



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Shannon L. Kingery
402-471-2067
Shannon.kingery@nebraska.gov

En Banc Review Granted in Westboro Baptist Challenge

LINCOLN - Attorney General Jon Bruning released the following statement on today's decision from the U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals granting an en banc review of the constitutionality of the Nebraska Funeral Picketing Law:

“We are pleased the entire court will review this decision,” said Bruning. “We continue to believe the families of fallen soldiers should be protected from the hateful protests of Westboro Baptist Church members – they deserve to grieve in peace.”

In October, the 8th Circuit reversed a district court ruling that showed protests at soldiers' funerals by members of Westboro Baptist Church were not protected under the 1st amendment. The 8th Circuit's ruling found the district court should have enjoined the Nebraska Funeral Picketing Law, prohibiting its enforcement.

The Nebraska Funeral Picketing Law prohibits protesting targeted within 500 feet of a funeral.

Today's decision allows all 11 judges of the 8th Circuit to review the case.

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