



The Voice of Americans 50+

*Better for You. Better for America.*

February 10, 2020

**Re: US Department of Labor NPRM: Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in the Department of Labor's Programs and Activities: Implementation of Executive Order 13831 – 85 FR 2929, Doc. Number 2019-26862**

On behalf of our more than two million members, The Association of Mature American Citizens (“AMAC”) and its affiliate AMAC Action strongly endorse the Department of Labor’s proposed rule that would implement President Trump’s Executive Order No. 13831 (May 3, 2018) and remove the discriminatory regulatory burdens imposed by the Obama Administration on religious organizations and ensure that religious and non-religious organizations are treated equally in Department-supported programs.

The Obama Administration’s discriminatory rule requires that, under Labor Department-supported grants and programs, religious providers of social services – but not other providers of social services – must make referrals to secular providers if someone complains about their religious character.

The Department’s proposed rule would reverse this unequal treatment of religious organizations receiving federal grants and enable them to apply for awards on the same basis as any other organization and not be discriminated against them based on their religious exercise or affiliation.

To quote the President Trump’s Executive Order, this rule is an important implementing action by the Department to affirm the First Amendment’s guarantee of “...the freedom of Americans and their organizations to exercise religion and participate fully in civic life without undue interference by the Federal Government.”

We applaud this action against religious discrimination by the Department in its programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Carlstrom, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert E. Carlstrom, Jr.  
Chief of Staff – AMAC and President, AMAC Action.