



FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

May 4, 2011

PROTECTING MARRIAGE

BILL: House Joint Resolution 6 (HJR 6)

Representatives Eric Turner & Dave Cheatham
Senators Dennis Kruse and Jim Banks

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 was for the House and Senate to pass the Constitutional Amendment this year.

STATUS: HJR 6 passed the House of Representatives on February 15 by a vote of 70-26. HJR 6 passed the Senate on March 29 by a vote of 40-10. The next step is for the 2013 or 2014 General Assembly to pass HJR 6 so the voters can vote in 2014 to pass the Constitutional Amendment to protect marriage.

ABORTION - DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

BILL: House Bill 1210

Representatives Eric Turner & Dave Cheatham
Senators Patricia Miller & Greg Walker

SUBJECT: Rep. Matt Ubelhor introduced House Bill 1205 to defund Planned Parenthood. Unfortunately HB 1205 died in the House as a result of the February walkout. Rep Ubelhor worked with **Senator Scott Schneider** to amend HB1205 into House Bill 1210 in the Senate so that Planned Parenthood, the #1 provider of abortions in Indiana, would no longer get taxpayer dollars!

STATUS: House Bill 1210, with the defunding language, passed the Senate by a vote of 35-13, and the House concurred with the Senate changes by a vote of 66-32.

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.

STATUS: Fortunately no bill passed the 2011 Legislature to tax churches. We will be watching for legislation in 2012 that could tax churches.

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

BILL: House Bill 1003

Representatives Bob Behning & Brian Bosma
Senators Dennis Kruse & Carlin Yoder

SUBJECT: Every child in Indiana deserves the opportunity to get a first class education. Every parent deserves the chance to enroll their child in the best school for them. House Bill 1003 could be the most expansive school choice legislation in the country! HB 1003 creates choice scholarships for parents whose children are currently in the public school to help them attend a private or Christian school. The parents must meet certain income requirements. HB 1003 also creates a tax deduction for parents who currently have their child in a private, Christian or home school setting.

STATUS: House Bill 1003 passed the Senate by a vote of 28-22 and the House concurred with Senate amendments by a vote of 56-43.

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL

BILL: Senate Bill 56

Senator Travis Holdman

SUBJECT: Churches in Indiana have been free from government control since 1979 to operate child care ministries. Advance America will continue to lead the effort to protect churches. Senate Bill 56 would give the government unprecedented control over a child care ministry including: the power to **close a ministry** without a court order, require all volunteers including **Grandmothers and Moms** to get a drug test, and to give power to the government to pass new rules and regulations to **control the internal operation** of the church 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: A hearing on Senate Bill 56 was held on Wednesday, February 16 in the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee. Fortunately the bill died in committee when the Chair, Senator Patricia Miller did not call for a vote. This bill or a similar bill could be introduced in the 2012 Legislature.

TAX INCREASES – SUPER MAJORITY

BILL: House Joint Resolution 4 (HJR 4)

Representative Dave Frizzell

SUBJECT: HJR 4 would have amended the Constitution to make it harder to raise taxes. HJR 4 stated that a bill to increase state taxes or create a new state tax could not become law unless the bill is approved by a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate or “the tax increase or new tax is approved in a statewide referendum.” In order for HJR 4 to be added to the Constitution, the General Assembly would have to approve it in either 2011 or 2012, and then again in 2013 or 2014. The voters could then approve HJR 4 in the 2014 Election. Advance America believes Hoosiers already pay enough in taxes!

STATUS: Even though HJR 4 did not pass this year, Advance America will continue to support efforts in future years to make it harder to raise taxes on Hoosiers!

PROTECTING LIFE

BILL: House Bill 1210

Representatives Eric Turner and Dave Cheatham
Senators Patricia Miller and Greg Walker

SUBJECT: House Bill 1210 would amend Indiana’s informed consent for abortion law to require, among other things, that the woman be told that life begins at conception and that the unborn baby may feel pain when the abortion occurs. Information about the medical risks of an abortion and adoption would also be provided. All of this information would have to be provided **in writing**. Additionally, all abortions after 20 weeks would now be illegal except to save the life of the mother.

STATUS: HB 1210 passed the Senate by a vote of 35-13 and the House concurred with Senate amendments by a vote of 66-32.

REPEALING PROPERTY TAXES

BILL: Senate Joint Resolution 8

Senators Mike Young & Brent Waltz

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

STATUS: SJR 8 unfortunately did not receive a hearing in 2011. Advance America will continue to lead the

efforts at the State House to repeal property taxes so Hoosiers can finally own their own home!

GAMBLING

The State of Indiana doesn’t need to expand gambling. Advance America will continue to oppose all efforts to expand gambling.

FAMILY AND FREEDOM DAYS

Advance America hosted Family and Freedom Days Tuesdays January 25th, February 22nd, March 22nd and April 5th during the 2011 Legislative Session. These training sessions were 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. The sessions were free and open to adults, senior citizens, pastors, students – all concerned citizens. After hearing a legislative update individuals walked one block to the State House and were encouraged 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/lsa/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 2011 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 throughout 2011. 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.