

APPENDIX

Individual Statements of Interest

The **Christian Legal Society** (CLS) is an association of Christian attorneys, law students, and law professors, with student chapters at approximately 90 law schools. Since 1975, CLS's Center for Law and Religious Freedom has worked to protect religious liberty in the courts, legislature, and the public square. CLS believes that civic pluralism, which is essential to a free society, prospers only when the First Amendment rights of all Americans are protected. For at least 20 years, CLS has filed briefs *amicus curiae* in support of state initiatives that foster individual private choice with respect to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. See, e.g., *Hart v. State*, 774 S.E.2d 281 (N.C. 2015); *Duncan v. State*, 102 A.3d 913 (N.H. 2014); *Arizona Christian Sch. Tuition Org. v. Winn*, 563 U.S. 125 (2011); *Jackson v. Benson*, 578 N.W.2d 602 (Wis. 1998).

The **American Association of Christian Schools** (AACCS) serves Christian schools and their students through a network of thirty-eight state affiliate organizations and two international organizations. The AACCS represents more than 750 schools nationally. The AACCS believes that parental freedom to choose where and how their children are educated is the most effective and equitable way to improve the quality of K-12 education. The AACCS fully supports school choice programs based on the core values of diversity, individual choice, and religious liberty.

The **Council for Christian Colleges & Universities** (CCCU) is a higher education association of more than 180 Christian institutions around the world. With campuses across the globe, including more than 150 in the U.S. and Canada and nearly 30 more from an additional 18 countries, CCCU institutions are accredited, comprehensive colleges and universities whose missions are Christ-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith. Most also have curricula rooted in the arts and sciences. The CCCU's mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth. The use of state constitutional provisions to exclude students at religious educational institutions from indirect participation in a government program of generally available benefits is of deep concern to the CCCU and its member institutions.

The **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability** (ECFA) provides accreditation to leading Christ-centered churches, associations of churches and parachurch organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, stewardship, and governance. For thirty-nine years, one of ECFA's core principles has been the preservation of religious freedom through its standards of excellence and integrity, which help alleviate the need for burdensome government oversight of religious organizations. More than 2,300 Christ-centered churches, ministries, denominations,

educational institutions, and other tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations are currently accredited by ECFA.

The **Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance** (IRFA), founded in 2008 and now a division of the Center for Public Justice, a nonpartisan Christian policy research and citizenship education organization, works to protect the religious freedom of faith-based service organizations through a multi-faith network of organizations to educate the public, train organizations and their lawyers, create policy alternatives that better protect religious freedom, and advocate to the federal administration and Congress on behalf of the rights of faith-based services.

The **National Association of Evangelicals** (NAE) is the largest network of evangelical churches, denominations, colleges, and independent ministries in the United States. It serves 40 member denominations, as well as numerous evangelical associations, missions, nonprofits, colleges, seminaries, and independent churches. NAE serves as the collective voice of evangelical churches, their religious ministries, and separately organized evangelical ministries. It believes that religious freedom is God-given and thereby a right prior to the state that is recognized in and protected by the First Amendment and other federal laws, and that the proper ordering of church-state relations places a restraint on governmental authority that ensures the autonomy of religious organizations. NAE believes that civil government has the high duty to

protect the religious freedom of peoples and organizations of all faiths.

Queens Federation of Churches was organized in 1931 and is an ecumenical association of Christian churches located in the Borough of Queens, City of New York. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of an equal number of clergy and lay members elected by the delegates of member congregations at an annual assembly meeting. Over 390 local churches representing every major Christian denomination and many independent congregations participate in the Federation's ministry.
