



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
f o u n d a t i o n

**SUCCESS! MRFF CLIENT GRATEFUL  
VA MEDICAL CENTER WI-FI  
NO LONGER BLOCKING  
"ALTERNATIVE BELIEFS" WEBSITES**



**March 6, 2021 Email from Grateful MRFF Client  
Reporting that the Edith Nourse Rogers VAMC  
is Now Allowing Patients and Visitors to Access  
"Alternative Beliefs" – i.e. Non-Christian – Sites**

**“Success, and thank you!”**

Mikey, thank you to you and your team for the help over the last 18 months.

In September of 2019, I reached out to you because my local VA Medical Center, the Edith Nourse Rogers VAMC in Bedford Massachusetts had installed a web filtering service on their guest wi-fi which blocked access to “alternative beliefs” sites.

In September of 2020, I was at the Bedford VAMC again, and the same web filtering service was being used.

After sending you a follow up email, I reached out to the patient advocate team there, and got an explanation that the filters were chosen by their third party vendor, when that vendor’s own documentation states that the filters are customizable by the end user.

Facing what seemed like dodging responsibility into the middle of November 2020, I reached out to Senator Warren’s office for assistance. I got a follow up phone call and request for more information, to which I responded with screenshots of my emails to the patient advocacy team.

This week, I went to the Bedford VAMC to get my COVID-19 vaccine, and I logged onto the guest wi-fi. It appears they are no longer using the “alternative beliefs” filter, though they have not changed providers on the service.

I have not heard back from the patient advocacy team, nor Senator Warren’s office, so i can only assume that the increased scrutiny resulted in a quiet change in the background.

I cannot imagine a successful conclusion to this situation without the spotlight which your team in the MRFF shone on them in 2019, and the attention from a Senator’s team.

If this happened to me, a grumpy and grizzled veteran, I can only imagine the sort of uphill battle young Service-members would face if this sort of filter were installed on the medical centers on their posts or bases.

Thank you for the unceasing service in defense of religious freedom for all in the US Military and our Veterans!

Signed,  
a Veteran and still serving Reservist

[Click to read in Inbox](#)

**Background: Original MRFF Op-Ed from  
September 2019 on ihis VA Medical Center's  
Selective Christianity-Favoring Wi-Fi Access**

**MRFF OP-ED  
ON DAILY KOS**

**Massachusetts VA Hospital Blocks Patient  
Access to “Alternative Beliefs” Websites**

**By: Chris Rodda, MRFF Senior Research Director**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019**

*(Excerpts from Daily Kos/Emphasis Added by MRFF)*



On the heels of Vice President Mike Pence declaring that Veterans Administration hospitals “will NOT be religion-free zones,” a patient at one VA hospital is finding out that this so-called freedom of religion doesn’t apply to those with “alternative beliefs.”

The patient, who is now a client of the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)**, is a reserve officer and veteran who receives treatment at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts. He contacted MRFF when **he was blocked on the hospital’s wi-fi from accessing certain websites**, with the reason given for being blocked from these sites being that the sites were in the category of **“Alternative Beliefs.”** He first got this “Web Page Blocked!” message when trying to access a Freemason site, and then decided to try to access a popular Wiccan site to see what would happen, getting the same message.

[...]

[Click to read article](#)

**Please Share on Social Media**



**MRFF Information/Contact:**

**(505) 250-7727**

**SUPPORT MRFF!**

**Your Generous Support Allows us to Continue our  
Fight in the Courts and in the Media**

**[Make a Donation](#)**

**[Join MRFF's Constitution Society \(Recurring Donation\)](#)**

**[Help Build the Wall : Donate a "Brick"!](#)**

