

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6099

To ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations participating in programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2020

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. ABRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations participating in programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

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 “Equal Treatment of
5 Faith-Based Organizations Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THAT ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE**
2 **OF HHS-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLY**
3 **EQUALLY TO FAITH-BASED AND NON-FAITH-**
4 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services—

6 (1) shall not (including by means of any grant
7 document, agreement, covenant, memorandum of un-
8 derstanding, policy, or regulation)—

9 (A) require faith-based organizations to
10 provide an assurance or notice as a condition on
11 receipt of financial assistance from the Depart-
12 ment of Health and Human Services (in this
13 Act referred to as “HHS-financial assistance”)
14 if such assurance or notice is not required of a
15 non-faith-based organization;

16 (B) disqualify faith-based organizations
17 from participating in any program or service of
18 the Department of Health and Human Services
19 because such organizations are motivated or in-
20 fluenced by religious faith to provide social
21 services, or because of their religious affiliation
22 or exercise; or

23 (C) otherwise apply any requirement or re-
24 striction on the use of HHS-financial assistance
25 to faith-based organizations unless such re-

1 requirement or restriction is applied equally to
2 non-faith-based organizations; and

3 (2) shall prohibit each State or local govern-
4 ment administering HHS-financial assistance
5 from—

6 (A) implementing a requirement or restric-
7 tion described in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(C); or

8 (B) disqualifying a faith-based organiza-
9 tion as described in paragraph (1)(B).

10 **SEC. 3. ENSURING THAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT RE-**
11 **QUIRED TO MAKE CERTAIN REFERRALS TO**
12 **ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS.**

13 The Secretary of Health and Human Services—

14 (1) shall not (including by means of any grant
15 document, agreement, covenant, memorandum of un-
16 derstanding, policy, or regulation) require any orga-
17 nization that provides services under a program sup-
18 ported by HHS-financial assistance to refer a bene-
19 ficiary or prospective beneficiary of the program to
20 an alternative provider if the beneficiary or prospec-
21 tive beneficiary objects to the religious character of
22 the organization; and

23 (2) shall prohibit each State or local govern-
24 ment administering HHS-financial assistance from

- 1 implementing a requirement described in paragraph
- 2 (1).

