

# **George W. Bush Presidential Library**

**Collection:** Faith-Based and Community  
Initiatives, Office of (OFBCI)

**Series:** Willett, Don R. – General Files

**Folder Title:** Coalition for Compassion

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

## The George W. Bush Library

| DOCUMENT NO. | FORM    | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                                    | PAGES | DATE | RESTRICTION(S) |
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| 001          | Note    | [Handwritten Notes]                                                                              | 1     | N.D. | P6/b6;         |
| 002          | Letter  | [Letter] - To: John DiIulio - From: Jeff Minor                                                   | 1     | N.D. | P6/b6;         |
| 003          | Article | Comments by Marvin Olasky, senior fellow, Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty | 1     | N.D. | P6/b6;         |

### COLLECTION TITLE:

Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, White House Office of

### SERIES:

Willett, Don R. - General Files

### FOLDER TITLE:

Coalition for Compassion

### FRC ID:

823

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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# *Coalition for Compassion*

Media Conference, April 11, 2001

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Further Information:**

Andrew Walker  
(202) 483-6900  
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**SCANLON JOINS IN "COALITION FOR COMPASSION" STATEMENT**

WASHINGTON, DC, April 11, 2001 - Capital Research Center (CRC) President Terrence Scanlon today joined the new Coalition for Compassion and signed its Statement of Principles. He issued the following independent statement:

"The mission of the Coalition for Compassionate matches the goals of Capital Research Center for the new Administration. These goals were identified in our study *Mandate for Charity: Policy Proposals for the Bush Administration* released on February 16."

"We believe revitalizing the charitable sector is one of most important issues facing this Administration, and we think enacting pro-charity changes in the federal tax code can best accomplish this end. The changes we propose, particularly proposals for a lower and simpler federal tax, will put American civil society on a course toward more accountable and more abundant charity."

"CRC's *Mandate for Charity* project recognizes that individuals and civic organizations can meet human needs more effectively than government service providers. *Mandate for Charity* asserts that the cornerstones of a vigorous and independent civil society are the free-market economy, constitutionally limited government, individual liberty, and personal responsibility. These are the principles that fuel the economic growth that makes philanthropy and voluntarism possible."

"The authors of the essays in *Mandate for Charity* include Coalition for Compassion signatories Marvin Olasky, a leading proponent of 'compassionate conservatism,' and National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise president Robert Woodson, Sr."

For more information on *Mandate for Charity* visit [www.mandateforcharity.com](http://www.mandateforcharity.com). For more information on the Capital Research Center visit [www.capitalresearch.org](http://www.capitalresearch.org).

Capital Research Center was established in 1984 to study critical issues in philanthropy with a special focus on non-profit "public interest" and advocacy groups, the funding which sustain them, their agendas, and their impact on public policy and society. Terrence Scanlon, president of the CRC, is former chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission under President Reagan.

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# Withdrawal Marker

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**Comments by Marvin Olasky, senior fellow,  
Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty.**

He may be contacted at (b)(6) or by emailing

(b)(6)

This is a good day. The Coalition for Compassion and John DiIulio are reasserting our joint commitment to the promise George W. Bush has made: "We will never ask an organization to compromise its core values and spiritual mission to get the help it needs. We will keep a commitment to pluralism -- not discriminating for or against Methodists or Mormons or Muslims."

This means in practice that a class teaching about budgeting and saving by citing biblical verses as normative will receive treatment equal to that of a program resting on secular wisdom. A group that believes addicts and alcoholics have holes in their souls that should be filled by Christ will be evaluated by its results on the same basis as an organization that follows some other treatment model. An after-school program devoted to teaching children Orthodox Jewish precepts as it helps them to improve reading will be examined for its success in increasing literacy on the same basis as any other reading program.

All of us are committed to the establishment of a level playing field, not a slippery slope. We are all glad that faith-based programs, to be eligible for federal support should they seek it, will not have to separate their faith from their teaching and counseling, so that some hours of the day are "religious" and some "non-religious." We are all glad that there will be no discrimination against groups from any religion which stress proselytizing, as long as individuals in need have the opportunity to choose secular alternatives. We are all in agreement that government funds should not be used to pay for religious instruction or instructional material, but that faith-based groups with pervasively religious approaches may receive funding for other expenses equivalent to what other government grantees receive.

We all agree on the need for further discussion about carrying out the Bush principle of protecting religious charities from secularization pressures. Government grants in the past have often exerted pressure along those lines, and we want to explore the use of tax credits, vouchers, or formula grants as means to decrease that risk. But we do have faith that these issues can be worked out by people of good faith.

###

**Coalition for Compassion****Signatories to statement, as of 6:00 p.m., April 10, 2001**

1. Paul Weyrich, President, Free Congress Foundation
2. Robert L. Woodson, President, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise
3. Richard Cizik, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
4. Rabbi Daniel Lapin, President, Toward Tradition
5. Phyllis Schlafly, President, Eagle Forum
6. Ken Connor, President, Family Research Council
7. Terry Scanlon, President, Capital Research Center
8. Gary Bauer, President, American Values
9. William J. Murray, President, Religious Freedom Coalition
10. Dr. James Skillen, President, Center for Public Justice
11. Anne Pierson, President, Loving and Caring
12. Dr. Carl Herbster, President, People Advancing Christian Education
13. Jim Martin, President, 60Plus Association
14. Harry Valentine, Chairman, Capitol Hill Prayer Alert
15. David A. Keene, Chairman, American Conservative Union
16. Bret Schundler, Mayor, Jersey City, New Jersey
17. Michael Schwartz, Vice President of Government Relations, Concerned Women for America
18. Marvin Olasky, Senior Fellow, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty
19. William Pierce, Senior Fellow, The Discovery Institute
20. John Farina, Senior Fellow, Faith and Reason Institute
21. Phyllis Berry Myers, Director, Center for New Black Leadership
22. Dr. Richard Wilkins, Managing Director, World Family Policy Center
23. Kimberly Schuld, Policy Director, Independent Women's Forum
24. Larry Cirignano, Catholic Vote.org
25. Richard Lessner, Executive Director, American Renewal
26. Andrea Sheldon Lafferty & Rev. Lou Sheldon, Traditional Values Coalition
27. Tom Smith, America 21
28. Richard Dick Simmons, ??? Men for Nations
29. Barbara Elliott, Executive Director, Center for Renewal
30. Jeff Bell, Chairman, Of the People Lobby
31. Robert C. Heckman, Chairman, Fund for a Conservative Majority
32. Linda Chavez, Center for Equal Opportunity



# Statement of the Coalition For Compassion

We welcome President George W. Bush's call for an increased partnership among government and community and faith-based organizations in meeting human needs in our nation, and we support the emerging consensus among Americans of widely divergent religious and political viewpoints that faith-based community helpers and healers are essential resources in caring for the needy.

We therefore heartily applaud the initiative of President Bush to eliminate barriers to the full participation of religiously-inspired agencies and individuals in the effort to address human needs.

We encourage the enactment of new tax policies aimed at encouraging more charitable giving, and we are confident that such measures will, in time, open floodgates of generosity.

We look forward to reviewing specific proposals to incorporate faith-based organizations more fully into the task of aiding those in need, and we offer the following principles to guide the formation of those proposals:

- \* Existing legal and civil rights protections for all beneficiaries and providers of government-financed social services must be preserved;
- \* No faith-based organization shall be required to surrender or suspend its constitutionally protected rights to freedom of religious belief and practice as a condition of participating in any government-financed program to aid those in need, nor may government officials exercise authority over religious content.
- \* Non-discrimination with respect to religion must be maintained in all relations between government and faith-based organizations, extending not only to avoiding preferences between one religion and another but also to avoiding preferences between religious and non-religious providers and avoiding exclusion of any particular religion.
- \* The only fair criterion for assessing the right of any provider to participate in the delivery of government-financed social service is its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries.
- \* Government funds must not be used to pay for religious instruction or instructional material, but a faith-based organization that accomplishes socially beneficial purposes through a pervasively religious approach may receive funding for other expenses equivalent to what other faith-based or secular government grantees receive.
- \* If an individual has an objection to the religious character of a faith-based organization that is providing services, the individual may leave the program and must be provided by the governmental entity with an alternative program.
- \* The same standards of financial accountability should be applied to religious as well as non-religious providers of services regarding the expenditure of government funds.

Within a framework that is firmly based on the foundational principles of American liberty, we are confident that the energies and resources of America's compassionate citizens can be massively mobilized to care for all of our neighbors who find themselves in need.

# Coalition for Compassion

*Signatories to statement, as of 6:00 p.m., April 10, 2001*

1. Free Congress Foundation, Paul Weyrich, President
2. National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, Robert L. Woodson, President
3. American Conservative Union, David A. Keene, Chairman
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12. Center for Public Justice, Dr. James Skillen, President
13. Center for Renewal, Barbara Elliott, Executive Director
14. Centro Tepeyac, Maria Suarez Hamm, Director
15. Concerned Women for America, Michael Schwartz, Vice President of Government Relations
16. Eagle Forum, Phyllis Schlafly, President
17. Family Research Council, Ken Connor, President
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20. Loving and Caring, Anne Pierson, President
21. Men for Nations, Richard J. Simmons, Director
22. National Association of Evangelicals, Richard Cizik, Vice President for Governmental Affairs
23. Of the People Lobby, Jeff Bell, Chairman
24. People Advancing Christian Education, Dr. Carl Herbster, President
25. Religious Freedom Coalition, William J. Murray, President
26. Teen Challenge, Rev. John Castellani, National Director
27. Toward Tradition, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, President
28. Traditional Values Coalition, Andrea Sheldon Lafferty & Rev. Lou Sheldon,
29. World Family Policy Center, Dr. Richard Wilkins, Managing Director
30. 60 Plus Association, Jim Martin, President
31. John Farina, Senior Fellow, Faith and Reason Institute
32. Marvin Olasky, Senior Fellow, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty
33. The Honorable Bret Schundler, Mayor, Jersey City, New Jersey
34. William Pierce, Senior Fellow, The Discovery Institute



## STATEMENT OF CONNIE MARSHNER

Free Congress  
Foundation

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### Chairman, Coalition for Compassion Director of Governance, Free Congress Foundation

We have come together to declare our support in principle for President Bush's desire to help faith-based initiatives in many areas of human services. It is with a sense of anticipation that we gather here today, to announce the Coalition for Compassion. Anticipation because we look forward to continuing the dialog that is beginning today with John DiIulio, as President George W. Bush's representative.

We are Evangelical, Catholic, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, and mainstream Protestant; our ancestors are from different countries and different continents, but we're all Americans, from the north, the south, the east, and the west; lawyers, clergy, professors, political activists and apolitical care providers. I should emphasize that this Coalition is not closed; we would have had more Jewish signers, had not Passover occurred just now to close down offices that needed to be involved in their decisionmaking. What we have in common is a sense of anticipation that President Bush shares our vision of reconstituting civil society, and understands, as we do, that faith-based efforts are an integral part of that task.

It is time to end discrimination on the grounds of religion. For too long, some of the most effective human services programs have been denied funding on precisely those grounds – because they are faith-based providers. President Bush realizes, as we do, how effective faith-based providers can be – because there is no motivation like divine love to inspire the difficult, compassionate, continuing efforts that can change a life at its very center.

It is also time to reaffirm the true meaning of the First Amendment. Congress shall make no law regarding the establishment of religion, nor hindering the free exercise thereof. Nobody wants the American taxpayer to fund the salaries of clergy. But if the individual member of the clergy happens to have a talent for getting kids off the wrong path, and he or she can reach those kids in an after school program, the fact that she happens to preach from a pulpit on Sunday or he leads a congregation in prayer on Friday or Saturday should not prevent public money from helping pay the rent on the hall for the after-school program Monday through Friday.

Nobody wants any American to be compelled to any conversion. Some of our fellow citizens in America had ancestors in Ireland who starved rather than receive food from a soup kitchen that required them first to disavow the faith of their fathers. But – if a young person is on a self-destructive path

with all that implies, it is in the public interest for public funds to support that young person in a decision to allow himself to be exposed to a worldview based on religious faith. And if accepting that worldview is the key that unlocks his heart, and because the youth has said yes to G-d he is now able to say no to drugs – has not the common good been improved? President Bush understands that it has, as we understand that it has. And that is why we have a sense of anticipation as we come together as the Coalition for Compassion.

This is a document in support of a principle – it is about an idea. It is not an exhaustive catalog of particulars; it is not legislation; it is not implementation of the idea. There are individuals and organizations who have not signed this document who nonetheless agree with us and with President Bush, and with whom we will be working in the future.

There are things we all agree on, which never made it into the document. For example, all of us agree very strongly that tax credits and vouchers are our first choice for implementation. We are keenly aware that the wrong kind of implementation of this concept could end up being more a problem than a benefit. We encourage the religious members of our coalition to exhort and train their members to keep the careful and correct balance that will be required under any implementation. Because it would truly be a tragedy if a single church were to change its mission one nanometer because of government money. This Statement doesn't talk about these problem areas, however, because early on we made the decision that this was going to be a document of concept, not of implementation.

As time marches on, it will be necessary to talk about implementation, and we will do it. But that is tomorrow. Today, we say thank you to John DiIulio for coming to meet us here and we shake hands to show that he is in accord with us on these principles. Where there is agreement on principles, and good will, it can be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Mr. DiIulio, we declare you an honorary member of the Coalition for Compassion, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

# **Bret Schundler**

395 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

## **G O V E R N O R**

(973)325-9700 • Fax (973)325-2239 • [www.bret2001.com](http://www.bret2001.com)

### **For Release:**

Immediate

April 11, 2001

### **Contact:**

Bill Guhl

973-325-9700

## **Schundler Backs Efforts of the Bush Faith-Based Initiative**

### **Jersey City Mayor Affirms Support For Coalition for Compassion**

(WEST ORANGE, APRIL 11) – Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler issued the following statement in support of efforts to advance President Bush's initiative to provide support for Faith-Based organizations:

"Faith-based organizations are providing much needed assistance for citizens across this nation, meeting those human needs that government alone can't provide. What government can do is to provide a helping hand to those organizations that provide these services, so that they can continue doing their work, which ultimately benefits all of society.

"Providing tax incentives that will encourage more charitable contributions is a good way for the government to lend this helping hand, without having to interfere with the already successful delivery of services by these groups.

"We should recognize that just because a program is intrinsically religious does not mean that it should be disqualified from this assistance. In fact, many of these organizations are so successful precisely *because* of their religious foundation. The only fair criteria for assessing the right of a provider to participate in the delivery of these social services is the effectiveness of the program in meeting the needs of its beneficiaries.

"Government should not discriminate against these organizations because of their religious beliefs. If any individual has a problem with the religious message of an organization, they can be offered access to an alternative program.

"I applaud President Bush for his effort to promote these faith-based programs and I want to provide my full support for the principles set forth today by the Coalition for Compassion."

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## National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise

1424 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036-2211 ■ (202) 518-6500 ■ Fax: (202) 588-0314

**Statement by  
Robert L. Woodson, Sr.  
President, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise**

**Background to the effort to assist faith-based programs:** The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise represents thousands of faith-based and community groups in inner-city and rural neighborhoods in 39 states. Ten years ago, the National Center went on a quest to understand what it is that makes some of these organizations so successful. What Works, in other words, and Why? Over a period of two years, we conducted town meetings in seven locations across the country, bringing in grassroots service organizations within a radius of 300 miles of each site. We asked them what accounted for their success, and the answer overwhelmingly was: faith in God works.

In each case, the organizations not only told us about their success but presented evidence of the fruit of their work. They presented people whose lives could not be transformed by jail, who therapists couldn't rehabilitate, and counselors could not repair. But these faith-based grassroots leaders used their own life experiences as examples to summon others to responsibility. They live the principles that they extol to others. We took what these groups from across the country told us, and distilled it into a set of principles, which we played back to them to make sure we had it right, and had a national conference on faith-based organizations in 1992.

**National policies initiated:** In 1994, the National Center and its grassroots network was asked by Speaker Newt Gingrich to advise the Congress about the welfare system, and to talk about the barriers faced by these life-healing groups. We brought leaders of the most effective groups from across the country and elicited their recommendations. They advised putting a strict time limit on welfare payments, and made other recommendations that were implemented in welfare reform.

Their testimony and recommendations regarding the discrimination they had faced because they were faith-based programs led to the crafting of the Charitable Choice amendment by then-Senator John Ashcroft. Other recommendations became the basis of the Community Renewal Act, including removal of discrimination against faith-based substance abuse programs; individual retirement accounts; and incentives for business formation in low-income neighborhoods. We had the privilege of taking Representatives J.C. Watts (R-OK) and Jim Talent (R-MO) around the country to visit faith-based programs at work, including Pastor Freddie Garcia's Victory Fellowship in San Antonio. There they saw first-hand how the power of faith transforms even the seemingly most hopeless individuals in our society—the ones everyone else has given up on.

**Texas efforts:** In 1996, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Addiction (TCADA) threatened to close down the local Teen Challenge chapter—citing as grounds that it didn't have the requisite number of masters of social work and psychiatrists, and other requirements that didn't have anything to do with why this faith-based program is so effective. Several months before, TCADA also had threatened Pastor Garcia, but the power of the media had stopped that attempt. After appeals to the government agency went unanswered, the National Center held a rally at the Alamo with hundreds of saved addicts to support Teen Challenge. We contacted the public interest law firm Institute for Justice, and they filed a lawsuit. World Magazine wrote a front page story, and Marvin Olasky wrote an op ed for the Wall Street Journal. Christian Broadcast News sent a crew to do an indepth story, and ABC Evening News did a major piece, with a sound bite from a man not known to us at the time, Princeton Professor John DiIulio.

Governor George W. Bush made the issue a high priority. We met with him, and provided extensive information to the setting up of the Governor's Commission on faith-based programs. The Governor and his staff did what few policy makers do—they took their lead from the people nearest to the problem—the grassroots groups--instead of relying on think tanks or the bureaucracy. Governor Bush then introduced landmark legislation exempting faith-based substance abuse programs from the same regulations governing therapeutic programs.

**The Future:** We are at a crucial time in our nation's history. We have the opportunity to solve some of the most difficult problems of our society—if we will come together. A great deal has been made about the differences both liberals and conservatives have regarding the faith-based initiative. There are legitimate concerns on both sides, and no one should be vilified for his or her belief. But I believe we can find common ground if we keep our eye on those who are suffering the problems, and focus our efforts on finding a way to give them the option of a faith-based solution.

Robert Downey, Jr. is a poster child for the failure of our conventional approaches. Affluence, fame, therapeutic programs, and jail failed to solve his problems. For too long we have believed that money and social justice could solve the problems of the inner city, but 35 years of decline have shown us that they are not the answer. Our nation is in a moral and spiritual freefall, and the evidence of this is in violence carried out by our children.

I believe that the President's Faith-Based Initiative can have the same kind of impact on our nation as the civil rights movement had for blacks. It can lay the foundation for a profound change in direction—toward solving the problems that seemed insoluble. I am pleased to join this coalition.