

Children's Rights

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<https://www.childrensrights.org/press-release/childrens-rights-responds-to-supreme-court-ruling-in-fulton-case/>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Today, the US Supreme Court [ruled](#) that Philadelphia may not bar a Catholic agency that refused to work with same-sex couples from screening potential foster parents. In August 2020, Childrens Rights filed an amicus brief in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia* urging SCOTUS to uphold Philadelphias non-discrimination policy, arguing that otherwise children in child welfare could be denied a loving foster home based solely on the religious beliefs of adoption agencies.

In response, **Christina Wilson Remlin**, lead counsel at [Childrens Rights](#), issued the following statement:

The Supreme Courts 9 0 ruling is based on narrow grounds limited to the facts of this case. The Supreme Court held that Philadelphias non-discrimination requirement in foster care contracts was not generally applicable because the contracts provided for a mechanism of individualized exemptions at the sole discretion of the Citys child welfare Commissioner. We are disappointed that the ruling allows CSS to use taxpayer funds to discriminate against LGBTQ+ couples and sends a message to LGBTQ+ children that their rights are not protected and their identities are not valued but we are gratified that the national implications are limited. The courts decision drives home why we need to pass federal legislation to provide consistent anti-discrimination protections for all LGBTQ+ people and, additionally, legislation to protect the dignity of youth in child welfare systems by ending discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation.

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