

Prudential Financial Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research. I want to ask about the company's opposition to religious liberty.

Prudential is one of the top donors to the Human Rights Campaign.¹ HRC is perhaps the nation's leading opponent of religious liberty. Right on HRC's website, on the corporate sponsors page, is a big Prudential logo listing the company as an HRC Gold Partner.² HRC threatens and organizes boycotts when states seek to enact laws protecting peoples' right to act according to their faith³ or use a bathroom in privacy that matches their DNA.⁴ What's Prudential's interest in those activities?

HRC also works to dictate corporate philanthropy away from conservative and Christian organizations. I highly doubt that when shareholders invest their hard-earned money with Prudential that they anticipate those funds will be used to try and root out Christianity and oppose religious liberty.

At the behest of HRC, Prudential also signed an *amicus curiae* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, supporting Colorado's efforts to undermine religious liberty and to restrict freedom of speech.⁵ The company's position in that brief would give unelected government bureaucrats the power to compel speech of private citizens under the threat of massive fines and potential imprisonment. Did anyone at Prudential even read this brief that all but rewrites parts of the First Amendment?

We are a free-market organization. We have never called for a boycott or tried to direct a company's philanthropy. We just want to make sure that the company is actually informed about what HRC is doing with Prudential's money. Can you explain to us investors why Prudential is funding anti-religious bigotry and opposing freedom of speech? And can you explain how this helps the company's bottom line?

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¹ <https://www.hrc.org/hrc-story/corporate-partners>

² <https://www.hrc.org/hrc-story/corporate-partners>

³ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/20/hrc-president-puts-gov-deal-spot-religious-freedom-bill/82047226/>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/21/us/north-carolina-fails-to-repeal-bathroom-law-that-prompted-boycotts.html>

⁵ https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/16-111_bsac_37_Businesses_and_Organizations.pdf?_ga=2.104399552.1101744136.1525438701-265520832.1470858850