

For Immediate Release:

The Satanic Temple Pledges Support to Members Confronting anti-Satanist Discrimination in Public Schools

After one parent in Kansas confronted their school board about an anti-Satanist dress code, TST promises support for any members facing religious discrimination.

SALEM, MA — In Hays, Kansas, a member of The Satanic Temple has confronted their public school board after finding that the elementary and middle school's dress code specifically banned apparel referencing Satanism. The Temple member gave a brief statement before the school board pointing out the paradox in the district having an anti-discrimination policy that specifically notes religion as having special protections, while also banning Satanists from wearing apparel professing their chosen religion.

In a rapid series of about-faces, the school board initially voted to expand the ban on Satanic clothing to all schools in the district, despite their earlier more conciliatory comments. However, after receiving a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation warning about the legal liability of threatening their students' Constitutional rights, the board met again along with the district's attorneys on August 12th for an executive session. Following the brief discussion, the board reversed its decision and voted to remove all mentions of Satanism from the district's dress code, with several board members explicitly citing the threat of a lawsuit as the overriding reason for the change in policy.

"We are gratified to see the Hays school board come to the right decision for their students, even if getting there required us to remind them of their obligation to actually protect their students' rights." stated TST Director of Campaign Operations Erin Helian. "Thankfully it doesn't appear to be necessary at this time, but The Satanic Temple will go to bat on behalf of members experiencing similar discrimination from their public school systems," added Helian. "Indeed, The Satanic Temple's Satanic Representation Campaign (SRC) was created for just that purpose, to support TST members who find themselves excluded from public forums in which other religions and belief systems freely participate."

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, the 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. In response to Oklahoma and Arkansas placing a Ten Commandments statue on Capitol grounds, TST offered its bronze Baphomet statue to stand alongside the Christian monuments. TST hosts the "After School Satan" club to counter the Evangelical "Good News Clubs" in public schools across the country to promote a plurality of religious viewpoints. The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits for the individual will. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.