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November 30, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of all tax-paying Americans who respect and support freedom of religion, particularly the overwhelming majority of Americans who call themselves Christian, I call upon you today to take immediate action to halt the obscene and bigoted anti-Christian "Hide/Seek" exhibition currently on display at the venerable Smithsonian Institution National Portrait Gallery. Moreover, we call on you to hold Congressional hearings to investigate the Smithsonian Institution for its attack on Christian values and common decency.

The federally-funded National Portrait Gallery, one of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, is currently showing an exhibition featuring obscene and offensive "art" that includes, among other atrocities:

- Images of an ant-covered Jesus Christ,
- Displays of Male genitals,
- Naked brothers kissing,
- A man "chained and shackled to his dominant, horsewhip-wielding partner,"
- Ellen DeGeneres grabbing her naked breasts, and
- A painting the Smithsonian itself describes in the show's catalog as "homoerotic."

The exhibit, "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture," opened on Oct. 30 and will run throughout the Christmas Season, closing on Feb. 13.

The Smithsonian Institution has an annual budget of \$761 million, 65% of which comes from the federal government. And, a spokesperson for the gallery's external affairs office has said that the cost to mount the "Hide/Seek" exhibit is \$750,000, making it the most expensive exhibition to-date at the National Portrait Gallery. The argument that this exhibition is not tax-payer funded because private funds were allocated toward it is patently false. It is housed in a federal institution funded by the American people.

This is a breach of face with the American public. This type of overt federally-funded assault on Christianity would be intolerable at any time of year – but, its exhibition throughout the Christmas season is especially heinous and proves just how offensive it is intended to be.

Creating a Media Culture in America Where Truth and Liberty Flourish

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We find it particularly troubling that this obscene and blasphemous federally-funded vitriol escaped your oversight. Thus, we are also calling on Congress to launch a full investigation, complete with open hearings, into the approval process of the Hide/Seek exhibit.

Americans will not rest until we receive answers to why this exhibit was approved, how the Smithsonian justifies using tax-payer dollars for such a display of anti-Christian bigotry, and what corrective actions will be taken.

I trust in your prompt and appropriate response to this outrage, and I look forward to reporting it to all the members and supporters of the Media Research Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. Brent Bozell III', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

LBB/st