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2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

February 15, 2017

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM!

BILL: Senate Bill 487

AUTHOR: Senator Tim Lanane

SUBJECT: SB 487 would add **sexual orientation** and **gender identity** to the Indiana civil rights law. SB 487 would give the government the **authority** to **punish** a business owner like a florist, a baker or a photographer who refuses to participate in a same sex wedding ceremony because they believe marriage is **only** to be between **one man** and one **woman**.

Religious freedom should be **protected and not attacked** in Indiana. If the government can punish a business owner for their beliefs then the **next step** would be to **punish a pastor and a church**.

STATUS: SB 487 was assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

ACTION: If you support protecting religious freedom in Indiana, call or email your state senator with the following message: "Please Vote No on Senate Bill 487 to protect religious freedom in Indiana." Senate phone numbers: 1-317-232-9400 and 1-800-382-9467.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM BEING TAXED!

BILL: Senate Bill 467

AUTHOR: Senator Jim Buck

SUBJECT: SB 467 would permit a **local** unit of **government** to **tax churches** by giving them the **authority** to impose a public safety user fee. 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 deals with **user fees** (like SB 467) to be assessed against churches, or a **payment in lieu of taxes** (PILOT), or churches are assessed **property taxes** directly, the result is the same – churches would be **taxed**.

STATUS: SB 467 was heard in committee on 2/8/17. No vote was taken. Another committee hearing will be held on Wednesday February 22nd.

ACTION: If you want to protect churches from being taxed, call or email your state senator with the following message: "Please Vote No on Senate Bill 467 to protect churches from being taxed." Senate phone numbers: 1-317-232-9400 and 1-800-382-9467.

PRO-LIFE!

BILL: Senate Bill 118

AUTHOR: Senator Dennis Kruse

SUBJECT: SB 118 would require an **abortion provider** to perform an **ultrasound** at least **48 hours** before an abortion could be performed; and **advise** the woman seeking an abortion about the **ultrasound** of her **unborn baby** and require her to **view** the ultrasound and **listen** to the **baby's heartbeat** if it is audible.

STATUS: SB 118 was assigned to the Committee on Health and Provider Services.

ACTION: If you support helping to protect unborn children, call or email your state senator with the following message: "Please Vote Yes for Senate Bill 118 to help protect unborn children." Senate phone numbers: 1-317-232-9400 and 1-800-382-9467.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL!

SUBJECT: Churches in Indiana are **currently free** to operate their various ministries **without** government control. Churches are of course required to meet fire codes and sanitation requirements. But the government should **not** be able to tell a church **who** they can hire, **what** they can teach and **how** they operate! This includes **all** of the ministries of the church including: a child care ministry, Vacation Bible School, day camp, Sunday school, Christian school, etc. Unfortunately, some legislators want to **take away** this freedom churches have enjoyed for generations! **Advance America** will continue to **lead** the effort at the State House to protect churches!

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.

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://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/>.

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 2017 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 2017. Follow this link to make a contribution; <https://www.advanceamerica.com/contribute/> 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.