

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1279

To prohibit the revocation or withholding of Federal funds to programs whose participants carry out voluntary religious activities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2013

Ms. LANDRIEU introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the revocation or withholding of Federal funds to programs whose participants carry out voluntary religious activities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Freedom to Pray Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING FEDERAL FUNDS**

6 **TO PROGRAMS WHOSE PARTICIPANTS CON-**
7 **DUCT VOLUNTARY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for the Fed-
9 eral Government to revoke or withhold Federal financial
10 assistance that would otherwise be provided to any recipi-

1 ent of such assistance on the basis of religious activities
2 that are conducted voluntarily and initiated by partici-
3 pants in a program or activity carried out by such recipi-
4 ent.

5 (b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
6 shall be construed to authorize the United States or any
7 State or political subdivision thereof—

8 (1) to sponsor a religious activity;

9 (2) to prohibit a recipient of Federal financial
10 assistance from ensuring that a religious activity
11 does not materially and substantially interfere with
12 the orderly conduct of the program or activities car-
13 ried out by such recipient;

14 (3) to require any person to participate in pray-
15 er or other religious activity; or

16 (4) to compel any employee or agent of a pro-
17 gram or activity that is carried out by a recipient of
18 Federal financial assistance to participate in an ac-
19 tivity if the content of the speech at the activity is
20 contrary to the beliefs of the employee or agent.

○