



2019 FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

April 29, 2019

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN & PARENTAL RIGHTS - A MISSED OPPORTUNITY!**

**BILL:** House Bill 1004

**AUTHOR:** Representative Wendy McNamara

**SPONSOR:** Senator Jeff Raatz

**SUBJECT:** Parents are responsible for raising their children and not the government! Fortunately, language was deleted from HB 1004 that would have forced students to answer very personal and inappropriate questions from a federal government survey about their sexual activity – **without prior written parental consent!** Unfortunately, however, language was deleted from the Senate version that had been added by Senators Jeff Raatz and Dennis Kruse that would have **required prior written parental consent** before a child could be subjected to a mental health screening or assessment or referred for mental health treatment. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to protect the more than 1,000,000 children in the public schools and the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Be watching for more information on this important issue.

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN & PARENTAL RIGHTS - A VICTORY!**

**BILL:** Senate Bill 266

**AUTHOR:** Senator Mike Crider

**SPONSOR:** Representative Tony Cook

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 266 ordered state government to track all children in a government data base – **beginning at birth** – for social emotional and mental health issues! The government would then **track all school children** in public, private, Christian and home school settings! More information on SB 266 is available under the download section of our website at [www.AdvanceAmerica.com](http://www.AdvanceAmerica.com).

**FINAL STATUS:** SB 266 passed the Senate 29-20 on 2/26/19. Fortunately, SB 266 died in the House of Representatives. No doubt there will be an effort in the 2020 General Assembly to pass legislation giving the government more control over the children of Indiana. Advance America led the effort to stop SB 266 this year and will lead the effort in the 2020 legislature to protect children and parental rights.

### **ABORTION!**

**BILL:** House Bill 1211

**AUTHOR:** Representative Peggy Mayfield

**SPONSOR:** Senator Liz Brown

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 1211 would ban dismemberment abortions in the second trimester or later unless there is a serious health risk to the mother. This procedure was called barbaric during a hearing on HB 1211.

**FINAL STATUS:** House Bill 1211 passed the House of Representatives on 2/21/19 by a vote of 71-25 and 38-10 on 4/2/19 in the Senate. The bill was signed into law by Governor Holcomb on 4/24/19.

### **HATE CRIMES!**

**BILL:** Senate Bill 198

**AUTHOR:** Senator Mike Bohacek

**SPONSORS:** Representatives Jim Pressel and Greg Steuerwald

**SUBJECT:** Once again there was an attempt in the General Assembly to pass hate crime legislation. Rep. Greg Steuerwald amended Senate Bill 198 to state that all individuals who are victims of a crime would be treated the same. This is in line with current Indiana law.

**FINAL STATUS:** SB 198 passed the House on 3/26/19 by a vote of 57-39 and was returned to the Senate. The Senate concurred with the House version on 4/2/19 by a vote of 34-14. Governor Holcomb signed the bill on 4/3/19.

## PROTECTING CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS!

**SUBJECT:** Christian schools are presently free in Indiana to operate according to the Bible. Some members of the General Assembly want to take this freedom away. On February 21, 2019 Representative Dan Forestal offered **Amendment #41 to House Bill 1001**. This Amendment would have **forced Christian schools** to hire teachers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Amendment would also **force Christian schools** to admit students regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. The Amendment was defeated 30-62. There will no doubt be other efforts in the future to harm the freedom Christian schools now have in Indiana. By the way, if the government can tell a Christian school how to operate, they can tell a **church** as well!

**Advance America** will continue to **lead** the effort to protect the current freedom Christian schools now have to operate including the right to hire their own teachers and staff and to admit students according to Biblical guidelines.

## PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND TAXATION!

**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: 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 from government control just as we successfully did in the 2019 legislature.

## 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.

## 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/2019/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 2019 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.

*"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."*

-Edmund Burke

### 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 2019. 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).