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2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

April 12, 2019

PROTECTING CHILDREN & PARENTAL RIGHTS - A HUGE 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! Senator Dennis Kruse offered an amendment to HB 1004 in the Senate Education Committee on April 3 to protect **over 1,000,000 children in the public schools!**

Senator Kruse's Amendment would: 1) **protect all children** in the public schools from being subjected to a mental health screening, assessment, evaluation, or mental health services without prior written informed parental consent; 2) **protect children** from being inappropriately **labeled** as "mentally ill" or "not normal" and 3) **protect children in Christian and homeschools** because those who oppose Senator Kruse's Amendment to protect children in the public schools, also want to require all Christian and homeschool children to **undergo** mental health screenings and assessments too!

STATUS: HB 1004 with the Kruse Amendment in it passed the State Senate on 4/11/19 by a vote of 31-17 and now goes back to the House of Representatives.

ACTION: If you support protecting the children of Indiana, then contact your State Representative with the following message: "Please vote YES to CONCUR with the Senate version of HB 1004 to protect the children and parental rights."

PROTECTING CHILDREN & PARENTAL RIGHTS!

BILL: Senate Bill 266

AUTHOR: Senator Mike Crider

SPONSOR: Representative Tony Cook

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 266 would give the government **unprecedented** control over all children in Indiana - **beginning at birth!** More

information about SB 266 can be found under the download section of our website at www.advanceamerica.com.

STATUS: SB 266 passed the Senate 29-20 on 2/26/19. Fortunately, the bill did not get a hearing in the House of Representatives. We will work to make sure SB 266 does not get added to another bill.

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 House Bill 1211.

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 now goes to the Governor.

HATE CRIMES!

BILL: Senate Bill 198

AUTHOR: Senator Mike Bohacek

SPONSOR: 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.

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 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!

STATUS: To see how your Representative voted on Amendment #41 to harm the freedom Christian schools now have, go to the download section of www.AdvanceAmerica.com.

ACTION: If you believe that Christian schools should **continue to be free** to operate without government control, contact your Senator and Representative with the following message: "Please vote against any amendment or any bill that would harm 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." State Senate: 1-800-382-9467 House of Representatives: 1-800-382-9842

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 and taxation!

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.

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 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 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.