also, see the list of public hearings to attend and how to write local letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard!