"There are many cases where people acting on their con- sciences have been investigated by the government…. This is really an important value for our coun- try, in a diverse country, where you can be tolerant of people’s lifestyles but allow people of faith to exercise theirs.” — Jeb Bush, New York Times First Draft blog, March 30.

Over the past few days, we have heard from many on the conservative end of the spectrum, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, that the recently enacted and signed Indiana religious freedom law is of the utmost importance in protecting religious observance.

We respectfully disagree. The law, which is both like and unlike a similar federal law enacted in the early 1990s (the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA) and a number of state statutes, purports to ensure protections against public incursions into private religious exercise. However, Gov. Mike Pence and the state have taken huge heat from many individuals and companies that believe the law’s intent and effect is to allow indivi- duals to exercise discrimination in the guise of religious doctrine. Most vocal have been those who view the RFRA as an attempt to use the RFRA laws as a sword to silence the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or a number of state statutes, purports to ensure protections against public incursions into private religious exercise.

While on the face of the text, we understand that the wise child is wise because he holds both knowledge and a positive mindset. The wicked child is called such because no matter what his knowledge level might be, he has a poor attitude. The simple child has the interest, but not yet the knowledge. The last child does not even know to question. From strange items on our plates to special ways to dip our food, this different approach to our meal begins one to ask why. The Four Questions are part of our seder. Yet, even after they are asked, we read about the Four Sons (also referred to as the Four Children) so we can understand that not only may our questions evoke answers, our answers may be heard dif- ferently by different types of children.

The basis of the piece to the Four Sons comes from our ancient rabbis andRabbi Rosenzweig andRabbi Director of Life Long Learning at United Hebrew Congregation.

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