

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fearing The Satanic Temple, Utah Legislators Vote Down Bill that Would Allow Chaplains in School

Salt Lake City, Utah – The final day of Utah’s 2024 Legislative session witnessed the defeat of HB514. This bill would facilitate the introduction of religious chaplains into Utah’s public schools. Sponsored by Representative Keven Stratton, the bill mandated that school districts establish policies and requirements for voluntary chaplains.

During the discussion period, Rachel Chambliss, speaking in her capacity as the Executive Director of Operations for The Satanic Temple, addressed the Utah House Education Committee. Chambliss spoke against legislation that combines religion with state functions and introduced the potential involvement of The Satanic Temple’s clergy in the educational and emotional development of Utah's youth. Following Chambliss' testimony, The Satanic Temple's participation in the chaplaincy program became a focal point in legislative discussions, persisting throughout every House and Senate hearing on the bill.

The bill initially passed the House Education Committee with a 10-2 vote. However, concerns were raised in the Senate about the implications of allowing unexpected religious influences in public schools and maintaining control over which chaplains could participate in the program. This apprehension culminated in the bill's rejection by a 12-16 vote.

Erin Helian, Executive Director of The Satanic Temple, commented on the bill's defeat, stating, “Allowing any single religious group to influence public schools necessitates extending the same opportunities to all religious organizations, including The Satanic Temple. Legislators unwilling to include The Satanic Temple and our Ministers of Satan in government affairs should consider prohibiting all forms of religious influence within these functions.” Helian commended the 16 senators who voted against HB514 for their commitment to upholding the separation of church and state.

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/>.