

[Fighting for Freedom](#)

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By [Dr. David R. Reagan](#)

The National Religious Broadcasters is a Christian organization on the front lines of the battle to preserve freedom of religious speech in this nation.

The NRB was founded 65 years ago at a meeting held at Moody Bible Church in Chicago. Its formation was motivated by the fact that evangelical denominations were unable to obtain radio time because what little time was available for religious purposes was controlled by the mainline Protestant denominations through the Federal Council of Churches.



Today, the NRB is focusing its efforts on protecting churches in general and religious broadcasters in particular from government encroachment on their freedoms under the Constitution. Specifically, the NRB is trying to prevent hate crime legislation from curtailing the right of preachers to speak out against sins like homosexuality. The organization is also battling to prevent the pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act from requiring churches and ministries to hire homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons.

The major battle the NRB is fighting relates to the "Fairness Doctrine." The Fairness Doctrine was a government regulation, created in 1949, which required all broadcast media to give equal air time to opposing points of view whenever controversial issues were presented. For the 38 years that this regulation governed America's airwaves, it had — by its very nature — a chilling effect on the freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion.

In 1987, the FCC, at the request of President Ronald Reagan, eliminated the intrusive and ill-conceived Fairness Doctrine. But there is a new effort to re-institute the doctrine in order to limit conservative talk radio and religious broadcasting. The NRB is fighting this effort and is supporting alternative legislation called The Broadcaster Freedom Act.

Finally, the NRB is the organization that is constantly calling on the FCC to enforce broadcast decency standards.

We are a proud member of the NRB, and I serve on the President's Council. You can find their website at www.nrb.org. Put the NRB on your prayer list and pray for the success of its efforts to preserve freedom of religious speech in this nation.

(Editor's Note: [NRB Today](#) reports breaking events as they occur in Washington D.C. concerning religious freedoms.)