

State of Connecticut

KEVIN LEMBO
COMPTROLLER



Hartford

November 30, 2016

Tim Wildmon
President
American Family Association
PO Drawer 2440
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

Dear Mr. Wildmon:

It has come to my attention that the American Family Association (AFA) may be in violation of the regulations governing the Connecticut State Employee Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) that broadly prohibit discrimination.

All organizations must submit an anti-discrimination certification each year as a condition of participating in the CSEC. However, despite certifying your organization's compliance, there are several indications that the AFA may be violating these anti-discrimination prohibitions.

The AFA, on its website, claims that it seeks to "hold companies accountable" that "attack traditional family values."

However, a review of AFA's statements on its website, in published reports and on social media indicate that its so-called attempts to protect family values involve "combatting the homosexual agenda" by boycotting companies that promote equal treatment, tolerance and acceptance of all families and marriages.

The AFA's efforts have included a nationwide petition to boycott Target for the company's inclusive transgender restroom policy and denouncing Zales for "normalizing sin" by advertising wedding bands to same-sex couples.

The AFA has also spoken out against gay and Muslim individuals serving in the U.S. military, and has equated homosexuality with pedophilia, disease and violence.

These actions and statements are extremely troubling to me – not only as an openly gay father and spouse – but as administrator of the CSEC. The AFA's statements and mission not only appear to discriminate against the LGBTQ communities, as well as Muslims who choose to serve and protect our country by enlisting in the U.S. military, but it remains unclear what actual charitable services the AFA

provides that qualifies it to participate in the CSEC. I am, therefore, initiating an investigation to determine whether AFA is in compliance with the requirements of the CSEC.

Per the regulations governing the CSEC and the representations made in the application submitted by AFA to participate in the CSEC, please provide written documentation of your organization's stated policy of non-discrimination, duly approved by each member of your organization's board, affirming that the AFA does not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons because of the individual's race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness as provided by state and federal law.

In addition, please provide documentation affirming that the AFA is in compliance with all federal and state laws, as from time to time amended, regarding equal employment opportunity and public accommodations with respect to its programs, clients, officers, employees, and volunteers.

Finally, please provide documentation demonstrating that the AFA is engaged in the delivery of charitable and public health, welfare, environmental, conservation or service purposes.

State employees have generously donated millions of dollars over the years to hundreds of CSEC charities that provide vital services to the homeless, children, senior citizens, as well as funding to cure diseases and protect the environment. We have a responsibility to donors to ensure that participating organizations abide by the rules and regulations of the CSEC, particularly those that ensure inclusiveness and protection against discrimination.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lembo
State Comptroller

CC: Tim Newton, Chair
CSEC

Sarah Davis
Neighbor to Nation
44330 Premier Plaza
Suite 220
Ashburn, VA 20147