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FINAL 2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

May 8, 2017

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN SCHOOLS!

BILL: House Bill 1024

AUTHOR: Representative John Bartlett

SPONSOR: Senator Dennis Kruse

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 organize a time for students to pray before school.

STATUS: HB 1024 passed the House of Representatives on 2/27/2017 by a vote of 83 to 12 and passed the Senate on 3/30/17 by a vote of 44-5. On 4/13/17 the House of Representatives concurred with Senate changes made to HB 1024. HB 1024 was signed by Governor Holcomb 4/27/17.

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

SPONSOR: Representative Peggy Mayfield

SUBJECT: Here are some of the provisions of SB 404: parents of a pregnant minor could 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 the House of Representatives on 4/4/17 by a vote of 75 to 23. The Senate concurred on 4/12/17 with the changes made by the House of Representatives to SB 404. SB 404 was signed by Governor Holcomb 4/25/17.

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.