



# YOUR EYES & EARS IN STATE GOVERNMENT

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2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

March 13, 2017

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN SCHOOLS!

**BILL:** House Bill 1024

**AUTHOR:** Representative John Bartlett

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 1024 would prohibit public schools from discriminating against students based on the student's religious beliefs. For example, HB 1024 would protect a student: who wore a cross to school, who organized a Bible study during the lunch hour, who expressed their belief in the accuracy of the Bible in a homework assignment, and who wanted to pray in the Name of Jesus at graduation.

**STATUS:** HB 1024 passed the House of Representatives on 2/27/2017 by a vote of 83 to 12 and is now in the Senate.

**ACTION:** If you support protecting the religious freedom of students in the public schools, call or email your Senator with the following message: "Please Vote Yes on House Bill 1024 to protect religious freedom for students in the public schools." 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:** In response to the massive outpouring of opposition to SB 467, all of the language dealing with the taxation of churches was removed from SB 467 in a committee hearing on February 21, 2017.

## PRO-LIFE!

**BILL:** Senate Bill 404

**AUTHOR:** Senator Erin Houchin

**SUBJECT:** Here are some of the provisions of SB 404: parents of a pregnant minor would be able to testify at a court hearing where their daughter is seeking permission to get an abortion without her parents' consent; parents would have the right to sue an individual who assists their minor daughter in getting an abortion; and a doctor who performs an abortion on a girl younger than 16 years of age could lose his medical license if he does not notify the State of Indiana.

**STATUS:** SB 404 passed the Senate 2/28/17 by a vote of 36 to 13 and is now in the House of Representatives.

**ACTION:** If you support this pro-life bill, call or email your Representative with the following message: "Please Vote Yes for Senate Bill 404 to help protect minor girls who get pregnant." House phone numbers: 1-317-232-9600 and 1-800-382-9842.

## 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](http://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](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 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](http://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](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).