



May 18, 2024

The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20543

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court,

We are writing to you as American Baptists and concerned citizens to express our deep dismay and concern regarding recent court rulings that, in our view, appear to undermine the cherished principle of the separation of church and state. The separation of church and state has long been a cornerstone of American democracy, ensuring that religious beliefs do not interfere with the impartiality of the law and the rights of all citizens.

First and foremost, we are horrified by the recent overturning of affirmative action policies. The American Baptist tradition, with its commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion, firmly believes that affirmative action is a crucial step towards addressing historical injustices and ensuring equal opportunities for all Americans. These policies have helped to level the playing field for marginalized communities and promote diversity, and we believe they are in line with the principles of justice and fairness that our nation was founded upon.

Furthermore, we strongly disagree with the restrictions being imposed on reproductive rights. As American Baptists, we understand that people have diverse religious and moral beliefs, and our nation's laws should respect this diversity. The right to make decisions about one's own body is fundamental and must not be impeded by the religious views of some at the expense of the autonomy and well-being of others.

Additionally, we are deeply concerned about the treatment of transgender individuals. It is vital that our legal system protects the rights and dignity of all individuals, irrespective of their gender identity. As American Baptists, we are committed to loving our neighbors and treating all individuals with respect and compassion. We implore the Supreme Court to consider the importance of upholding the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals, free from discrimination and prejudice.

We urge you, as the highest court in our land, to carefully consider the implications of your decisions on the principle of the separation of church and state. Our nation's strength lies in its diversity, and it is vital that our laws and policies respect the rights and beliefs of all Americans.

We appreciate the gravity of your responsibilities and the complexity of the issues you face. It is our sincere hope that the Supreme Court continues to uphold the values of justice, fairness, and equality that are central to the American Baptist tradition and the broader American society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
The American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago