



June 18, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and the  
Workforce  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing to you as the president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). The ERLC represents the public policy interests of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, with over 46,000 churches and nearly 13 million members.

I write to express the ERLC's support of the Equal Access Campus Act (H.R. 5505), which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure federal funds do not go to any educational institution that would unfairly discriminate against religious student groups. The bill makes clear that the constitutionally protected right to expressly live out your faith cannot be quashed by school administrators that may oppose students' beliefs. Affirming the rights of religious student groups to freely assemble is of great importance to Southern Baptists, and the ERLC is grateful to you, Chairman Walberg, for championing this bill to protect religious liberty on college campuses.

As a former faculty member and college administrator, I am familiar with the important dialogue brought to our colleges and universities by faith-based student groups. These organizations, and the robust intellectual and philosophical discussions they often promote, help our college campuses flourish because they help young people to thrive. Faith-based student groups not only serve as avenues for fellowship with people of shared religious belief, but they also provide foundational learning and leadership development opportunities during a college student's formative years. As Southern Baptists, we specifically see these benefits through our Baptist Collegiate Ministries on campuses nationwide, which create a sense of community for students, form them in their faith, and facilitate the sharing of the good news of the gospel.

The ERLC desires to see student organizations' right to both campus resources and opportunities fully and indiscriminately protected under the Higher Education Act. As such, we sincerely ask that the



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS  
LIBERTY COMMISSION  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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House Education and Workforce Committee not delay in marking up and passing this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Evan Lenow, Ph.D.  
President  
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention