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The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

## Bobby Jindal: I'm ~~Holding Firm~~ Against ~~Gay~~ Marriage <sup>Equality</sup>

*Losing the Fight*

By BOBBY JINDAL APRIL 23, 2015

BATON ROUGE, La. — THE debate over religious liberty in America presents conservatives and business leaders with a crucial choice. *the majority of Americans*

In Indiana and Arkansas, large corporations recently joined ~~left-wing activists~~ <sup>convince</sup> to ~~bully~~ <sup>v. that already exist (see the 1st Amendment)</sup> elected officials into backing away from strong protections for religious liberty. It was disappointing to see conservative leaders so hastily retreat on legislation that would simply allow for an individual or business to claim a right to free exercise of religion in a court of law. *You left out the part where they refuse service to gay parents and their child, because that's discrimination*

Our country was founded on the principle of religious liberty, enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Why shouldn't an individual or business have the right to cite, in a court proceeding, religious liberty as a reason for not participating in a same-sex marriage ceremony that violates a sincerely held religious belief? *or, say, providing service at a restaurant*

That is what Indiana and Arkansas sought to do. That political leaders in both states quickly cowered amid the shrieks of ~~big business~~ <sup>the business community</sup> and ~~the radical left~~ <sup>70% of Americans</sup> should alarm us all.

As the fight for ~~religious liberty~~ <sup>the right to discriminate</sup> moves to Louisiana, I have a clear message for any corporation that contemplates ~~bullying our state~~ <sup>creating jobs for your constituents</sup>: Save your breath.

In 2010, Louisiana adopted a Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which prohibits government from unduly burdening a person's exercise of religion. However, given the changing positions of politicians, judges and the public in favor of same-sex marriage, along with the potential for (discrimination) against Christian individuals and businesses that comes with these shifts, I plan in this legislative session to fight for passage of the Marriage and Conscience Act. *maybe more of this?*

The legislation would prohibit the state from denying a person, company or nonprofit group a license, accreditation, employment or contract — or taking other “adverse action” — based on the person or entity's religious views on the institution of marriage. *Use clear language. This bill protects those who discriminate.*

Some corporations have already contacted me and asked me to oppose this law. I am certain that other companies, under pressure from ~~radical liberals~~ <sup>ordinary Americans</sup>, will do the same. They are free to voice their opinions, but they will not deter me. As a nation (we would not compel a priest, minister or rabbi to violate his conscience and perform a same-sex wedding ceremony.) But a ~~great~~ <sup>few</sup> many Americans who are not members of the clergy feel just as called to live their faith

*The business owner is being asked to construct a bouquet, not provide a toast to the happy couple.*

*Not sure you're using this word right*

*like IBM!*  
*Apple*  
*Angie's List*  
*Facebook*  
*Twitter*  
*Wal-Mart*

*Right, that's already illegal. (See the 1st Amendment again.)*

through their businesses. That's why we should ensure that musicians, caterers, photographers and others should be immune from ~~government coercion~~ <sup>that's not how this works - businesses don't get to discriminate against people of other faiths</sup> on deeply held religious convictions. <sup>government coercion</sup> <sup>discrimination</sup> <sup>serving LGBT people, treating them fairly</sup>

Half-true. There are no non-discrimination law in LA protecting LGBT people.

The bill does not, as opponents assert, create a right to discriminate against, or generally refuse service to, gay men or lesbians. The bill does not change anything as it relates to the law in terms of discrimination suits between private parties. It merely makes our constitutional freedom so well defined that no judge can miss it.

I hold the view that has been the consensus in our country for over two centuries: that marriage is between one man and one woman. Polls indicate that ~~the American consensus is changing~~ <sup>60% of Americans support marriage equality</sup> — but ~~like many other believers~~ <sup>as the leader of a shrinking faction</sup>, I will not change my ~~(faith-driven) view on this matter~~ <sup>(faith-driven) view on this matter</sup>, even if it becomes a minority opinion. <sup>what about the millions of people of faith who support equality?</sup>

A pluralistic and diverse society like ours can exist only if we all tolerate people who disagree with us. That's why religious freedom laws matter — and why it is critical for conservatives and business leaders to unite in this debate. <sup>so you can discriminate against them?</sup>

If we, as conservatives, are to succeed in advancing the cause of ~~(freedom) and free enterprise~~ <sup>discrimination</sup>, the business community must stand shoulder to shoulder with those fighting for ~~religious liberty~~ <sup>discrimination</sup>. The ~~left-wing ideologues~~ <sup>Americans</sup> who oppose ~~religious freedom~~ <sup>discrimination</sup> are the same ones who seek to ~~tax and regulate businesses out of existence~~ <sup>discrimination</sup>. The same people who think that profit making is vulgar <sup>treat customers and business owners fairly</sup> believe that religiosity is folly. The fight ~~against this misguided, government-dictating ideology is one fight, not two~~ <sup>for fairness and equality</sup>. Conservative leaders cannot sit idly by and allow large corporations to rip our coalition in half. <sup>a fight I'm bungling</sup>

Show your source.

do you know what this means?

hmm... according to our source - the Bureau of Labor statistics - LA's unemployment rate is higher than 45 other states

Since I became governor in 2008, Louisiana has become one of the best places to do business in America. I made it a priority to cut taxes, reform our ethics laws, invigorate our schools with bold merit-based changes and parental choice, and completely revamp work-force training to better suit businesses.

Our reforms worked because they were driven by our belief in freedom. We know that a nation in which individuals, and companies, are protected from ~~the onerous impulses of government~~ <sup>discrimination</sup> is one that will thrive and grow. That's the intellectual underpinning of America, and in Louisiana we defend it relentlessly. <sup>Source?</sup>

Again, do you know what this means?

Conservatism faces many challenges in today's America. ~~Hollywood and the media elite~~ <sup>Everyday Americans</sup> are hostile to ~~our values~~ <sup>discrimination</sup> and they tip the scales to ~~our liberal opponents~~ <sup>our liberal opponents</sup> at every opportunity. Yet the left has lost repeatedly in state elections all over America. Republicans control 31 governorships. We control nearly 70 percent of state legislative chambers, the highest proportion since at least 1900.

Liberals have decided that ~~if they can't win~~ <sup>while they fight</sup> at the ballot box, they will win in the boardroom. It's a deliberate strategy. And it's time for corporate America to make a decision. <sup>Sounds like they already did.</sup>

What does this have to do with equality? Republicans are increasingly voting in favor of equality.

Those who believe in freedom must stick together: If it's not freedom for all, it's not freedom at all. This strategy requires populist social conservatives to ally with the business community on economic matters and corporate titans to side with ~~social conservatives~~ on cultural matters. This is the grand bargain that makes freedom's defense possible.

*so does this include the right to marry?*

*the majority of Americans*

*This makes no sense.*

**Bobby Jindal**, a Republican, is the governor of Louisiana.

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