

Fulton v. City of Philadelphia

Experts share their support for faith-affirming foster care

“For Catholics, foster care is not merely good; it is holy. We do this because we believe every single person – especially the marginalized and the powerless – deserves to experience the love of Jesus and to be part of a family.”

– Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami

Chairman, USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty

“America’s unique religious pluralism features countless examples of religious expression—from Christians praying in public and Jews eating kosher meals, to Sikhs wearing kirpans to work, to a Muslim Congresswoman wearing her hijab on the floor of the House of Representatives. But few Americans realize that these religious practices often aren’t protected by the Constitution and are often threatened by government bureaucrats. When the Court hears *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, it should restore robust First Amendment protections for Americans of all religious faiths. It’s a mistake to think that shutting them down— or canceling their beliefs— will do anything good for our society.”

– Asma Uddin

Muslim religious freedom lawyer, author, and scholar

“So many people don’t understand how hard it is to care for foster children—up to half of foster families quit within the first year. It’s no wonder that so many successful foster parents say that the support of their faith community and the religious agencies they partner with has been a vital resource. This case is about ensuring the greatest number of stable, loving homes is available to our nation’s most vulnerable children.”

– Naomi Schaefer Riley

*Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute,
specializing in child welfare and foster care issues*

“Protecting religious freedom and the interests of same-sex couples can be harmonized. Let us hope that the Supreme Court in *Fulton* takes the opportunity to do so with clear guidance. If it fails to do so, the biggest victims will be the many children waiting for a safe and loving place to call home.”

– **Andrea Picciotti-Bayer**
Director, The Conscience Project

“Religious liberty is fundamental, and it is therefore profoundly disturbing that administrative power threatens this freedom. The administrative policymaking process is skewed against religion—at least against relatively orthodox or traditional religion—and in this case, the New Civil Liberties Alliance is asking the Supreme Court to recognize the resulting inequality.”

– **Philip Hamburger**
President, NCLA

“Empty beds and empty homes can be a sign of only one thing—a broken policy that puts at-risk kids further down the priority list. Sharonell and Toni, and other loving families who partner with Catholic Social Services, stand ready to fill loving homes and beds with children in need, yet Philadelphia places a broken policy ahead of these children. Family Policy Alliance is cheering on Sharonell and Toni, and their outstanding team at Becket, as they put the needs of children first at the Supreme Court. If they prevail, they will immediately help children in Philadelphia, but also set a precedent for helping children in need across the country.”

– **Autumn Leva**
Vice President of Strategy, Family Policy Alliance

Additional expert feedback will be available oral argument day.