

**EXHIBIT "17"**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA - NORTHEASTERN DIVISION

HISPANIC INTEREST COALITION  
OF ALABAMA; *ET AL.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT BENTLEY, in his official capacity  
as Governor of the State of Alabama; *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:11-cv-02484-SLB

RT. REV. HENRY N. PARSLEY, JR., in his  
official capacity as Bishop of the Episcopal  
Church in the Diocese of Alabama, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT BENTLEY, in his official capacity  
as Governor of the State of Alabama; *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:11-cv-02736-SLB

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF ALABAMA;  
GOVERNOR ROBERT J. BENTLEY,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:11-cv-02736-SLB

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

**UNSWORN DECLARATION OF VICTORIA ROBERTSON**  
**UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1746**

COMES NOW Victoria Robertson, and states as follows:

1. My name is Victoria Robertson. I am over the age of nineteen and competent to give this declaration.
2. I am the co-director of the Catholic Hispanic Ministry in Mobile, Alabama. I am making this affidavit to provide information to the Court on how the implementation of House Bill 56 will impact the ministry of the Catholic Hispanic Ministry of Mobile.
3. The Catholic Hispanic Ministry of Mobile works to provide aid to new arrivals in our community and local Hispanic residents to worship in their native language. We attempt to reach out in a missionary way to provide assistance to that community by providing Spanish Masses in seven different parishes in Mobile, provide religious training to their children in their native language, provide a food pantry to those who need food and clothing, provide Bible study groups, and provide translation services.
4. These services are provided by the employees and volunteers of the Hispanic Ministry without regard to whether or not the persons we minister to have valid immigration documents. We have no means to check the immigration status of every person that comes to a Mass, or wants to receive a sacrament. Moreover, our Christian principles do not permit us to minister and preach the word of God to only those to whom the State of Alabama says we can minister.
5. The passage of House Bill 56, even prior to its implementation, has had a chilling effect on the Church's ministry to the Hispanic community. Already, even in advance of the law's implementation, we have lost many communicants due to the fear of this law. Parishioners are

reluctant to come to Masses or training classes or encourage their children to participate. Parents are scared to register their children for school, and small children who used to feel safe at our schools will now fear that Immigration may pick them up.

6. The Bible does not tell us that we should only help those with documents, it tells us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ no matter what. If they are in need and we can fill that need, it is our Christian duty to do so. This law tells me that I cannot pray with a mother of a sick child, or help her feed her children. It tells me that I cannot teach children about Jesus or encourage them to participate in the sacraments. It tells me that I cannot help them in any way as a part of my Christian ministry without ascertaining that they have proper documentation.

7. As a result of the enactment of this law, we as participants in the Hispanic Ministry of Mobile are concerned that we will become criminals as a result of us carrying out the ministry of the Church.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 16th day of August, 2011.

  
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VICTORIA ROBERTSON