



FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

April 1, 2014

PROTECTING MARRIAGE

SUBJECT: Indiana is just one court decision away from **homosexual marriages!** In order to protect marriage between one man and one woman, Indiana **must** adopt a Constitutional Amendment. Hoosier voters **should** have been able to vote for a Constitutional Amendment on **November 4, 2014**. Unfortunately, the **House of Representatives** voted to **change** the Constitutional Amendment by a vote of 52-43 on **January 27, 2014**. This **vote** can be viewed under the download section of our website at www.AdvanceAmerica.com. Since the Constitutional Amendment was **changed**, Hoosiers **cannot** vote on **November 4, 2014** to protect marriage between one man and one woman with a Constitutional Amendment.

But the battle is not over! Hoosiers will hopefully be able to **vote** for a Constitutional Amendment to protect marriage on **November 8, 2016**. In order to do this, the Constitutional Amendment must be passed by either the **2015 or 2016 General Assembly**. The voters of Indiana deserve the right to be able to **vote** to protect marriage!

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 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. 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. Advance America led the effort to **stop an attack** on churches in the 2014 session.

Legislation in the 2014 General Assembly would have given the **government** the ability to **dictate** and **control** most of the **daily activities** of the children at the church child care ministry. **Fortunately this was stopped!** Additionally, Advance America worked with legislators in the **waning hours** of the **2014 Legislative Session** to add language to a conference committee report on House Bill 1036 to insure that the government could **not** interfere with the **religious instruction** at a church child care ministry. Advance America will continue to **lead** the effort in Indiana to **protect churches**.

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

SUBJECT: In 2011 Indiana passed the **most expansive** school choice law in the Nation. Advance America supported this legislation and also supports **expanding it** so more parents can choose where to educate their child. The Indiana Supreme Court **upheld** the 2011 law by a **vote of 5-0** on 3/26/13! Advance America will **continue to support** efforts to help **all parents** choose the **best school** for their child!

PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION - ABORTION CLINICS

SUBJECT: **Senate Bill 292** deals with abortion clinics. The bill permits the State of Indiana to be able to inspect an abortion clinic at least one (1) time each year. Additional inspections can be made if a complaint is filed.

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. This means homosexuality, adultery & premarital sex are to be taught as **wrong**. Legislation has been introduced in the past to repeal this law. This issue could come back in 2015. Advance America will continue to help lead the battle to stop this effort from becoming 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 for the 2015 General Assembly.

FAMILY AND FREEDOM DAYS

Advance America hosted Family and Freedom Days on Tuesday, January 28th and Tuesday, February 25th during the 2014 Legislative Session. These training sessions were held from 9:00 – 10:15 am in the 7th floor conference room located at 101 W. Ohio Street and at the State House. The sessions were free and open to adults, senior citizens, pastors, students – all concerned citizens. After hearing a legislative update individuals were encouraged to meet with their Senator and Representative. They could also sit in on a committee hearing or watch the House and Senate in action.

ADVANCE AMERICA

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family, pro-church 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.

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 2014 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 2014. 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.