

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Williams, Beth A (OLP)
Cc: Crytzer, Katherine (OLP)
Subject: Re: Draft Response Letter re Recommendation for TF STaff

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2018, at 5:01 PM, Williams, Beth A (OLP) (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks, Jennie. I just gave some minor edits to Katie.

Beth A. Williams
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Office: (b)(6)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Williams, Beth A (OLP) (b)(6)
Cc: Crytzer, Katherine (OLP) <kcrytzer@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Draft Response Letter re Recommendation for TF STaff

Hi Beth, I'm attaching a draft response letter to a letter of recommendation that came in from a judge who is recommending one of her law clerks for a position on the religious liberty task force.

(b)(5)

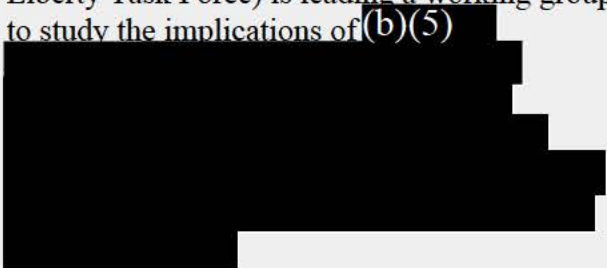

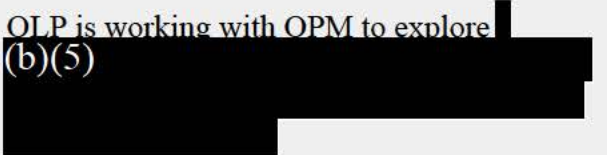

Happy to make any edits.

Thanks!
Jennie

December 7, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record




<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Not Responsive Record			
Religious Liberty— OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) is leading a working group to study the implications of (b)(5)   OLP is working with OPM to explore (b)(5)  	None at this time	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4-4606)	None at this time

Deliberative and Predecisional

November 30, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record

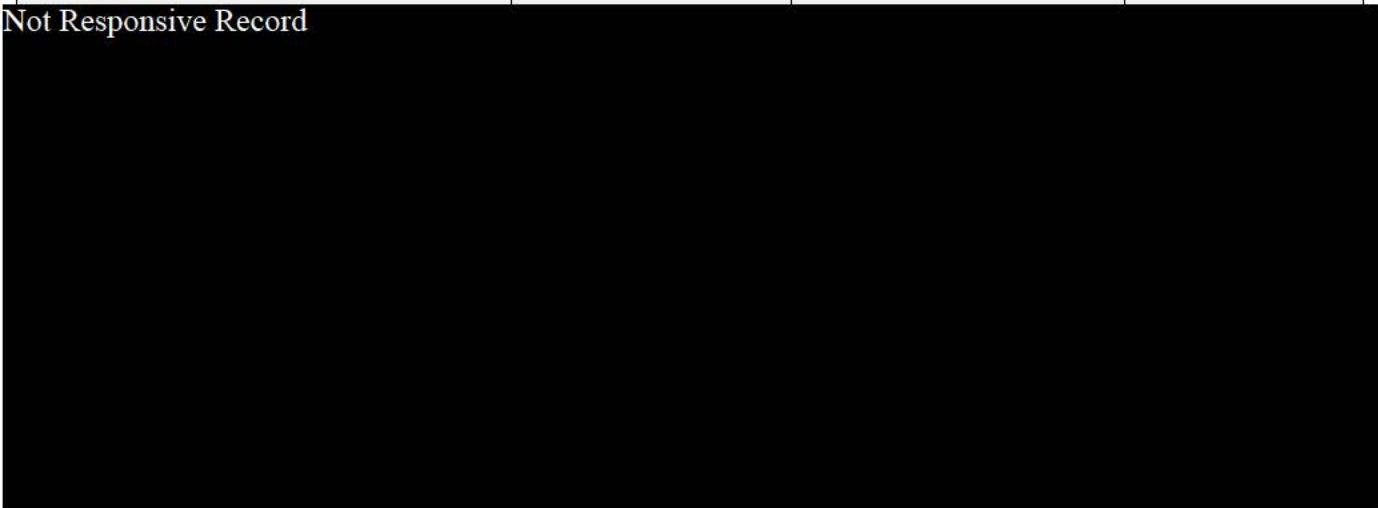


<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Not Responsive Record			
Religious Liberty OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) is leading a working group to study the implications of (b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	None at this time	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4 4606)	None at this time

Deliberative and Predecisional

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
(b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OLP is working with OPM to explor [REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]			

Not Responsive Record



November 23, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record



<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Not Responsive Record			
Religious Liberty— OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) is leading a working group to study the implications of (b)(5)	None at this time	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4-4606)	None at this time

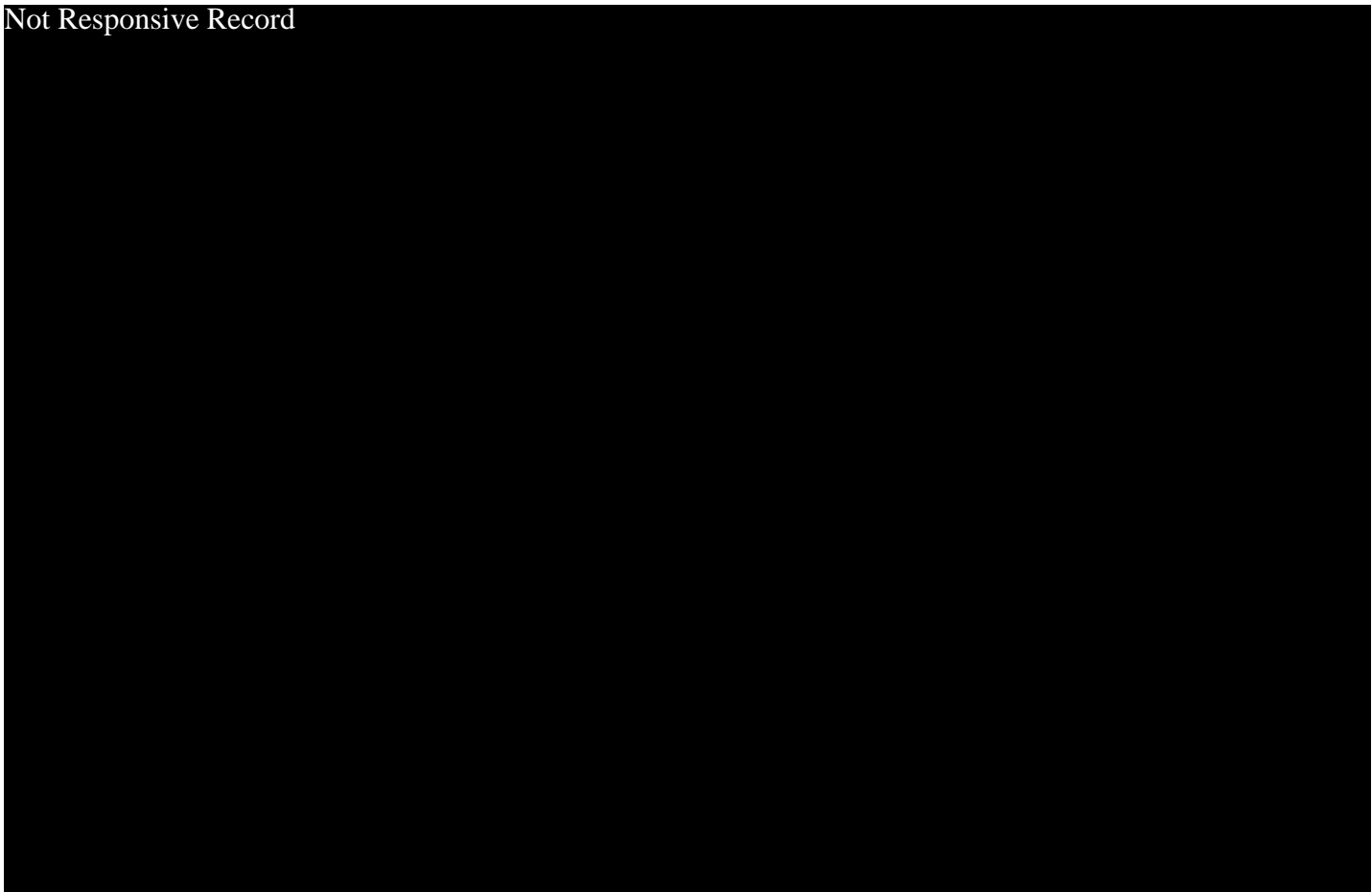
<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
(b)(5)			
OLP is working with OPM to explore			
(b)(5)			

Not Responsive Record

Deliberative and Predecisional

November 16, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record



<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Religious Liberty OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) is leading a working group to study the implications o (b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	None at this time	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4 4606)	None at this time


Not Responsive Record

[REDACTED]

Deliberative and Predecisional

November 9, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record




<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Not Responsive Record			
Religious Liberty This week, OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) convened a working group to study the implications o [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	None at this time	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4 4606)	None at this time

Deliberative and Predecisional

November 2, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record

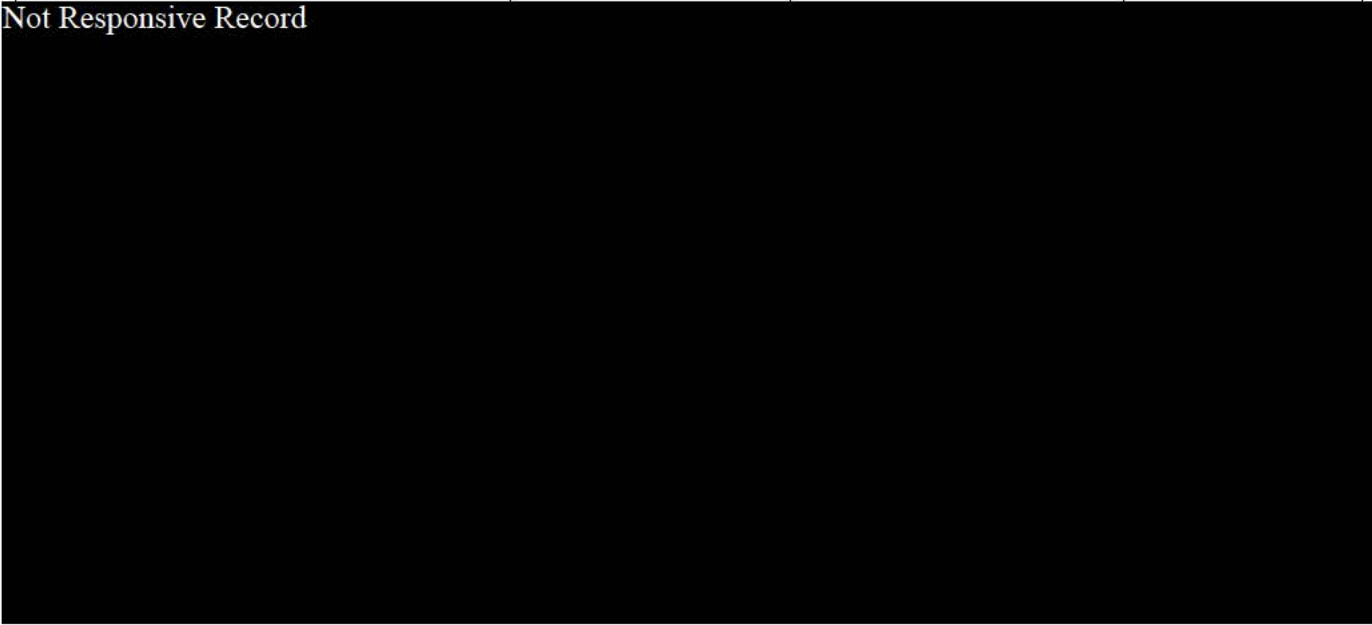


<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Not Responsive Record			
Religious Liberty As announced by the Attorney General on October 29, OLP (under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Task Force) will convene a working group to study the implications o (b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	(b)(5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4 4606)	None at this time

Deliberative and Predecisional

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
(b)(5) [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]			

Not Responsive Record



October 26, 2018 OLP Weekly Report

Not Responsive Record



<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upcoming Event(s)</u>	<u>Component POC</u>	<u>ODAG Action</u>
Religious Liberty— In the wake of the inaugural meeting of the Religious Liberty Task Force on Oct 18, OLP will convene a working group to study the implications of (b)(5) <div style="background-color: black; width: 280px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 285px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 285px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 280px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	(b)(5) <div style="background-color: black; width: 135px; height: 1.2em; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	OLP: Jennie Lichter (4-4606)	None at this time

Not Responsive Record

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT
FIRST DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2243 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3035
FAX: (202) 226-1230



COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY

NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2018

Assistant Attorney General Beth A. Williams
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: Meeting Request for Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel

Dear Assistant Attorney General Williams,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to co-chair the newly created Religious Liberty Task Force. With this, the Department of Justice is taking an incredible step to confront growing threats to religious liberty in the United States. Religious liberty is not only our "first freedom," but also a foundation on which all subsequent freedoms rest. I thank you in advance for the work you are doing in this division.

This letter serves as a meeting request for a friend and ally in the religious liberty realm, Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel. Rabbi Vizel currently serves as the Director of Community Affairs at United Talmudical Academy in Brooklyn, New York. Rabbi Vizel would welcome the chance to sit down with you and discuss enforcement of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA) (b)(6)

To schedule this meeting, please reach out to Rabbi Mozel via email at moshe@utabp.com or by phone at (b)(6). If you would like more information, please contact Sean Griffin in my office at (202) 225-(b)(6) or at (b)(6)

Very Truly Yours,

Louie Gohmert
U.S. Congressman

LONGVIEW OFFICE
101 EAST METHVIN STREET, SUITE 302
LONGVIEW, TX 75601
PHONE: (903) 236-8597

LUFKIN OFFICE
300 EAST SHEPHERD
LUFKIN, TX 75901
PHONE: (936) 632-3180

MARSHALL OFFICE
102 WEST HOUSTON STREET
MARSHALL, TX 75670
PHONE: (903) 938-8386

NACOGDOCHES OFFICE
101 W. MAIN, SUITE 160
NACOGDOCHES, TX 75961
PHONE: (936) 715-9514

TYLER OFFICE
1121 ESE LOOP 323, SUITE 206
TYLER, TX 75701
PHONE: (903) 561-6349
TOLL FREE: (866) 535-6302

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

September 17, 2018

The Honorable Attorney General Jeff Sessions
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear General Sessions:

Last year, I was pleased that the President made protection of religious liberty a priority for the Administration when he issued an executive order entitled, *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798, May 4, 2017). More recently, the President also expressed his commitment to religious liberty when he stated "America stands with all people suffering oppression and religious persecution" during his remarks at this year's National Prayer Breakfast. I echo this sentiment.

Religious liberty is something we all take for granted in America. Thousands of people across the globe would love to be able to practice their religion openly, without fear of death or reprisals. Many people flee their home countries and seek refuge in the United States precisely because our Constitution protects the free exercise of religion.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), an alien can qualify for asylum or refugee status if the alien can establish past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution based on either race, nationality, religion, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. INA section 101(a)(42); 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42). However, neither the INA nor its corresponding regulations at Title 8 of the U.S. Code clearly define what constitutes religious persecution for purposes of qualifying for asylum or refugee status.

The federal courts have grappled with this issue, but it remains unresolved. Currently there is a Circuit split. The 7th, 9th, and 11th Circuit Courts of Appeal have held that religious persecution can be established if an individual is prohibited from practicing his or her religion publicly or has to conceal his or her faith. The 10th Circuit reached the opposite conclusion, finding that having to conceal your faith or not being able to practice your religion openly are not actions that, by themselves, establish religious persecution for purposes of qualifying for asylum. To date, the Supreme Court has not addressed the issue.

As the Attorney General, you have the authority to rule on a question of law in the immigration context. You also can engage in notice and comment rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 551 et. seq. In light of these authorities, I respectfully request that you take appropriate executive action to clarify the legal standard for religious persecution for purposes of asylum.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 9:14 AM
To: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Cc: Crytzer, Katherine (OLP)
Subject: Cornyn letter
Attachments: Response Letter_Cornyn.docx

Hi Suzanna, I'm attaching a draft response to Senator Cornyn's pending letter. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your patience.

Jennie

Jennie Bradley Lichter
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
Office: (202) 514-4606
Cell: (b) (6)
Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel

From: Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Cc: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA); Hart, Jessica E. (OLA)
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Looking forward.

From: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov
Sent: November 6, 2018 1:46 PM
To: moshe@utabp.com
Cc: Suzanna.R.McKinney@usdoj.gov; Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Thank you. We'll pick you up at 2pm. See you soon.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2018, at 1:45 PM, Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel <moshe@utabp.com> wrote:

Our group is here.

From: Suzanna.R.McKinney@usdoj.gov
Sent: November 5, 2018 1:15 PM
To: moshe@utabp.com; Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov
Cc: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov
Subject: RE: DOJ Meeting

Hi, Sir-

You and your group should enter through the Visitors Center at 950 Constitution Avenue NW. You'll each need a valid ID to show to the guards both outside the building and again at the Visitors Center. There, you'll each be issued a badge that will allow you entry to DOJ. Staff will meet you at the Visitors Center to escort you to the meeting room.

Please let me know if you or your group has any questions.

Thanks,
Suzanna R. McKinney
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
Direct: [\(202\)305-2072](tel:(202)305-2072)
Mobile: (b) (6)





From: Rabbi Moshe A Vizel <moshe@utabp.com>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 1:03 PM
To: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>; McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Thank You.

Please add Hillel Rosenberg

Also, we are waiting for the directions.

Looking forward.

Rabbi Moshe Vizel

On Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 10:12 AM, Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Hi Rabbi Vizel,
I am ccing Suzanna who will send you directions on how to enter the building and security. If you have any extra attendees will you let us know so we can add them to the security list.

We are looking forward to meeting tomorrow,
Jessica

Jessica E. Hart
Intergovernmental Affairs & Public Liaison
Office of Legislative Affairs
United States Department of Justice
[202-514-6703](tel:202-514-6703)

From: Rabbi Moshe A Vizel <moshe@utabp.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 4, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Thank you Jennifer,

Jessica,

If you could please share the location and what entrance we should take, I would appreciate it, so I can share it with the group.

Also I might add another name, I will let you know soon.

On Fri, Nov 2, 2018 at 3:07 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Good morning Rabbi Vizel,

Jessica will send you directions for arriving at our building, as she is hosting the meeting in her conference room. We will be sure to put your whole group on our security list for entry to the DOJ. Thanks for sending the names.

Have a good weekend.

Jennie

From: Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel <moshe@utabp.com>

Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 12:35 AM

To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Good morning Jennifer,

Can you send me directions where to go when we arrive?

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Vizel

From: moshe@utabp.com

Sent: October 31, 2018 3:28 PM

To: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Cc: Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov

Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Rabbi Moshe A Vizel
Samuel Wertheimer, UTA
Moshe Rottenberg, UTA
John Henry, ESQ
Mike Berry, First Liberty
Keisha Russell, First Liberty
Lea Patterson First Liberty

Will let you know if we add anyone

Will let you know if we add anyone.

Looking forward.

On Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 10:13 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

<Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Great. On our end, we have confirmed Jessica (DOJ Public Liaison, as you know), Eric Treene (Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination), and me (on behalf of OLP and the Religious Liberty Task Force).

From: Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel <moshe@utabp.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:23 PM

To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Confirmed from our end too, I will send you the names tomorrow.

Who is confirmed from you end to attend the meeting?

Thank you so much.

From: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Sent: October 30, 2018 9:20 PM

To: moshe@utabp.com

Cc: Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov

Subject: RE: DOJ Meeting

Yes, 2pm will work on our end. Thanks.

From: Rabbi Moshe Arye Vizel <moshe@utabp.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 4:42 PM

To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Would we be able to do the meeting at 2:00 PM?

From: moshe@utabp.com

Sent: October 30, 2018 4:37 PM

To: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Cc: Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov

Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

I will confirm soon.

Who is confirmed to be at the meeting from your end?

Thank you

From: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov
Sent: October 30, 2018 4:36 PM
To: moshe@utabp.com
Cc: Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov
Subject: RE: DOJ Meeting

Yes, that will be fine. We are available to meet next Tuesday (11/6) at 4pm. Please let us know who will be coming with you so that we can add all of your group to our visitors' list.

Many thanks.
Jennie

From: Rabbi Moshe A Vize <moshe@utabp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 4:10 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Can we meet on Tuesday November 6th late afternoon?

On Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 10:32 AM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Rabbi Vize. We are available to meet with you next Monday between 11am and 4pm; virtually anytime next Tuesday; or virtually anytime next Thursday. Please let me know what is best for your group.

We look forward to meeting you.

Jennie

From: Rabbi Moshe Arye Vize <moshe@utabp.com>
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 1:25 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Hart, Jessica E. (OLA) <jehart@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Dear Jennifer and Jessica,

Myself and our team would be delighted to meet with you and Eric any day this week but Wednesday and any day next week. Please let me know what works best and will confirm with our

people.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Moshe Vize

From: Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov
Sent: October 23, 2018 11:03 PM
To: moshe@utabp.com
Cc: Jessica.E.Hart@usdoj.gov
Subject: RE: DOJ Meeting

Hi Rabbi Vize –

Wonderful! We're looking forward to hearing from you about a time that would work for your group to come and meet with us.

We are not planning to coordinate with Beth's schedule because we are confident that Jessica and Eric are best suited to hear and respond to your concerns in the first instance. I will brief Beth, of course, on anything that we believe requires her attention.

Best,
Jennie

From: Rabbi Moshe A Vize <moshe@utabp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: DOJ Meeting

Thank you Jennifer,

We are working on the plans.

Would it still be possible to coordinate to at least also get a short meeting in the same time with Beth?

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Vize

On Sun, Oct 21, 2018 at 10:18 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Dear Rabbi Vize,

Thank you for your patience as we have worked through some scheduling challenges and other logistics. I understand that you are eager to speak with the DOJ and I'm happy to say that we are able to propose a path forward that will

allow for a meeting as soon as you're able to come to town, with Department officials who are best suited to engage with you on the issues you've identified.

I'm copying the Department of Justice's Public Liaison, Jessica Hart, who is available to meet with you at your convenience. Jessica is expert in working with members of the public who want to bring issues to the Department's attention; her role involves working internally to elevate issues appropriately in order to get them resolved. She is very effective and is looking forward to meeting you. You will also meet with Eric Treene, who is the Department's Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination and who is our expert on both religious land-use law and claims of religious discrimination. He is the right person for you to speak with about (b)(6) (My office, as a policy office, is not in a position to do intake of (b)(6) .) I will be available to meet with you too, of course.

Please let Jessica and I know your availability. Our schedules are flexible and we're happy to get this on the calendar as soon as you're able.

Thank you again for bearing with us.

Best,
Jennie

Jennie Bradley Lichter
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
[950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW](#)
[Washington, DC 20530](#)
[Office: \(202\) 514-4606](#)
Cell: (b)(6)
Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

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Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel
United Talmudical Academy (Satmar)
Phone: (b)(6)

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Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel
United Talmudical Academy (Satmar)
Phone: (b)(6)

PHONE: (b) (6)

--

Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel
United Talmudical Academy (Satmar)
Phone: (b) (6)

--

Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel
United Talmudical Academy (Satmar)
Phone: (b) (6)

--

Rabbi Moshe Arya Vizel
United Talmudical Academy (Satmar)
Phone: (b) (6)

<[image001.png](#)>

McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA)
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Quick question: about how long should Sen. Hatch's keynote speech be?

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 4:58 PM
To: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Thanks Suzanna. We are aiming for a 10am start time on 11/19. I don't know yet precisely where Hatch would fall in the agenda, but it would be somewhere between 10am and noon.

Did his office mention whether he is available at all the week after Thanksgiving? There's a slight chance we may push the event until that week, due to availability of other speakers.

Thanks again for your help.
Jennie

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Thursday, November 1, 2018 10:20 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

November 19 works for Hatch! They didn't identify any times that don't work for them, so I think we should set a time that works for the AG and run with it.

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:06 PM
To: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Sounds like 11/19 works for the AG. I would like to aim for a morning event but still need to nail down that detail. For now could you please let the Hatch folks know that Nov 19 works and ask them to let us know if there are any times that day he absolutely could not do?

Thank you!
Jennie

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:47 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Could November 19th work for this event?

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 12:50 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Hi, guys-

Unfortunately, that week is a no-go for Senator Hatch. Is it possible to offer another date the next week?

Thanks,
Suzanna

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 12:03 PM
To: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Perfect. Thank you for the follow-up.

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 8:37 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Hi, Jennie-

I spoke with Hatch's staff yesterday, and they are going to get back to me once they've had a chance to review with the Senator. I'll ping them again this afternoon if I haven't heard from them.

Thanks,
Suzanna

On Oct 23, 2018, at 11:00 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Hi Suzanna, any luck today reaching the Hatch folks? I'd like to be able to let Beth know tomorrow if possible whether we have at least made initial contact.

Thanks again for your help.

Jennie

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 10:11 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Roger that. Thanks!

On Oct 22, 2018, at 9:59 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Ok great, so maybe we'll have more options than I thought. Off the top of my head the only other date (besides Fed Soc) that we'd want to avoid is Nov 9th, when there will be another big religious liberty event in town.

Thanks again to both of you. Looking forward to hearing what you find out tomorrow.

Jennie

From: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 9:54 PM
To: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Thanks, Jennie. We expect them to be in town for several weeks in November to figure out the CR situation at least. I would guess that Senator Hatch may also attend Fed Soc, but that is just speculation on my part. We will see what we can find out and get back to you asap so that you can firm up some plans.

Suzanna – I know Hatch's judiciary staffer. Let's talk in the morning, and I can let him know about the invite as well.

Thanks!
Prim

From: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 9:50 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Hi, guys-

I will reach out to his office first thing tomorrow and let you know what I find out.

Thanks,
Suzanna

On Oct 22, 2018, at 9:47 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Thanks for the quick reply. Yes, will be here at Main – we think in the Great Hall, although I wouldn't promise that yet. (b) (5)

If you think it would be appropriate, it would be helpful if you could feel out his schedule – for Nov 13/14 and for any other dates in November that he will be in town and available. (Someone told me the other day that the Senate is not in session very much next month so we are guessing he might have only a handful of dates that could work.)

Jennie

From: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 9:43 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: McKinney, Suzanna R. (OLA) <srmckinney@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Jennie,
Thank you for reaching out. This sounds great. Yes, OLA needs to handle the outreach, and we are happy to help with that invitation! I assume that it will be at Main? Do you want us to see what his schedule looks like on the 13th and 14th, along with gauging interest, or do you want to nail down a date first?

Thanks,
Prim

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA) <pfescalona@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Invite to Senator Hatch for RFRA 25th anniversary event

Prim, the Religious Liberty Task Force is planning to put together an event commemorating the 25th anniversary of RFRA's passage. (OLP + OAG will be leads on this.) (b)(5)

We do not have a specific date nailed down yet but the anniversary is November 16, and we'd like to stay relatively close to that date while avoiding a conflict with the Fed Soc convention. Nov 13/14 seem like likely candidates, but again, there is some flex there. At this point though we'd like to reach out to Senator Hatch, both to gauge his interest and to get a sense for his availability next month. Would you

prefer for someone in OLA to make the first contact with his office, or are you comfortable with me reaching out directly?

Thanks –
Jennie

Jennie Bradley Lichter
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
Office: (202) 514-4606
Cell: (b) (6)
Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Accepted: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: No response required

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Subject: RE: Trinity Lutheran working group

Yes, got it. Thanks for the follow-up!

From: Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Trinity Lutheran working group

Mary Blanche emailed me shortly after you emailed me. Danielle (an attorney who just started in our office in September) ran a search, and I think Mary Blanche emailed you about it.

Thanks,

Dorothy

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2018, at 4:17 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Thank you!! Sounds perfect.

From: Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 4:16 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Trinity Lutheran working group

Thanks, Jennie. My Monday is pretty packed, but I'll reach out to our paralegal who is an excellent researcher. If she can't find anything today, I'll take a look.

Thanks,

Dorothy

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Dorothy, I haven't heard back from Mary Blanche yet after I called and emailed her earlier today with a question about Trinity Lutheran related legislation. Is there any chance you might have time to look into this on Monday, if she isn't able to assign someone to it by then?

Thanks, as ever.
Jennie

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 2:08 PM
To: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA) <mhankey@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Trinity Lutheran working group

Hi Mary Blanche,

Following up on the vm I left for you a couple of hours ago. (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Are you aware of any, or is that something you could ask someone on your staff to figure out?

Second item is that I'd be happy for someone from OLA to join the Monday meeting and subsequent meetings, if you'd like to send someone to participate in the working group. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks very much.
Jennie

Jennie Bradley Lichter
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
Office: (202) 514-4606
Cell: (b) (6)
Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group

Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM

End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Required Attendees: Douglas, Danielle E. (OLA)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Required Attendees: Douglas, Danielle E. (OLA)

Hi all –

(b)(5)



I look forward to launching this work with all of you.

Jennie

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA)
Cc: Douglas, Danielle E. (OLA); Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Subject: RE: Trinity Lutheran working group

Hi Mary Blanche, thanks for your reply and for all of this info. (b)(5)

Thank you for checking.

Danielle and Dorothy, glad to have you on board. Danielle, I'll send you the invite for Monday.

Happy weekend, all.
Jennie

From: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Douglas, Danielle E. (OLA) <daedouglas@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA) <dwhildabrand@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Trinity Lutheran working group

Jennie—Thanks for your VM and this message. Today has been rather busy for a Friday, so I apologize for just now getting back to you.

(b)(5)

Thanks for including OLA in the working group. Danielle and Dorothy (CC'd) will be participating on behalf of OLA. Danielle is planning to attend the meeting on Monday, so please let her know the specifics once they are confirmed.

Let us know if you need anything else. Have a nice weekend!

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 2:08 PM
To: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA) <mhankey@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Trinity Lutheran working group

Duplicative Material

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Declined: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: No response required

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 3:54 PM
To: McHenry, James (EOIR)
Subject: RE: asylum letter
Attachments: Response Letter_Cornyn.docx

James, thank you again for these materials. (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you have any comments or edits. Thanks again.

Jennie

From: McHenry, James (EOIR)
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 8:53 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo

(b)(5)

[REDACTED]

Also attached is a draft of the letter would write in response to Cornyn's letter, (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

If you need any additional information on this, let me know.

Thanks.

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 3:42 PM
To: Williams, Beth A (OLP)
Cc: Freeman, Lindsey (OLP)
Subject: Draft letter for review: Religious Persecution / asylum
Attachments: Religious Persecution Service.msg; Cornyn Letter.pdf; Response Letter_Cornyn.docx

Hi Beth, I'm attaching another draft response letter for your review (the last one in my stack – for now). (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please let me know if you have any edits.
(b)(5)

Thanks!
Jennie

Davis, Valorie A (OLP)

From: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 2:37 PM
Cc: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Bcc: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Subject: Religious Persecution Service

Good afternoon Jennie

(b) (5)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 11:33 AM
To: Seitz, Sarah (Lankford)
Cc: Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Subject: DOJ faith-based work

Hi Sarah, thanks for your email the other day. I'm not able to speak to the First Step Act directly, but I would love to connect and update you on what we've been doing at the DOJ in the faith space since we last saw you at our Summit in late July. I've just been named the staff Director of the Religious Liberty Task Force that the AG announced at our Summit, and we have some projects teed up that we are excited about.

I'm adding Dorothy Hildabrand, who is in DOJ OLA and partners with me on a lot of the religious liberty work we do. When you're back in the office, please let us know a good time to chat.

Best,
Jennie

Jennie Bradley Lichter
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
Office: (202) 514-4606
Cell: (b)(6)
Jennifer.Lichter@usdoj.gov

Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)

From: Hildabrand, Dorothy W. (OLA)
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 10:51 AM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Subject: Issue Paper Update
Attachments: (b)(5); Religious Liberty Guidance - 10.12.17.docx

Hi Jennie,

OLA is in the process of updating our issue one-pagers. Is there anything in the attached papers that needs to be updated? If so, could you update it. If possible, could you get these back to me by Monday, November 12?

Here's the list of papers I have that you were the POC for or are in your issue area:

(b)(5)
Religious Liberty Guidance

I'll be back in the office on Monday if you have any questions, but I wanted to get these out today.

Thanks!
Dorothy

Dorothy Hildabrand
Attorney
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
Phone: 202-305-7851
Email: Dorothy.W.Hildabrand@usdoj.gov

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Accepted: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: No response required

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Subject: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group

Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM

End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Required Attendees: Beck, Dorothy K. (OLP)

Hi all –

(b)(5)



I look forward to launching this work with all of you.

Jennie

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:15 PM
To: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Subject: OLA response letter - Rep Lamborn
Attachments: Commenting AG to protect religious liberty through Creation of the religious liberty task force.msg; Response Letter_Lamborn_revised.docx

Hi Val, this draft response letter is ready to go to OLA. Could you please submit it?

Many thanks!
Jennie

Davis, Valorie A (OLP)

From: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 4:07 PM
Cc: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Bcc: Davis, Valorie A (OLP)
Subject: Commenting AG to protect religious liberty through Creation of the religious liberty task force
Attachments: Commending AG to protect religious liberty through the creation of the Religious Liberty Task Force.pdf; The Honorable Doug Lamborn rtf.rtf

DOUG LAMBORN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN,
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

2402 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4422
FAX 202-226-2638

DISTRICT OFFICE:

1125 KELLY JOHNSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 330
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920
719-520-0055
FAX 719 520-0840

WEBSITE:
lamborn.house.gov

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

I commend the actions you have undertaken as Attorney General to protect religious liberty through the creation of the Religious Liberty Task Force.

Freedom of religion and the ability to express one's religious beliefs have been a core American principle since our nation's founding. All Americans have the First Amendment right to speak and peacefully live consistently with their religious convictions. However, these liberties are under assault. As you have previously stated, "A dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom. There can be no doubt. This is no little matter. It must be confronted and defeated." And nowhere is the assault on religious freedom more pervasive than at the Colorado Civil Rights Commission through their selective application of the law, using it to target viewpoints that contradict their own personal beliefs.

For over six years now, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission has been on a crusade against Jack Phillips because its officials despise what he believes and how he practices his faith. After Phillips defended himself all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and won, he thought Colorado's hostility towards his faith was over. Unfortunately, he was wrong. The Colorado Civil Rights Division has filed a Probable Cause determination in a new attack on Mr. Phillips and his business.

It is abundantly clear that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission is incapable of being fair and impartial to the people who are before them. It is imperative that the Department of Justice investigate the actions of Ms. Aubrey Elenis as the Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Division and to actively monitor the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for continued religious bias in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The Department of Justice cannot continue to allow a biased arbiter, who holds a near monopoly on anti-discrimination cases within the state, to continue to wage a personal campaign against individuals they disagree with.

The Department of Justice should have a substantial interest in ensuring that Colorado's public accommodation statutes, which share certain features with federal public accommodation laws, including Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000a *et seq.*, and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12181 *et seq.* are not applied to violate fundamental first amendment freedoms, including freedom of religion. Indeed, you have said the Department of Justice must also protect people of faith from unjust discrimination.

For nearly 25 years, Jack Phillips has owned and operated Masterpiece Cakeshop, Inc. (Masterpiece), a Colorado bakery that creates and sells custom cakes and other baked goods. Mr. Phillips is a Christian who seeks to incorporate his religious principles into all facets of his business. For example, he closes Masterpiece on Sundays, refuses to sell goods containing alcohol, and chooses not to create or sell goods relating to Halloween. Mr. Phillips also believes that he must honor God through the creative aspects of his business, including the design and creation of custom cakes. Mr. Phillips views the creation of custom cakes as a form of art, to which he devotes his creativity and artistic talents.

Both Mr. Phillips and Masterpiece serve everyone. All people – no matter who they are, what they believe, or what protected class they belong to – are welcome in Mr. Phillips' shop and may purchase anything available for sale. But as a devout Christian, Mr. Phillips cannot create custom cakes that express messages or that celebrate events in conflict with his deeply held religious beliefs.

Mr. Phillips was first targeted by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission when he declined to create a custom wedding cake celebrating a view of marriage that conflicts with his faith's teachings. The Colorado Civil Right Commission punished Mr. Phillips, while allowing other cake artists to refuse to create cakes with messages they deem objectionable, simply because their ideology aligned with the Commission's. State officials went so far as to publicly compare Mr. Phillips's religious exercise to the defense of slavery and the Holocaust.

To punish Mr. Phillips, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission mandated that he implement comprehensive staff reeducation to teach him and his employees that it is wrong for him to operate his business according to his faith. The state also ordered him to either violate his religious beliefs or shut down his custom cake business. Because Mr. Phillips could not turn his back on his faith, he was forced to give up that part of his work, which cost him and his family 40% of their income and caused more than half of his employees to lose their jobs.

After six grueling years, Mr. Phillips was vindicated by the Supreme Court in a 7-to-2 decision, bolstered by an amicus brief from the Department of Justice. The ruling declared that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission acted with "clear and impermissible hostility toward [his] sincere religious beliefs," *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. V Colo. Civil Rights Comm'n*, 138 S. Ct. 1719, 1729 (2018). The Supreme Court held that the Commission manifested its anti-religious hostility by disparaging Mr. Phillips' religion, "describing it as despicable," and enforcing a double standard that harshly punished Mr. Phillips while exonerating other cake artists who similarly decline requests for cakes with messages they deem offensive.

And what has the Colorado Civil Rights Commission done to remedy what the U.S. Supreme Court called its “impermissible religious hostility”? Absolutely nothing. Instead, less than one month after the *Masterpiece* decision, state officials targeted the very same individual in retaliation for fighting against the Commission’s abject hostility towards his religious beliefs.

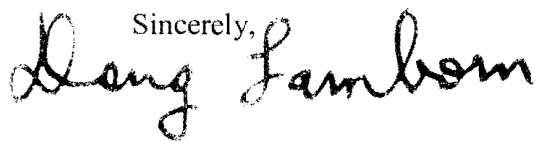
In June of 2017, the very day that the Supreme Court decided to hear *Masterpiece*, a local attorney asked Jack to design a custom pink-and-blue cake to celebrate their gender transition, a request that Jack politely declined because the cake’s artistic messages clearly conflicted with his deeply held Christian beliefs. In moving forward with this new case, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission is yet again confirming that it applies the law in an arbitrary and unequal way, which the Supreme Court has already said it cannot do.

No one should be bullied or banished from the marketplace simply because their beliefs don’t line up with the government-favored viewpoint.

We are stronger as a nation because of the societal contribution of religious Americans like Jack Phillips. Mr. Phillips and other creative professionals should not be targeted by the government for living consistently with their deeply held beliefs just because an agency director or the government doesn’t like those beliefs.

Religious freedom is critical to maintaining a free society, and it must be defended. The U.S. Constitution stands as a bulwark against state officials, like Ms. Elenis and the Civil Rights Commissioners, who target individuals and seek to ruin their livelihoods because of the government’s anti-religious animus. I am asking the Department of Justice to protect the rights of religious Coloradans by ensuring that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission cannot continue its harassment of people of faith in my home state and its attempts to violate their first amendment freedoms.

Thank you for your attention and careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

CC: Jesse Panuccio
Acting Associate Attorney General

Beth Williams
Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy

Aubrey Elenis
Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Division

Mooppan, Hashim (CIV)

Subject: Accepted: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525

Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Mooppan, Hashim (CIV)
Required Attendees: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

When: Nov 5, 2018 4:00:00 PM
Where: OLP Conference Room 4525

Whitaker, Henry C. (OLC)

Subject: Accepted: Religious Liberty Task Force: Funding Working Group
Location: OLP Conference Room 4525
Start: Monday, November 5, 2018 4:00 PM
End: Monday, November 5, 2018 5:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Organizer: Whitaker, Henry C. (OLC)
Required Attendees: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 3:35 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Subject: Religious Liberty Task Force
Attachments: The Honorable Jamie Raskin.rtf; Reglious Task Force.pdf

Good afternoon Jennie

Attached is an incoming correspondence re: Religious Liberty Task Force". Please prepare a response letter with AAG OLA signature. Thank you

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

We, the Members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus (CFC), are writing to express our serious concerns about the Religious Liberty Task Force (RLTF), which you announced on July 30, 2018. The CFC is dedicated to promoting public policy on the basis of reason, science, and moral values, protecting the Constitutional principle of separation of church and state, opposing discrimination on the basis of religious belief or non-belief, and championing the value of freedom of thought and conscience around the globe.

We are concerned that the RLTF could undermine religious liberty by promoting policies that come at the expense of non-religious Americans and other vulnerable communities by imposing a specific set of religious viewpoints through the law. Moreover, we are concerned about efforts to allow individuals and organizations to ignore neutral and universally applicable laws that conflict with their religious beliefs, creating chaos and unconstitutional burdens on third parties.

The historical understanding of religious liberty is built on the idea that government entanglement with religion can be a great threat to individual rights, often leading to religious oppression and tyranny.¹ The principle of separation between religion and government is grounded in the understanding that freedom of belief is an essential component of religious liberty and has deep roots in the political philosophy of human rights and democracy.

Our Founders sought to create a government for people of diverse origins and faiths. They knew that the separation of religion and government was essential to the newborn nation's survival. Thomas Jefferson explained that "the clergy, by getting themselves established by law & ingrafted into the machine of government, have been a very formidable engine against the civil & religious rights of man."² James Madison concluded that the establishment of state religions historically led to "ignorance and servility in the laity; in both, superstition, bigotry, and persecution."³

¹ "What influence in fact have ecclesiastical establishments had on Civil Society? In some instances they have been seen to erect a spiritual tyranny on the ruins of the Civil authority; in many instances they have been seen upholding the thrones of political tyranny: in no instance have they been seen the guardians of the liberties of the people. Rulers who wished to subvert the public liberty, may have found an established Clergy convenient auxiliaries. A just Government instituted to secure & perpetuate it needs them not." James Madison, Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments § 8 (1785).

² Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Jeremiah Moore (August 14, 1800), NATIONAL ARCHIVES, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-32-02-0066>.

³ James Madison, Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments § 7 (1785).

Religious Freedom means the right to freely choose a religion, or to freely choose none at all, without interference by the government. It simultaneously prevents religious authorities from interfering with our system of government and law. If religious practices were used to excuse oneself from the law, it would “make the professed doctrines of religious belief the law of the land, and in effect to permit every citizen to become a law unto himself.”⁴ Justice Scalia echoed this sentiment, writing that religious liberty protections do not extend to “otherwise prohibitable conduct [that] is accompanied by religious convictions.”⁵

Accordingly, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Is there precedent for the establishment of a government-sanctioned task force on religious liberty?
2. Will the Religious Liberty Task Force’s decisions be legally binding?
 - a. How will the Task Force’s decisions and recommendations be enforced?
3. How and by whom are members of the Religious Liberty Task Force being chosen?
4. Will specific religious viewpoints be represented on the Religious Liberty Task Force?
 - a. Will representatives of the community of atheists, agnostics, humanists and other non-theists be invited to be members of the Religious Liberty Task Force?
 - b. Will specific religious viewpoints be granted a predetermined number or quota of seats on the Task Forces?
5. Who wields final authority on which members of the Religious Liberty Task Force will be chosen?
6. What Department of Justice resources will be used to support the Religious Liberty Task Force?
 - a. Will there be any career civil servants on the Religious Liberty Task Force or serving as staff?
 - b. Will members of the Religious Liberty Task Force receive a stipend or be reimbursed for costs?
7. Will meetings of the Religious Liberty Task Force be open to the public?
8. Will meetings of the Religious Liberty Task Force be open to the media? If so, who selects press credentials?
9. When will an agenda for the Religious Liberty Task Force be made publicly available before a meeting?
10. How will decisions be made on the Religious Liberty Task Force?

⁴ *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U.S. 145, 166–67 (1878).

⁵ *Employment Div. v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 882 (1990).

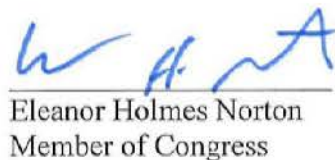
11. Will the Religious Liberty Task Force have authority to direct the actions of other Departments or Agencies?
 - a. Will the Religious Liberty Task force have the authority to hold other Departments and Agencies accountable for not following a directive of the Religious Liberty Task Force?
12. In your remarks announcing the Religious Liberty Task Force, the Department of Justice plans to continue to "remain in contact with religious groups across America to ensure that their rights are being protected."
 - a. What religious groups has the Department contacted and what additional groups does the Department intend to contact?
 - b. Will this contact include non-theistic and non-religious groups, whose right to freedom from religion is equally protected by the Constitution's Establishment Clause?

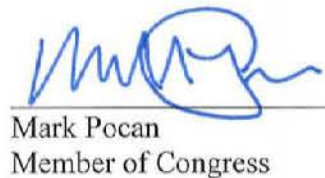
We ask that you respond to each of the above questions by October 5, 2018. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

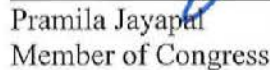

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress M.C.

Crytzer, Katherine (OLP)

From: Crytzer, Katherine (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 1:28 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Subject: RE: OLP Weekly Report

Thanks, Jennie.

Katie Crytzer
Chief of Staff
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
Office: (202) 353-3069
Cell: (b) (6)
Katherine.Crytzer2@usdoj.gov

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 12:01 PM
To: Crytzer, Katherine (OLP) <kcrytzer@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: OLP Weekly Report

Religious Liberty—

OLP is working with OAG and OASG to prepare for the first meeting of the new Religious Liberty Task Force. (b)(5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

None at this time

OLP: Jennie Lichter (4-4606)

None at this time

(b)(5) [REDACTED]

Not Responsive Record

[REDACTED]

Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 2:07 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Religious Liberty Task Force

Hi (b)(6),

Thanks for your message. If you believe that you are the victim of a violation of your civil rights, you can report it to the DOJ's Civil Rights Division using the contact information at this page:
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/how-file-complaint>.

The Task Force does not accept complaints itself but will work with the Civil Rights Division on anything relevant.

Best,
Jennie Lichter

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 12:38 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Religious Liberty Task Force

Dear Ms. Lichter,

I'm not sure if I am addressing this to the right person, but I am hoping you can redirect this email to the right person if appropriate. I am simply a citizen, but would like to know how a person would bring a case, where someone is being prosecuted for adhering to their faith requirements, to the attention of the Religious Liberty Task Force and request the task force to intervene. How does a person go about this? What is the process?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Champoux, Mark (OLP)

From: Champoux, Mark (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Cc: Williams, Beth A (OLP)
Subject: RE: OFCCP

Happy to. Thanks.

MC

(202) 514-6131

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 2:16 PM
To: Champoux, Mark (OLP) <mchampoux@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Williams, Beth A (OLP) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: OFCCP

Got it. Thank you for the heads-up. (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

From: Champoux, Mark (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 2:14 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Williams, Beth A (OLP) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: OFCCP

I generally agree with John. (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

MC

(202) 514-6131

From: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP)
Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Champoux, Mark (OLP) <mchampoux@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: OFCCP

From: Gore, John (CRT)
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 3:28 PM
To: Lichter, Jennifer (OLP) <jlichter@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hall, Jeffrey (OASG) <jehall@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Williams, Beth A (OLP) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: OFCCP

Jennie and Jeff:

Are you able to put together the document (b)(5) about any concerns raised by the LDS church in our recent listening sessions? I can think of 2.

1. Below is an email I received from Marcus Faust and Lance Walker, who are the LDS government relations guys here in DC. (b)(5)

2. (b)(5)

Thanks.

John M. Gore
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
(202) 353-9430
john.gore@usdoj.gov

From: Lance Walker <lwalker@ldschurch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:17 PM
To: Gore, John (CRT) <John.Gore@crt.usdoj.gov>
Subject: OFCCP

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Marcus G. Faust" <MarcusFaust@msn.com>

Date: August 10, 2018 at 10:18:38 PM EDT

To: Elder Gordon Smith <ghsmith@ldschurch.org>, Lance Walker <lwalker@ldschurch.org>

Subject: This is promising

<https://www.dol.gov/ofccp/regs/compliance/directives/Dir2018-03-ESQA508c.pdf>

Marcus G. Faust
Attorney at Law
332 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-5400