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## Focus on Religious Freedom

### Foster Care Diminished Under Proposed HHS Rule Effectively Banishing Christians

About 391,000 children in this country are being housed through the foster care system of temporary homes, as overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These children cannot remain in their current situations because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

In many parts of the country, it is largely Christian organizations who work within their communities to identify and support Christian families to open their homes to these children. A new rule proposed by HHS would effectively exclude many Christians from this charitable work.

The new rule would consider the placement of a child to be safe and appropriate only if the foster parents and families are mandated to use the child's identified pronouns and chosen name as well as allowing the child to dress as their self-identified gender.

Attorneys General from several states object to the HHS rule because it would force Christians to comply with government compelled speech in spite of their conscientious beliefs about God's design for sexuality and would significantly reduce the available care for foster children.

In a similar situation the Supreme Court ruled in 2021 that the city of Philadelphia's refusal to allow a Catholic social services group to place children unless they would include placement in same sex homes was a denial of the free exercise of religion of the First Amendment.

Read more here: [bit.ly/3T3AsEc](https://bit.ly/3T3AsEc) [bit.ly/3uE52dy](https://bit.ly/3uE52dy) [bit.ly/41hXu1j](https://bit.ly/41hXu1j) [bit.ly/3R3DXrB](https://bit.ly/3R3DXrB)

***Psalm 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.***