



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Mandated Vaccines for NY Children Force the Amish to Act Against Their Religious Beliefs or Leave NY State

Forty-Five states have legislation allowing religious exemptions from otherwise mandatory vaccines for school age children. However, in New York no religious exemptions are allowed, even for Amish children attending Amish owned schools which receive no state or federal funds.

A group of Amish plaintiffs filed a suit stating that the vaccination requirement denied their First Amendment Freedom of Religion. So far two NY Federal Courts have decided against the rights of the plaintiffs and now the Supreme Court is considering whether it will hear this case.

Meanwhile, 22 state attorneys general have filed briefs in support of the Amish plaintiffs, which is highly unusual. One attorney for the plaintiffs, Greg Glaser, stated: "This is not just a New York issue, nor is it limited to vaccines. It's a national battle over the meaning of religious freedom." He added, "These (state) attorneys general understand that if this ruling is left to stand, it gives a green light to state legislatures to target and dismantle religious freedom they find politically inconvenient."

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcm8f3s> <https://tinyurl.com/mrfeae2> <https://tinyurl.com/mrxpwwfn>

Powerful Documentary Available: "Religious Liberty Under Siege"

At www.CatholicLeague.org a new documentary details how ordinary Americans have had their religious rights abused by government. Experts from Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim communities explain why this is happening and what it portends for the future of religious liberty. The film features Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Alan Dershowitz, Miranda Devine, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Don Feder, Dr. Robert George, Rev. Franklin Graham, and others. Hosted by Bill Donohue, President of the Catholic League.