



February 9, 2011

## Urgent Legislative Alert!

### Freedom For Churches Is At Risk! \*\* Please Act Now To Protect Churches! \*\*

#### Churches Are at Risk in the Legislature!

**Senate Bill 56** has been introduced by Senator Travis Holdman in the 2011 General Assembly. Senate Bill 56 would **take away** the **freedom** churches presently have to operate a child care ministry **without government control**.

If the government can **control** a church child care ministry then **other ministries** of the church are **at risk** too, including: day camps, Christian schools, Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday schools!

#### Current Law in Indiana!

For decades **churches** in Indiana have **been free** to start and provide a child care ministry for the families in their community **without government control**.

**Parents have been free** to choose a child care ministry for their child that is not **controlled by the government**.

There is **no justification** for the General Assembly to **pass a law** to **control church** child care ministries or any other ministry offered by a church for children!

The **current law** has **worked well** for **parents** and **their children** and **churches!**

#### Senate Bill 56 Would Harm Churches!

Here are just some of the provisions of **Senate Bill 56** that would harm churches:

1. **State government** would be given **unprecedented control** over church child care ministries!
2. SB 56 would give state government the unbridled authority to **close a church** child care ministry **without** having to go to court to justify this extreme action against a church!
3. All volunteers **(Moms and Grandmothers!)** who give of their time at the church child care ministry would be **forced** to get a **drug test** before they could help out at the church!
4. State government would be given **massive new authority** to regulate the **internal operation** of the church through the passage of **new state rules and regulations** under the vague terms of "food, health, safety"! This could result in the government overseeing everything that goes on during the time the children are at the church!
5. SB 56 would create the **"snack police"** by giving the government **control** over meals and snacks at the church! Would this mean no more cookies **from home** to celebrate birthdays?

6. Pastors, child care ministry staff and volunteers could be charged with a **crime**, go to **jail** and **pay a fine** if they do not follow the **new government controls** over the church!

If the government can **control** a church child care ministry then the **next step** could involve other ministries involving children including: day camps, Christian schools, summer camps, Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday schools!

## **The Bottom Line!**

Senate Bill 56 threatens **freedom** for **churches** in Indiana!

**There is no justification for changing the current law that has benefited the families, children and churches of Indiana for decades!**

## **Senate Bill 56 Must Be Stopped!**

**\*\*Committee Hearing Could Happen Right Away!\*\***

### **2 Action Steps!**

**Step #1** – Please **call** or **email** your **State Senator** with the following message: **“Please vote NO on Senate Bill 56 to keep churches free from government control!”**

#### **Senate Phone Numbers:**

1-800-382-9467    -or-    1-317-232-9400

Go to [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com) to find out who your State Senator is and to **send them an email!**

**Step #2** – Please call or email State Senator Patricia Miller the Committee Chair where Senate Bill 56 has been assigned with the following message:

***“Please keep churches free from government control!  
Please do not hear Senate Bill 56 in your committee!”***

Senator Miller’s contact information: **Phone:** 1-800-382-9467    -or-    **Email:** [s32@in.gov](mailto:s32@in.gov)

**Please copy this alert** on SB 56 so you can **distribute** it in **your church**, in your neighborhood, to your friends, etc!

**You can download this alert at** [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).

#### **Advance America**

101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 660  
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#### **Telephone Numbers**

House of Representatives 800-382-9842 & 317-232-9600

State Senate: 800-382-9467 & 317-232-9400

Governor: 317-232-4567 - Lt. Governor: 317-232-4545

You can find out who your legislators are and get their email address by going to [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com) or by calling us at (800)448-VOTE (8683).