

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION

State Institutions:
Employment of Chaplains

TO BE VOTED UPON NOVEMBER 4, 1958

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

STATE INSTITUTIONS: EMPLOYMENT OF CHAPLAINS

Shall Article I, Section 11 of the state constitution as amended by Amendment 4 be further amended to provide that the legislature may authorize the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional and mental institutions as seems justified to the legislature?

Be It Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington in legislative session assembled:

THAT, At the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1958, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this state, for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article I, section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Washington, as amended by Amendment 4, to read as follows:

Article I, section 11. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: *Provided, how-*

ever, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional and mental institutions as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony.

Be It Further Resolved, That the Secretary of State shall cause the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published for at least three months next preceding the election in a weekly newspaper in every county in the state in which such a newspaper is published.

Passed the Senate March 5, 1957.

JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

Passed the House March 12, 1957.

JOHN L. O'BRIEN,
Speaker of the House.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

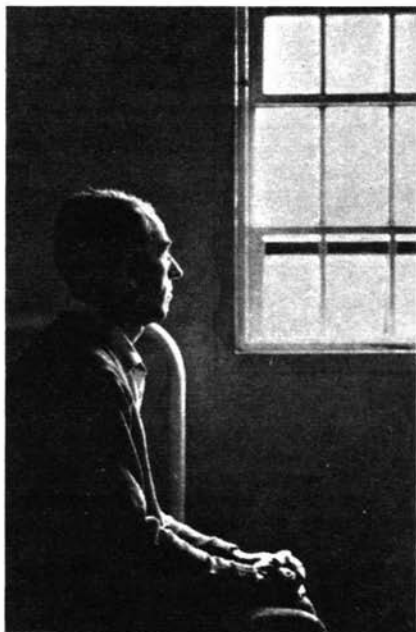
Filed in the office of the Secretary of State March 14, 1957.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, *Secretary of State.*

Argument *FOR* Senate Joint Resolution No. 14

YOU CAN HELP CORRECT AN **INJUSTICE!**

. . . . 6880 state mental patients, 3665 in schools for retarded, deaf or blind are now denied access to a chaplain—a privilege granted prison inmates!



. . . SJR No. 14 does not set up any program, but merely makes it possible for the Washington State Legislature to provide chaplains for mental institutions, state veterans' homes and schools for retarded, blind and deaf.

. . . Modern psychiatry admits the great contribution religion offers in helping in the return to normalcy of the mentally ill.

. . . The Washington State Governor's Inter-Faith Advisory Committee, composed of all major faiths—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—endorses this resolution.

. . . Washington is one of the very few states still failing to provide this privilege!

**VOTE YES SJR 14 TO PERMIT CHAPLAINS
IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS**

Committee for SJR No. 14—N. Henry Gellert, Chairman

476 Lake Washington Boulevard North, Seattle 2, Wn.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State July 2, 1958.

VICTOR A. MEYERS, *Secretary of State.*