



# YOUR EYES & EARS IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Visit Us Online!

AdvanceAmerica.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

February 3, 2012

## PRO-HOMOSEXUAL LICENSE PLATE

**SUBJECT:** The Bureau of Motor Vehicles approved a special license plate for a **pro-homosexual group**, the Indiana Youth Group (this is not a church youth group!) that **targets children as young as 12 years of age!** This is not right! Please **download a flyer** on this important issue from our website [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).

**ACTION:** Please contact your Senator and Representative **immediately** and ask them to **revoke** the special license plate issued to the Indiana Youth Group – **A pro-homosexual group** that **targets children as young as 12 years of age!**

## ABORTION-FUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**SUBJECT:** **The 2011 General Assembly** passed legislation banning taxpayer money from going to entities that perform abortions. This includes Planned Parenthood. Legislation was filed in the 2012 General Assembly to **reverse** the victory won in 2011 & to once again **give taxpayer money** to Planned Parenthood & other entities that perform abortions.

**ACTION:** Please contact your State Senator & Rep. and ask them to "Vote NO on any bill that would give taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood and any other entity that performs abortions."

## PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

**SUBJECT:** Every child in Indiana deserves the opportunity to get a first class education. Every parent deserves the chance to enroll their child in the best school for them. The **2011 General Assembly** passed House Bill 1003-the **most expansive** school choice bill in the Nation. HB 1003 created choice scholarships for parents whose children are currently in the public school to help them attend a private or Christian school. The parents must meet certain income requirements. The **2012 General Assembly** could consider a number of bills impacting the school choice victory won last year.

**ACTION:** Please contact your Senator and Rep. and ask them to **support** all efforts to expand the school choice law passed last year so more children can be helped; and to **oppose any bill** that would **repeal** or **restrict** the school choice law passed last year.

## PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL

**SUBJECT:** For over 30 years, churches in Indiana have been free from government control to operate child care ministries. Some legislators want to **take away** this freedom churches have. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to protect churches. Churches are required to meet fire codes and sanitation regulations. But the government should not be able to tell a church: **who** they can hire, **what** they can teach the children and how they operate their child care ministry! If the government can **control** a church child care ministry then the **next step** would be to **control** other ministries of a church involving children including: Sunday school, day camps, Christian schools and summer camps.

**ACTION:** Please contact your Senator and Representative and ask them to "**support the current freedom** churches have to operate their various ministries involving children including church child care ministries and to oppose any bills that would take away this freedom."

## ABORTION - ABORTION CLINICS

**BILL: Senate Bill 72**

Senators: Travis Holdman & Jim Smith  
Representative: Sue Ellspermann

**SUBJECT:** SB 72 would require the abortion clinic in Fort Wayne to meet certain health and safety regulations like other outpatient surgical centers are required to meet. This is a good step, but the language should apply to all abortion clinics. This could result in some abortion clinics in Indiana closing. The bill also regulates abortion inducing drugs (like RU-486) by requiring, among other things an in person exam by a physician before the drug can be provided and it would require information to be given to women under the informed consent law.

**ACTION:** The bill passed the Senate on 2/1/12 by a vote of 36-0. Please contact your State Representative and ask them to "Vote YES on SB 72 to regulate abortion inducing drugs and the abortion clinic in Fort Wayne."

## **GAMBLING - LAND-BASED CASINO**

### **BILL: Senate Bill 385**

Senators: Earline Rogers, Luke Kenley, Ed Charbonneau, and Lonnie Randolph

**SUBJECT:** This bill would permit a land-based casino in Northwest Indiana. Placing a land-based casino in Northwest Indiana could set a precedent for one in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne or another location.

**ACTION:** SB 385 did not pass the Senate. Please contact your Senator & Representative and ask them to "Vote NO on any bill to establish a land-based casino in Northwest Indiana or any other location in Indiana."

## **REPEALING PROPERTY TAXES**

### **BILL: Senate Joint Resolution 10**

Senators Mike Young & Brent Waltz

**SUBJECT:** SJR 10 would amend the Indiana Constitution to repeal property taxes on a person's home. Hoosiers deserve the right to own their own home! The amendment was not passed in 2012 but will no doubt be re-introduced in 2013! The amendment would have to be adopted in either 2013 or 2014, and again in 2015 or 2016. The voters would then have the right to vote on the amendment in 2016. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to repeal property taxes so Hoosiers can finally own their own home!

## **TAX INCREASES - SUPER MAJORITY**

**SUBJECT:** Advance America believes Hoosiers already pay enough in taxes. One way to help protect Hoosier taxpayers in the future 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. Be watching for more information on this important issue for the 2013 General Assembly.

## **PROTECTING MARRIAGE**

**SUBJECT:** Indiana is just one court decision away from homosexual marriages! In order to protect marriage between one man and one woman and to prohibit same sex civil unions, Indiana must pass a Constitutional Amendment. The first step to amend the Constitution occurred in 2011 when the State Senate and House of Representatives passed House Joint Resolution 6. The next step is for the General Assembly to once again pass HJR 6 in either 2013 or 2014. The voters of Indiana would then have the opportunity to vote in 2014 to add this amendment to the Indiana Constitution.

## **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 monitor the 2012 General Assembly and oppose any legislation that could lead to the taxation of churches.

## **FAMILY AND FREEDOM DAYS**

Advance America will host Family and Freedom Days Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> during the 2012 Legislative Session. These training sessions will be held from 9:00 – 10:15 am in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room located at 101 W. Ohio Street just one block east of the State House. The sessions are free and open to adults, senior citizens, pastors, students – all concerned citizens. After hearing a legislative update individuals will walk one block to the State House and will be encouraged to meet with their Senator and Representative and to sit in on a committee hearing and to watch the House and Senate in action.

## **ADVANCE AMERICA**

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family and pro-tax reform** 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 information go to [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).

## **TEXT OF BILLS AVAILABLE**

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

## **NEW PROUD HOOSIER PARTNERSHIP BOOK**

Go to our website at [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://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 2012 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](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com) and click on "Who Are My Legislators?" 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 2012. Follow this link to make a **secure** 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](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).