



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
1st Congressional District of Louisiana  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Cc: Congressmen Jody Hice and Mike Johnson, Senator James Lankford

Dear Congressman Scalise,

On behalf of the 2.1 million members of AMAC – Association of Mature American Citizens, including over 6300 residing in LA-01, I write to offer our support for H.R. 949, the *Free Speech Fairness Act*.

There was a time when censorship of free speech in America would be unthinkable, yet today we are seeing its oppression routinely, most glaringly on social media platforms like Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook. Equally frustrating for AMAC members are the restrictions placed on free speech and opinions expressed by the trusted leaders in the respective houses of worship that they regularly attend.

H.R. 949 seeks to repeal the Johnson Amendment's censorship of 501(c)3 employees, including religious leaders, and restore their First Amendment rights. This is long overdue.

For over 65 years, the Johnson Amendment prevented free speech in faith communities and other 501(c)3 organizations under the threat of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) retribution. The fear of costly IRS audits, fines, and the loss of tax-exempt status ensured compliance for this archaic and woefully outdated encroachment on free speech as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Thank you, Congressman Scalise, and your 40 cosponsors, for recognizing that no one should ever be restricted from speaking freely about any issue simply because of the job they hold. As an organization that reveres the Constitution as the greatest document ever conceived by mankind, AMAC salutes your efforts and is pleased to offer our organization's full support for H.R. 949, the *Free Speech Fairness Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Carlisle".

President, AMAC Action