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FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

March 15, 2010

PROTECTING MARRIAGE

BILL: Senate Joint Resolution 13 (SJR 13)

Senator Carlin Yoder

Representative Steve Stemler

SUBJECT: Indiana **must** adopt a **Constitutional Amendment** to protect marriage between one man and one woman and to prohibit same sex civil unions. The **first step** would be for the House and Senate to pass the Constitutional Amendment. The Amendment will now have to be passed in 2011 or 2012 and then again in 2013 or 2014 before the citizens could vote in 2014.

STATUS: SJR 13 passed the Senate on January 28th by a vote of 38-10. Unfortunately SJR 13 died in the House of Representatives when it did not receive a committee hearing. **Advance America** will continue to **help lead** the effort to pass a **Constitution Amendment** to **protect marriage** between one man and one woman and to ban same sex civil unions.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL

BILL: House Bill 1036

Representative Vanessa Summers

SUBJECT: Churches in Indiana have been **free** from government control since 1979 to operate child care ministries. HB 1036 would have **taken away** the freedom churches now have. HB 1036 would have given the **government** the authority to **control** who the church could **hire**; what **education** the workers in the child care ministry must have; and **how many** children the church could have in the child care ministry! The next step could be for the state to **control** and **regulate** other church ministries involving children including: Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, day camps, Mothers' Day Out Programs, summer camps and Christian schools.

STATUS: After individuals around the state voiced their opposition to HB 1036, the bill died in committee. However, Representative Summers has already announced that she will re-introduce the bill in 2011. **Advance America** will **continue** to **lead** the effort at the State House to **protect churches** from government control, regulation or licensure.

ABORTION

BILL: Senate Bill 198

Senator Greg Walker

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 198 would have prohibited "state agencies from entering into contracts with or making grants to Planned Parenthood of Indiana." Taxpayer dollars should **not** be given to any organization that **supports or performs abortion** including Planned Parenthood.

STATUS: SB 198 was assigned to the Committee on Commerce and Public Policy and Interstate Cooperation. The bill died in committee when it did not receive a hearing. Hopefully the bill will be re-introduced in 2011 and **Advance America** will be there to **support** it.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM TAXATION

SUBJECT: 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 calls for user fees to be assessed against churches or for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or churches are assessed property taxes the result is the same – churches would be taxed.

MEN IN WOMEN'S RESTROOMS

SUBJECT: Legislation was introduced in 2009 to permit male cross-dressers (men who dress as women) to **legally** be in **women's restrooms, women's dressing rooms**, etc. by giving government recognition to cross-dressers! This would place women and girls at risk! Additionally, businesses, religious organizations and possibly churches could be sued if they fired a man who showed up for work in a dress!

STATUS: This bill could be reintroduced in the 2011 General Assembly. **Advance America** will **continue** to **help lead** the effort to oppose this effort to harm women and girls.

PROTECTING LIFE

SUBJECT: **Advance America** continues to be one of the **leading pro-life organizations** in Indiana. One of the issues that may come up for consideration in 2011 would be to require a woman seeking an abortion to be informed that life begins at conception and that the unborn baby may feel pain when the abortion occurs. **Advance America** will **support** this effort.

HATE CRIMES

SUBJECT: Hate crimes legislation would create **special protection** and **recognition** for **homosexuals** and **cross dressers**. This would establish a very dangerous precedent because it would create two classes of victims and punish someone more because of their alleged thoughts. Hate crimes legislation represents a step in the wrong direction with regard to free speech. Will the next step be to prohibit speech that someone views as hateful? For example, will legislation be introduced in the future to prohibit pastors from speaking out against the homosexual lifestyle? **Advance America** will **continue** to **oppose** hate crimes legislation in Indiana.

REPEALING PROPERTY TAXES

BILL: **Senate Joint Resolution 10**

Senator Mike Young

SUBJECT: This proposed **Constitutional Amendment** would have begun the process of amending the State Constitution to **repeal property taxes** on a person's **home**. Hoosiers deserve the **right** to **own** their own home! The Amendment will now have to be adopted by the General Assembly in 2011 or 2012, as well as in either 2013 or 2014. The voters would then have the right to vote on the Amendment in 2014.

STATUS: SJR 10 was assigned to the Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. The resolution died in committee when it did not receive a hearing.

Advance America will **continue** to **lead** the effort to repeal property taxes so Hoosiers can finally **own their own home!**

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Every child in Indiana in elementary, middle and high school should have the opportunity to get a first class, world class education. In order to accomplish this Indiana needs to have mechanisms in place to assist parents such as an **educational tax credit** or **opportunity scholarship**. **Advance America** will

continue to support **parental choice in education** because it will benefit all of the children and families of Indiana. This includes maintaining the current freedom for private, religious, charter and home schools.

GAMBLING

The State of Indiana **doesn't need** to **expand** gambling. **Advance America** will **continue** to **oppose** all efforts to expand gambling including placing a casino in **Fort Wayne** or **Indianapolis**.

FAMILY AND FREEDOM DAYS

Advance America hosted **Family and Freedom Days** on Tuesday during the 2010 Legislative Session. **Advance America** will **once again** host Family & Freedom Days during the **2011 General Assembly**. These training sessions will be held from 9:00 – 10:15 am in the 7th floor conference room located at 101 W. Ohio Street just one block east of the State House beginning in January 2011. The sessions are **free** and open to adults, senior citizens, pastors, students – **all concerned citizens**. After hearing a legislative update individuals will be able to walk one block to the State House to have the opportunity to meet with their Senator and Representative and to sit in on a committee hearing and to watch the House and Senate in action.

ADVANCE AMERICA

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family** and **pro-tax reform** 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 information go to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.

TEXT OF BILLS AVAILABLE

The complete text of a bill or resolution can be accessed at: <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.

PROUD HOOSIER PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED!

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 2010 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 Legislators?" 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 during this important election year of 2010. Follow this link to make a **secure** contribution: <http://www.advanceamerica.com/donate.html> 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.