



2015 FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

May 6, 2015

PROTECTING MARRIAGE

SUBJECT: The **battle** to protect marriage between one man and one woman is **not over!** **Protecting marriage** between one man and one woman is the **right** thing to do! Hoosiers still **deserve** the **right** to be able to **vote** to protect marriage between one man and one woman!

The **U.S. Supreme Court** will decide the marriage issue in **June**. If the court rules that **states** can **define** marriage as **only** being between one man and one woman, then the **2016 Indiana General Assembly** can pass the **Constitutional Amendment protecting** traditional marriage. The **citizens** of Indiana could then **vote** on **November 8, 2016** to **protect** marriage between one man and one woman. This would **stop homosexual marriages** in Indiana.

If homosexual marriages remain legal in Indiana, then **children** in the public schools **as young as 6 years of age** will be taught that **homosexuality** is **normal** and **acceptable**. This would be **wrong!**

Advance America will continue to help lead the effort to pass the **Constitutional Amendment** to protect marriage. Be **watching** for more details about how individual **citizens** can help.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

BILL: **Senate Bill 101**

Senators Dennis Kruse and Scott Schneider
Representatives Tim Wesco, Jud McMillin, Don Lehe & Milo Smith

SUBJECT: SB 101 was the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. SB 101 would help **protect** individuals, Christian businesses and churches from those **supporting homosexual marriages** and those **supporting government recognition** and approval of **gender identity** (giving men legal access to women's restrooms). **Christian** bakers, florists and photographers should **not** be punished

for **refusing to participate** in a **homosexual marriage!** A **church** should not be **punished** because they refuse to let the church be used for a **homosexual wedding!**

STATUS: SB 101 passed the State Senate 40 to 10 on February 24th. SB 101 passed the House of Representatives on March 23rd by a vote of 63 to 31. On March 24th the Senate concurred with the change made to SB 101 in the House of Representatives by a vote of 40 to 10. Governor Pence signed SB 101 into law on March 26, 2015. Unfortunately, SB 101 was subsequently amended by SB 50. See the explanation below.

LOSS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

BILL: **Senate Bill 50**

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 50 was passed on April 2, 2015. It was passed in **response** to **objections** raised by those who **opposed SB 101**, Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act which was signed into law earlier on March 26, 2015. SB 50 **removed** much of the **protection** for religious freedom granted in SB 101 for individuals and businesses in Indiana including religious florists, photographers and bakers who do not want to participate in a homosexual wedding ceremony. For **more information** about SB 50 and the **loss** of religious freedom in IN go to the **download section** of www.advanceamerica.com.

BOYS IN GIRLS' RESTROOMS

SUBJECT: **Boys** must not be given access to **girls' restrooms** and **girls' locker rooms** in the public schools in Indiana! Unfortunately, in other parts of the country those supporting "**gender identity**" proposals have been successful in passing legislation or adopting procedures that give **boys** access to **girls' restrooms** and **girls' locker rooms** in the public schools.

This must **not** happen in Indiana! **Advance America** will continue to lead the effort at the State House to protect girls in the public schools!

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

SUBJECT: In 2011 Indiana passed the **most expansive** school choice law in the Nation. Every **child** deserves the **opportunity** to get a first class education and every **parent** deserves the **opportunity** to be able to choose where their child will be educated so they can **succeed** in life. That's what **school choice** is all about. Advance America supported the original legislation in 2011 and **supports expanding** the current school choice law so **more parents** can choose where to educate their child.

PROTECTING CHRISTIAN AND HOMESCHOOLS

SUBJECT: **Parents** in Indiana should be able to **choose** where their child will receive their education. This **includes** a public school, a charter school, a Christian school or a homeschool. Christian schools and homeschools are **currently free** to operate in Indiana. Unfortunately, not every legislator supports this **current freedom** for Christian schools and homeschools. Advance America will, as we have for **over 30 years**, continue to **lead** the effort at the State House for Christian schools and homeschools.

PRO-LIFE

BILL: Senate Bill 329

SUBJECT: SB 329 passed the Senate and the House. It dealt with the humane disposal of aborted babies. This can help educate women thinking about an abortion that they are carrying an unborn baby! The bill was signed into law on May 4, 2015.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM TAXATION

SUBJECT: Churches should not be **taxed** in Indiana. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to **protect churches** from being taxed. Taxing churches would harm churches and hurt their ability to carry out their ministry in their community. This means families would be harmed as well. Whether the legislation calls for user fees to be assessed against churches or for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or churches are assessed property taxes the result is the same – **churches** would be **taxed**. We will continue to **oppose** any legislation that could **lead to the taxation** of churches.

ABSTINENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: Students in the public and accredited private schools-when taught about sexuality-are to be taught that the **standard expected** of them is to **abstain** from sexual activity until they get married and then to be faithful to their husband or wife. Legislation has been introduced in the past to repeal this law. This issue could come back in 2016. Advance America will continue to help **lead** the battle to **stop** any effort to **repeal** the current law.

TAX INCREASES - SUPER MAJORITY

SUBJECT: Advance America believes Hoosiers **already** pay enough in **taxes!** One way to help protect Hoosier taxpayers would be to amend the Indiana Constitution to state that a bill to **increase** a current state tax or to **create** a new state tax must be approved by a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate or to have the tax increase or new tax approved in a **statewide referendum**. Advance America will continue to support this **common sense** approach to protect against tax increases. Be watching for more information from the 2016 General Assembly.

ADVANCE AMERICA

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family and pro-church** organization founded in 1980. Advance America is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any candidate or any political party. Advance America is **dedicated** to giving Hoosiers information about what is going on in their state government and what they can do to **make a difference** on those issues of importance to them and their family. For more info go to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.

TEXT OF BILLS AVAILABLE

The complete text of a bill or resolution can be accessed at: <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.

NEW PROUD HOOSIER PARTNERSHIP BOOK

Go to our website at www.AdvanceAmerica.com and view the Proud Hoosier Partnership Video. You can also find out more about the book written by Eric Miller, *"The Proud Hoosier 2015 Resource Book."*

WHO ARE YOUR LEGISLATORS?

If you don't know who your State Senator and State Representative are, go to our website at www.AdvanceAmerica.com and click on "Who Are My Elected Officials?" You can also call your County Clerk's Office.

Contributions are Needed and Appreciated!

In order to continue to serve as the eyes and ears for the families and churches of Indiana, Advance America depends on the **tax deductible contributions** of individuals, families, and businesses around the state. Advance America receives **NO** government money. Your contribution of \$35, \$50 \$100 or more will help us pay our expenses throughout 2015. Follow this link to make a contribution; <http://www.advanceamerica.com/donate.html> or individuals can mail their contribution to Advance America at 101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 660; Indianapolis, IN 46204.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

House of Representatives: 800-382-9842 and 317-232-9600 | State Senate: 800-382-9467 and 317-232-9400 | Governor: 317-232-4567 Lt. Governor: 317-232-4545
Please let us know about any response you receive from your legislator. You can find out who your legislators are and get their email address by going to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.