

For Immediate Release:

### **The Satanic Temple Announces Expert Witness Services for Trans Members**

*Temple ministers will act as legal witnesses for trans members whose bodily autonomy is violated*

SALEM, MA — The Satanic Temple (TST) has established a new expert witness program for its trans members using the legal system to challenge discriminatory policies. With anti-trans bills being passed in state legislatures that could potentially impact the religious rights of TST's members, TST has stated it will protect its trans members from violations of their bodily autonomy.

The Satanic Temple's new program will allow members whose bodily autonomy is wrongfully infringed upon by local, state, or federal government entities to request an Ordained Minister of Satan to provide expert testimony on TST's religious rights. According to TST, this testimony will affirm TST's deeply held religious conviction in bodily autonomy found in their Seven Tenets.

"Belief in the inviolability of bodily autonomy is one of our most central values as Satanists; it is the Third Tenet," stated TST Executive Director of Campaigns Erin Helian. "Discriminatory legislation undermines this, and that violates our First Amendment rights."

According to Helian, in addition to providing an avenue for members to request witnesses, TST is rolling out a training program for its Ministers who volunteer to give expert testimony. In their training with TST's executive team and legal advisors, Ministers will develop skills to articulate Satanism's connection with bodily autonomy and resistance to tyranny. Ministers will learn to explain the explicit religious rights TST members have concerning their religious beliefs.

"The Supreme Court, Congress, as well as state bodies, are clear: government policies cannot interfere in people's good faith religious beliefs or practices," noted Helian

#### **About The Satanic Temple**

The Satanic Temple, subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the academic analysis of modern Satanism, *Speak of the Devil*, confronts religious discrimination to secure the separation of church and state and defend the Constitutional rights of its members. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.