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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
7 AT TACOMA

8 LEIF HANSON,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 WASHINGTON STATE,

12 Defendant.

CASE NO. C11-6038BHS

13  
14 ORDER DENYING MOTION  
15 TO PROCEED IN FORMA  
16 PAUPERIS  
17

18 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Leif Hanson's ("Hanson") motion  
19 to proceed in forma pauperis (Dkt. 1). The Court has reviewed the briefs filed in support  
20 of and in opposition to the motion and the remainder of the file and hereby denies the  
21 motion for the reasons stated herein.

22 On December 21, 2011, Hanson filed a motion to proceed in forma pauperis and a  
23 proposed complaint. Dkt. 1. Hanson seeks a ruling that the "Washington State  
24 Department of Early Learning licensing requirement" that prevents sex discrimination in  
25 hiring is unconstitutional because it violates Hanson's First Amendment right to the free  
26 exercise of religion. *Id.*

27 The district court may permit indigent litigants to proceed in forma pauperis upon  
28 completion of a proper affidavit of indigency. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). However, the  
Court has broad discretion in denying an application to proceed in forma pauperis.  
*Weller v. Dickson*, 314 F.2d 598 (9th Cir. 1963), *cert. denied*, 375 U.S. 845 (1963). "A  
district court may deny leave to proceed in forma pauperis at the outset if it appears from

1 the face of the proposed complaint that the action is frivolous or without merit.” *Tripati*  
2 *v. First Nat’l Bank & Trust*, 821 F.2d 1368, 1369 (9th Cir. 1987).

3 In this case, the Court is not persuaded that Hanson should be allowed to proceed  
4 in forma pauperis. First, Hanson alleges that he is a small business owner and that the  
5 licensing requirement interferes with his right to hire employees. Hanson, however, has  
6 failed to disclose on his application any income in relation to this business. Second,  
7 Hanson’s proposed complaint appears to be without merit because anti-discrimination  
8 laws governing employment are a well settled aspect of Washington and federal law.  
9 Therefore, the Court denies Hanson’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis. Hanson must  
10 pay the filing fee for this action no later than March 6, 2012 or this case will be  
11 dismissed. Hanson is hereby advised that, even if he pays the filing fee, his complaint  
12 may be dismissed as frivolous.

13 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

14 DATED this 6th day of February, 2012.

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18 BENJAMIN H. SETTLE  
19 United States District Judge  
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