

Army National Guard Commander Ousted Over Public Christian Statements

An Idaho Army National Guard officer was removed from his position after voicing his Christian beliefs. Liberty Counsel has since filed a complaint against the Idaho Army National Guard, demanding that the officer's position be restored.

The officer relayed his Christian beliefs on his social media, sharing his perspectives on gender ideology and the sexualization of children. His comments offended a "subordinate senior enlisted man who claims to be homosexual," Liberty Counsel wrote in a report on the matter.

One of the comments made by the Christian officer was, "No child is born in the wrong body."

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The "subordinate senior enlisted man" claimed that the Christian officer's beliefs show "just how much [the officer] truly hates the LGBTQ community." He added that the situation created an "uncomfortable, unsafe, and a hostile work environment, making it increasingly challenging for me to perform my duties effectively.

"With the active ties to the extremist/hate group, it makes me feel threatened and unsafe. All the posts on his social media and how public he is about his hate towards individuals like me and my family. Not just for me but for my husband and my child," the subordinate senior enlisted man complained.

According to Liberty Counsel, the Idaho Army National Guard violated the "First Amendment, Religious Freedom Restoration

Act, the Idaho Constitution, and the Free Exercise of Religious Protection Act.”

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The legal group has informed Idaho Governor Brad Little (R) of the matter and urged the Idaho Army National Guard to “‘unsubstantiate’ the discriminatory investigating officer’s findings and recommendations; reject the discriminatory policy regarding religious speech; dismiss the frivolous subordinate senior enlisted man’s complaint and restore the officer’s career.”

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said in a statement, “Governor Brad Little must ensure that the Idaho Army National Guard uphold federal and state law and protect the free speech of enlisted personnel. This discrimination against an officer based on a frivolous complaint must be addressed and his record cleared and career restored.”

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