



# YOUR EYES & EARS IN STATE GOVERNMENT

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

January 29, 2010

## PROTECTING MARRIAGE

**BILL:** Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SJR 13)

Senator Carlin Yoder

Representative Steve Stemler

**SUBJECT:** Indiana must adopt a Constitutional Amendment to protect marriage between one man and one woman and to prohibit same sex civil unions. The first step would be for the House and Senate to pass the Constitutional Amendment this year. The Amendment would have to be passed again in 2011 or 2012 and then the citizens could vote in 2012.

**STATUS:** SJR 13 passed the Senate on January 28<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 38-10 and now goes to the House of Representatives.

**ACTION:** Please call or email your Representative and ask them to "Vote YES on SJR 13 to protect marriage."

## PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL

**BILL:** House Bill 1036

Representative Vanessa Summers

**SUBJECT:** Churches in Indiana have been free from government control since 1979 to operate child care ministries. HB 1036 will take away the freedom churches now have. HB 1036 will give the government the authority to control who the church could hire; what education the workers in the child care ministry must have; and how many children the church could have in the child care ministry! The next step could be for the state to **control** and **regulate** other church ministries involving children including: Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, day camps, Mothers' Day Out Programs, summer camps and Christian schools.

**STATUS:** After individuals around the state voiced their opposition to HB 1036, the bill died in committee. However, Representative Summers has already announced that she will re-introduce the bill in 2011. Advance America will continue to lead the effort at the State House to protect churches from government control, regulation or licensure.

## ABORTION

**BILL:** Senate Bill 198

Senator Greg Walker

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 198 would prohibit "state agencies from entering into contracts with or making grants to Planned Parenthood of Indiana." Taxpayer dollars should not be given to any organization that performs abortion including Planned Parenthood.

**STATUS:** SB 198 was assigned to the Committee on Commerce and Public Policy and Interstate Cooperation. The bill died in committee when it did not receive a hearing. Hopefully the bill will be re-introduced in 2010 and Advance America will be there to support it.

## 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.

**ACTION:** Please call or email your Senator and Representative and ask them to oppose all efforts to tax churches.

## MEN IN WOMEN'S RESTROOMS

**SUBJECT:** Legislation was introduced in 2009 to permit male cross-dressers (men who dress as women) to legally be in women's restrooms, women's dressing rooms, etc. by giving government recognition to cross-dressers! This would place women and girls at risk! Additionally, businesses, religious organizations and possibly churches could be sued if they fired a man who showed up for work in a dress! This bill could be re-introduced in 2010.

**ACTION:** Please Call or email your Senator and Representative and ask them to oppose any effort to grant legal recognition to male cross-dressers.

## PROTECTING LIFE

**SUBJECT:** Advance America continues to be one of the leading pro-life organizations in Indiana. One of the issues that may come up for consideration would be to require a woman seeking an abortion to be informed that life begins at conception and that the unborn baby may feel pain when the abortion occurs.

## HATE CRIMES

**SUBJECT:** Hate crimes legislation would create special protection and recognition for homosexuals and cross dressers. The bill would establish a very dangerous precedent because it would create two classes of victims and punish someone more because of their alleged thoughts. Hate crimes legislation represents a step in the wrong direction with regard to free speech. Will the next step be to prohibit speech that someone views as hateful? For example, will legislation be introduced in the future to prohibit pastors from speaking out against the homosexual lifestyle? Advance America will continue to oppose hate crimes legislation in Indiana.

## REPEALING PROPERTY TAXES

**BILL:** Senate Joint Resolution 10

Senator Mike Young

**SUBJECT:** This proposed Constitutional Amendment would begin the process of amending the State Constitution to repeal property taxes on a person's home. Hoosiers deserve the right to own their own home! The Amendment would have to be adopted by the General Assembly in 2010, as well as in either 2011 or 2012. The voters would then have the right to vote on the Amendment in 2012.

**STATUS:** SJR 10 was assigned to the Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. The resolution died in committee when it did not receive a hearing. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to repeal property taxes so Hoosiers can finally own their own home!

## PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

**Every child** in Indiana in elementary, middle and high school should have the opportunity to get a first class, world class education. In order to accomplish this Indiana needs to have mechanisms in place to assist parents such as an **educational tax credit** or **opportunity scholarship**. Advance America will continue to support **parental choice in education** because it will benefit all of the children and families of Indiana. This includes maintaining the current

freedom for private, religious, charter and home schools.

## GAMBLING

The State of Indiana doesn't need to expand gambling. Advance America will continue to oppose all efforts to expand gambling including placing a casino in Fort Wayne or Indianapolis.

## FAMILY AND FREEDOM DAYS

Advance America will host Family and Freedom Days every Tuesday during the legislature beginning January 19<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 be able to walk one block to the State House to have the opportunity 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/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.

## PROUD HOOSIER PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED!

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 2010 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 during the time the 2010 General Assembly is in session. 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).