

m  
*by* S B

---

**Submission date:** 02-Jul-2021 07:31AM (UTC-0500)

**Submission ID:** 1614927112

**File name:** Assignment\_2.edited.docx (16.62K)

**Word count:** 455

**Character count:** 2763

**Institutions of Education, Government, and Religion**

Name

Institution

Course

Instructor

Date

### **Institutions of Education, Government, and Religion**

The public policy that I have chosen to cover falls under the topic "Churches and Elections." It is titled "Americans United's Agenda to Restore Religious freedom: Enforce the Johnson Amendment." (Aguilar, 2020). The author of this topic is Elise Helgesen Aguilar. She published the article on December 14, 2020. Among other policies examined in AU's Agenda, this policy is to protect and restore religious freedom. The Johnson Amendment refers to a clause in the state tax system, which ensures that tax-exempt institutions, such as religious institutions, maintain their integrity and sovereignty by preventing them from endorsing or opposing political candidates. President Donald Trump has spent his time in office attacking the act and declaring that he has abolished it. That is the reason why the American University's plan to safeguard and reinstate religious independence wants the Biden government to uphold and impose those laws; religious, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations are given special tax-free status under the tax code since they operate for the public benefit. The Johnson Amendment acknowledges that these groups could and should talk about social, moral, and political concerns. However, they cannot use tax-deductible funds to advocate or oppose politicians.

In addition, without the Johnson Amendment's restrictions, taxpayers could effectively be obliged to finance churches and other charities' public relations activity. The Johnson Amendment thereby guarantees the freedom of religious houses, the purity of the nonprofit division, and the impartiality of the democratic procedure. Furthermore, most American people do not want partisan electoral politics to tear their institutions and places of worship apart. According to polls, the Johnson Amendment is supported by most Americans, comprising all political affiliations, religious leaders and nonspiritual institutions. People do not want political campaigns infiltrating their homes or places of worship, further dividing their organizations,

congregations, and communities. However, the attacks on the Johnson Amendment during the initial presidential campaign by Donald Trump illustrate that the separation of the state and church occurred.

Additionally, he promised to abolish and completely disassemble the Johnson Amendment at the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast. Furthermore, he signed a bill restricting the IRS's authority to execute the statute later that year at the White House during the National Day of Prayer celebration. All these activities show the separation between the state and the church. On the contrary, although Trump and officials of his government promoted and even engaged in illegal political rallies, neither Trump's words nor executive action influenced the law. The Johnson Amendment is still currently in effect.

### Reference

Aguilar, E.H. (2020, December 14). *Americans United's Agenda to Restore Religious Freedom: Enforce the Johnson Amendment. Americans United for Separation of Church and State.*  
<https://www.au.org/blogs/protect-johnson-amendment>

m

---

ORIGINALITY REPORT

---

0%

SIMILARITY INDEX

0%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

0%

STUDENT PAPERS

---

PRIMARY SOURCES

---

Exclude quotes      On

Exclude matches      Off

Exclude bibliography      On