



**Resolution Commending the Passage of the Religious Freedom
Restoration Act in Georgia**

Submitted by Brad Hughes, Messenger from First Baptist Church, Blakely, GA

WHEREAS, this law is extremely important because it provides people of faith the same protection from state and local government actions that they have had from federal government actions; and

WHEREAS, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) protections from federal law will also apply to religious-liberty questions arising under Georgia law; and

WHEREAS, now in Georgia, a claim brought under the “free exercise” clause of the First Amendment is treated as a full constitutional right which must be analyzed using the “strict scrutiny” legal standard; and

WHEREAS, “strict scrutiny” means that the government may not substantially impact a citizen’s free exercise of their religious faith unless it demonstrates a truly “compelling interest” and that in doing so the government agency uses the “least restrictive means” to achieve its compelling interest; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of RFRA, Georgia is brought into line with 40 other states that have taken action to restore a full level of legal protection for people of faith; and

WHEREAS, RFRA protects people of faith from government intrusion and being forced to violate their First Amendment right of conscience; and

WHEREAS, it restores the original intent of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which is an encouragement for churches to press on for evangelism and missions in the public square, in word and deed; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting at First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, November 10-11, 2025 pledge to defend the God-given and constitutionally recognized and guaranteed right of every American citizen to worship God freely in thought, word, and action, according to the dictates of his or her conscience, and to commend the passage of RFRA and other laws protecting religious freedom in our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we must defend religious freedom now and in the future for the sake of advancing the gospel and protection for the next generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Georgia Baptists commend both the legislative and executive branch for the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.