



**ADVOCATES**  
FOR FAITH & FREEDOM

Commissioner Rob Manfred  
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball  
1271 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10020

June 16, 2026

Re: Bigotry Against Your Christian Players

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

I write to you on behalf of Advocates for Faith & Freedom. We litigate cases that protect the constitutional freedoms of Americans, especially our religious liberties and freedom of speech. Since our founding in 2005, we won three United States Supreme Court cases and helped over 65,000 people. <https://faith-freedom.com/our-team/>. We are headquartered in California, which makes your threat of fining Christian players for writing Bible verses on their ballcaps during LGBTQ pride nights in which the ballcaps are already altered to promote only one side of beliefs of special interest to us. [https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/49079138/mlb-decries-use-personal-writings-pride-night-hats](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/49079138/mlb-decries-use-personal-writings-pride-night-hats).

Two definitions help here: (1) hypocrisy and (2) bigotry. Britannica defines hypocrisy as: “the behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do.” <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/hypocrisy>. Merriam-Webster defines bigot as: “one who strongly and unfairly dislikes or feels hatred toward others based on their group membership.” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bigot>.

Major League Baseball’s official statements on equality and inclusion – including from your own mouth – are revealing. In 2024, you said in the context of having a player who identifies as LGBTQ that your player education program “has instilled and continues to foster a culture of **acceptance** across our sport” and you stressed the necessity of creating “a **welcoming** clubhouse culture for working MLB professionals of **every identity**.” *MLB commissioner Rob Manfred tells Outsports a gay athlete coming out is a ‘personal decision,’ and baseball will support him*, <https://www.outsports.com/2024/6/20/24096092/rob-manfred-mlb-gay-lgbtq-inclusion-efforts-pride/> (Zeigler, C., June 20, 2024). In 2014, Major League Baseball proudly held a press conference on “inclusion” at which your predecessor said: “Major League Baseball and its players added **nondiscrimination protection based on sexual orientation** to its collective bargaining agreement,” every player is “now subject to a workplace code of conduct that's formally aimed to

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**promote equality and inclusion,”** and that baseball “is a game of **equal opportunity for all.”**

<https://www.mlb.com/news/mlbs-press-conference-on-inclusion/c-84805506>.

Major League Baseball’s recent statement proves its own hypocrisy and bigotry toward Christians. You issued warnings to three San Francisco Giants players about altering their ballcaps with Bible verses. Herein lies the inherent contradiction. These ballcaps were already altered to promote one side’s beliefs, but not the other side’s beliefs. San Francisco’s white, orange, and black uniforms do not include rainbow colors. But on this night, the Giants’ hats were intentionally altered to include them. This was done to support LGBTQ sexual beliefs. It is well-known that your Christian employees could never support such beliefs, so – in turn – these three men responded to the intentional alteration of their uniform by altering it in kind to equally represent them, which in your own words, made “acceptance” across your sport and made MLB a “welcoming” culture for players of “every identity.” Your general policy of non-altering uniforms changed when the team intentionally altered the uniform to promote anti-Christian beliefs. Therefore, for equality, the Christian players should have the equal right to alter their ballcaps on these nights. How about showing true equality by officially printing the verses on the hats as you did with the LGBTQ logo? That would totally bypass your concerns about player alterations and be equal treatment. Also, when a stadium has a Christian Faith night, does every uniform get officially altered to have a Cross or Bible verse printed on it like is done with the LGBTQ logo? This would be equal treatment.

Your Christian employees, of course, cannot compromise their beliefs. Wearing their team’s logo and city’s name represents, promotes, and honors the city and team. Likewise, wearing a LGBTQ hat promotes those beliefs. These men must remain true to the Bible, which says: But since God “who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16), “Flee from sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18), “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:13), “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22), and “Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful” (Romans 1:27). New King James Version. Therefore, they **cannot** wear LGBTQ logos.

The United States Constitution and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 require you to provide equal treatment to your Christian employees. This issue is much larger than only your players. Forcing stadium and league employees to promote ideologies directly against their Christian Faith violates equal treatment under the law. Not providing them the same preference is disparate treatment. The



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E.E.O.C. strongly warns against this religious discrimination. <https://www.eeoc.gov/religious-discrimination>. Therefore, Major League Baseball and the teams risk class action liability.

Anti-discrimination principles should protect religious believers no less than any other group. A policy or disciplinary decision that burdens religious expression while favoring other forms of identity-based or value-based expression communicates that Christians are second-class participants in the league's public culture. That is the opposite of genuine inclusion.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge Major League Baseball to:

- Retract any warning, discipline, or adverse action taken against the players involved;
- Issue a public apology acknowledging that peaceful religious expression should not have been treated as punishable conduct;
- Clarify in writing that league rules will be applied in a viewpoint-neutral manner that respects religious expression and conscience rights;
- Eliminate uniform changes on Pride nights or officially print Bible verses on players' uniforms on these nights; and
- Officially put the Cross and Bible verses on everyone's uniforms during Christian Faith nights at stadiums.

End the hypocrisy now and provide equal treatment to all of your Christian employees.

Sincerely,

**ADVOCATES FOR FAITH & FREEDOM**

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