

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

<p>Fort Des Moines Church of Christ, a nonprofit religious corporation,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>Angela Jackson, Patricia Lipski, Mathew Hosford, Tom Conley, Douglas Oelschlaeger, Lily Lijun Hou, and Lawrence Cunningham, each in his or her official capacity as Commissioners of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission; Kristen H. Johnson,<sup>1</sup> in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission; Tom Miller, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the state of Iowa; and the City of Des Moines, Iowa,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p>Case No. 4:16-cv-00403-SMR-CFB</p> <p><b>STATE DEFENDANTS’ MOTION TO DISMISS</b></p> <p><b>ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED</b></p>
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**COME NOW** Defendants Angela Jackson, Patricia Lipski, Mathew Hosford, Tom Conley, Douglas Oelschlaeger, Lily Lijun Hou, and Lawrence Cunningham, all in their official capacities as Commissioners of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission; Kristin H. Johnson, in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission; and Tom Miller, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of the State of Iowa (collectively the “State Defendants”), and move the Court to Dismiss Plaintiff’s Verified Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief as against the State Defendants pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), and in the alternative, Rule 12(b)(6) and *Younger* abstention. The

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<sup>1</sup>The correct spelling of Ms. Johnson’s name is Kristin H. Johnson.

State Defendants are also filing a Brief in support of this motion. The motion is based upon the following grounds:

1. The Court lacks federal subject matter jurisdiction as against the State Defendants because no Article III case or controversy exists. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1).
2. The State Defendants have Eleventh Amendment sovereign immunity.
3. Plaintiff failed to exhaust its administrative remedies.
4. Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted against the State Defendants. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).
5. If the circumstances are considered a state proceeding, the Court should abstain under the *Younger* abstention doctrine.

WHEREFORE, the State Defendants respectfully request that the Court grant their Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), and in the alternative, pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) or *Younger* abstention. The State Defendants also request that oral argument on this motion be held during any hearing scheduled on Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction. It would serve the interests of the Court and the parties to argue both motions at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Molly M. Weber  
MOLLY M. WEBER (AT0008313)  
Assistant Attorney General  
Iowa Department of Justice  
Hoover State Office Building  
1305 East Walnut Street, 2nd Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 281-5309 / FAX: (515) 281-4902  
molly.weber@iowa.gov

Original filed; e-copy to:

Christiana Michelle Holcomb (pro hac vice)  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
15100 North 90th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 444-0020 / FAX: (480) 444-0028  
cholcomb@adflegal.org

Erik William Stanley (pro hac vice)  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
15100 North 90th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 444-0020 / FAX: (480) 444-0028  
estanley@adflegal.org

Jeremy D. Tedesco (pro hac vice)  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
15100 North 90th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 444-0020 / FAX: (480) 444-0028  
jtedesco@adflegal.org

Steve Thomas O'Ban (pro hac vice)  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
15100 North 90th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(253) 312-1688  
soban@adflegal.org

Timm W. Reid  
Galligan & Reid, P.C.  
300 Walnut Street, Suite Five  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2239  
(515) 282-3333 / FAX (515) 282-0318  
treid@galliganlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Michelle Mackel-Wiederanders  
Des Moines City Attorney  
400 Robert D. Ray Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50309-1891  
(515) 283-4537 / FAX: (515) 237-1748  
mrmackel@dmgov.org

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA

Proof of Service	
The undersigned certifies that the foregoing instrument was served upon each of the persons identified as receiving a copy by delivery in the following manner on <u>July 28, 2016</u> .	
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> FAX
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Courier
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronically	
Signature: <u>/s/ Molly M. Weber</u>	