

# DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

By Charles F. Wilson, Grassroots Organizer  
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My fellow Christians,

We the people have the reins of power in our grasp. How we use this power determines the direction of the cultural and spiritual movements in this country. We each have one voice, one vote, and the God-given right to use them for good or evil. Let your voice be heard, contact your representatives in Congress and encourage them to support House bill H.R.235, the Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act, and Senate bill S1558, The Religious Liberties Restoration Act.

Vote your conscience; cast your vote for the candidate who will work for good on your behalf. Trust but verify, check voting records, hold your representatives accountable. Your representatives represent you and should address your concerns.

The following article “Bill Would Return Free Speech to Religious Leaders” was published in the *Talon News* by Jimmy Moore, September 5, 2003.

Washington (Talon News) – Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-NC) has introduced a bill in the U.S. House that would return First Amendment freedoms to religious leaders who have had their opinions regarding political, moral, and cultural issues suppressed by the government since 1954.

The House of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act, or H.R. 235, was submitted by Jones to correct an action taken a half-century ago by then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1954, Johnson spoke on the floor of the U.S. Senate and introduced an amendment that forbid any religious leaders to speak in their houses of worship on topics considered “partisan,” including political, moral, or cultural issues.

As a result of the Johnson amendment, ministers are not allowed to speak about abortion, tax cuts, immoral behavior by elected official or other political topics today. If they do, the federal government can direct the IRS to remove the church’s tax-exempt status.

Jones believes this tactic by the federal government limits the free speech rights of ministers and church leaders.

“In other words, Johnson’s amendment uses the IRS to ‘chill’ free speech in our houses of worship,” Jones wrote in an e-mail to a group of his supporters. “This is wrong and it needs to be changed.”

Jones says that religious leaders played an important role in the United States prior to 1954 because they were allowed to speak openly on issues of politics and morality.

End of Quote

You not only can make a difference, with your voice and vote in the battle between good and evil, you are the difference. Help your fellow Christians take our country back. Get involved, contact and support [RenewAmerica.us](http://RenewAmerica.us)