



2021 FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

May 12, 2021

## Protecting Families, Churches, Schools and Businesses from Executive Orders by the Governor

**BACKGROUND:** In 2020 Governor Holcomb issued a series of **Executive Orders** beginning in March, that among other things: **closed** churches (and kept abortion clinics open!), **closed** schools, **closed** thousands of businesses, **forced** hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers out of work and **forced** every man, woman and child to stay at home (in essence placing every Hoosier under house arrest!) unless they had permission from the Governor to leave their home. Anyone who violated an Executive Order could be **arrested** and go to **jail** for up to 180 days and pay a **fine** of up to \$1,000! All of the Executive Orders issued by Governor Holcomb were done **without the approval of the General Assembly** and **without giving citizens** the chance to go to the State House and testify against the Executive Orders!

### Victories In The 2021 General Assembly To Help Protect Hoosiers In The Future!

**1. Protecting Hoosier Families, Churches, Schools & Businesses – House Bill 1123** will give the General Assembly the opportunity to come back to the State House to protect Hoosiers from future detrimental Executive Orders by the Governor during a declared emergency. Governor Holcomb vetoed HB 1123, however the Senate & House overrode the veto.

**2. Protecting Hoosiers from Local Health Orders**– Unelected local health officials also issued orders that have been detrimental to Hoosier families, churches, schools and businesses since 2020. **Senate Bill 5** provides for an appeal procedure of one of these local health orders to **local elected officials**. Governor Holcomb vetoed SB 5, however the Senate & House overrode the veto.

**3. Protecting Churches and Individuals** – Since last March, Governor Holcomb, along with some local health officials, closed churches and controlled how a church could operate. To protect churches and individuals in the future, **Senate Bill 263** was overwhelmingly passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Holcomb to state that churches provide “**essential services**” and that state and local governments cannot prohibit or interfere with the right of an individual to worship freely in Indiana.

**4. Prohibiting Vaccine Passports** – **House Bill 1405** will help protect the freedom of all Hoosiers by prohibiting the state or local governments from creating or requiring a Covid-19 vaccine passport.

## PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Indiana currently has one of the most expansive school choice laws in the Nation. This law underscores the fact that parents are responsible for raising their children and not the government. The current school choice law helps thousands of parents choose the best educational setting for their children. Thousands of additional parents will benefit from language added to the state budget this year, **House Bill 1001**, that vastly expands the current law. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a family of four (4) earning up to \$145,000 annually will be eligible to participate in the school choice voucher program. Additionally, beginning in the next school year, every voucher will now be worth 90% of the tuition support level. HB 1001 also created an Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program to help pay for schooling and therapy for students in special education. Indiana will continue to be a leader in supporting the principle that “the money should follow the child.” Governor Holcomb signed HB 1001.

## 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. Fortunately, no legislation passed in the 2021 General Assembly to force **Christian schools** to **hire** teachers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This effort could have also **forced Christian schools** to **admit** students regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. By the way, if the government can tell a Christian school how to operate, they can tell a **church** as well!

## ABOUT 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/2021/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 2021 Resource Book*.”

**Advance America** will continue to **lead** the effort at the State House 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 WOMEN, GIRLS AND UNBORN CHILDREN

The 2021 General Assembly passed **House Bill 1577** to help protect women and girls and unborn children. HB 1577 requires women to be advised that a chemical abortion could be reversed after they have taken only the first pill to abort their baby. The bill also requires the parental consent form permitting a minor to get an abortion to be notarized. Another provision of HB 1577 will now require a pregnant woman to be provided with an ultrasound of her unborn baby – at no cost to her – before an abortion is to be performed. Governor Holcomb signed HB 1577.

## PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND TAXATION

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 from **being taxed!**

### WHO ARE YOUR LEGISLATORS?

If you don't know who your State Senator and 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 2021. 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).