

**Senate Bill 180 is Key!**

The Kentucky

# CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

SPECIAL

April 2016

## “Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness” Rally

*It is this simple: Pro-Life bills, Religious Liberty bills and the Pursuit of Happiness bill are all stalled in the House. We must stand!*

Last Aug. 22, 6,000 to 7,000 Kentucky citizens showed up in Frankfort to stand with Kim Davis, Casey Davis and Kay Schwartz – the three County Clerks who stood resolute like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when Gov. Beshear tried to pressure them into violating their consciences. Their faith, . . . and the faithfulness of those who came to Frankfort, . . . and that of all who prayed, won the day! Ultimately, Matt Bevin – who attended the Rally, who pledged his support of the Clerks, and who was elected Governor – issued an Executive Order on Dec. 22 to remedy the situation, at least for the short term.

Now Kentucky is in the midst of the legislative cycle and we are in a bind again. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled House is unwilling to debate and vote on bills that deal with our Declaration of Independence – “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

ALL pro-life bills are dying in the House, whether they originated in the House or Senate. All Religious Liberty bills are dying in the House, whether they originated in the House or Senate. (Including the bills that protect the County Clerks.) And the capstone – Senate Bill 180 - The Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act – is also stalled in the House after having passed the Senate.

SB 180 is critical because it was the understanding of the Framers of our U.S. Constitution that freedom of conscience was, in fact, the right to pursue happiness according to the dictates of your heart – which is, of course, your conscience.

The Founding Fathers had drunk deeply from Sir William Blackstone and his *Commentaries on the Laws of England*. In these, Blackstone explained that God has so “intimately connected, so inseparably interwoven the laws of eternal justice with the happiness of each

individual, that the latter cannot be attained but by observing the former; and, if the former be punctually obeyed, it cannot but induce the latter.” Therefore, the law of nature can be reduced to “one paternal precept, ‘that man should pursue his own happiness.’” Hence, the third leg on the stool of inalienable rights, “the pursuit of Happiness.”

Now, in Kentucky, we have state legislators unwilling to protect rights of conscience, but willing to force business owners to perform tasks that violate their deepest sense of right and wrong. The result will be a “train wreck of injustice and discontent.”

The alternative to the House of Representatives’ inactivity is for citizens to go to Frankfort and let legislators know that they are watching and aware. This, especially in an election year, should call incumbents into account and lead them to do what is right.

Monday, April 11, will be an historic day – one where government hears and sees what the people truly desire. Pastors, parents, home-schoolers, teachers, grandparents . . . Come and bring others to the “Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness Rally.” We believe we will be making history, standing for what our Forefathers had already secured, but which is slipping away from us.



**“LL&H” Rally**  
set for **12 noon**  
**Monday, April 11**  
in the  
**Capitol Rotunda**

## House blocks key bills



**Greg Stumbo, Speaker of the House, has led the charge to deny debate on House Floor.**

House Speaker Greg Stumbo is known for his ability to hold a Caucus “in line.” One of the most capable politicians in Frankfort, he has frustrated many on both sides of the isle with his strong pro-choice and pro-gay positions.

This year he is playing a very tenuous game, supporting every position the ACLU advises. Liberals

delight in his style, but rank-and-file Democrat legislators, especially those in rural areas, often desire bills that the Speaker is snubbing. Before the 2016 Session comes to a close on April 12, citizens can step forward and encourage their Representative to make a difference, even against the Speaker’s will.

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# Senate Bill 180:

# The Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act

*Marriage may have been re-defined by the Supreme Court, but no one should be forced to violate their conscience.*

Across America, Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience have been intensely under attack for more than two decades . . . and especially in 2015.

To stop the onslaught, SB 180 underscores the underlying premise of the First Amendment – in particular, the “free exercise” of religion and its undergirding of the rights of conscience. In essence, SB 180 is an effort to properly apply Thomas Jefferson’s “wall of separation” which he proposed in order to *keep government out of a citizen’s free exercise of their faith.*



**“No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.”**

– *Bill of Rights - Section 5  
Kentucky Constitution*

Especially since last June’s *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision, individuals and organizations have attempted to force others – in violation of their

conscience – to participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies. This is all radically contrary to the Kentucky Constitution’s Bill of Rights which states in Section 5: “No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.”

Consider: When *Roe vs Wade* was decided in 1973, citizens were not forced to participate in an abortion against their sincerely-held beliefs. However, now, with *Obergefell*, activists are trying to use the U.S. Supreme Court decision to bring the force of law against people with deeply-held and centuries-old spiritual convictions.

Those whom this bill protects are American workers such as cake bakers, photographers, florists and ministers – “Protected Service Providers” – all who often serve in the wedding ceremony realm and who do not want to use their personal, contracted, customized and specialized skills in furthering something that violates their conscience and faith teachings.

## The legislative progress of Senate Bill 180

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ↑ Passed by Full House
- ↑ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

**Shaded blue indicates what has already been completed. Time is indeed short, but SB 180 can still pass! Let NO ONE tell you differently.**

**Because it has already cleared the Senate, it can pass the House as late as April 11 or 12.**

## The Kentucky Constitution - Bill of Rights Section 5:

**“No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.”** This is straight out of the State Constitution! Likely for political reasons given the fact that his son was running for Attorney General, Gov. Beshear chose not to honor the Kentucky Constitution and protect Kim Davis and her conscientious stand. Instead of being accommodated as Kentucky law mandates, Gov. Beshear stood by and let her go to jail. Make no mistake, Kim Davis did not go to jail because she did something wrong; she went to jail because Gov. Beshear *DID NOT DO* what law required him to do – protect her religious liberty/rights of conscience! Gov. Beshear broke the law.

## The Freedom of Conscience - Uniquely American:

Even during World War II, when the ongoing existence of America was in question, the United States government never forced a conscientious objector to pull a trigger and violate his conscience. Why are we now changing our uniquely American standard of liberty over *same-sex marriage*? This bill protects the rights of conscience for *ALL* – LGBT and straight.

## The test of true “Fairness”: Are both sides treated equally?

The easiest way to determine whether a law treats people on both sides of an issue equally is to ask the question specifically. If a devoutly Christian baker will sell cookies, pies and cupcakes to *ALL* citizens, but cannot create a same-sex wedding cake for a gay couple, is it okay for a gay or lesbian baker to sell cookies, pies and cupcakes to *ALL* citizens, but cannot create a 50-year anniversary cake for the Westboro Baptist Church. *OF COURSE!* This bill protects rights of conscience for *ALL!*

## Intimidation and Intolerance in Court

Recent legal cases have highlighted the unprecedented targeting of citizens, simply because they believe participating in or promoting same-sex marriage violates the teachings of their faith.

**Consider** Elaine Huegenin, a young New Mexico photographer, who in 2006 declined to photograph a same-sex wedding celebration. She believed using her artistic talents in that setting would violate the teachings of her faith. Elaine took her appeal all the way to her state Supreme Court where she lost. The resulting fines, legal expenses and hostile climate forced her out of business.

**Consider** Baronelle Stutzman, a floral shop owner who has served her community members regardless of their “sexual orientation” for 35 years. For 10 years, Baronelle provided flowers for a gay gentleman she considered a friend. However, when she declined to create floral arrangements for his same-sex wedding, he sued her. Baronelle’s case is now before the Washington State Supreme Court. The Court has allowed her to be sued both as a business and personally. If she loses her appeal, she will owe over \$1 million and lose her business, her home and her retirement.

**Consider** *Sweet Cakes by Melissa*. The owners have served their community, both gay and straight, but were fined and ordered to pay \$135,000 in emotional damages to a lesbian couple for declining to create a wedding cake for them. Melissa and Aaron Klein’s business has been forced to close. Aaron is now working for a trash collection company trying to support their five children while they await their appeal. Perhaps more disturbing is that the regulatory agency initially hearing their case ordered the Kleins not to speak publicly about their reasons for declining to participate in same-sex weddings.

All these were prosecuted under the banner of “Fairness.” Ask them if they believe they are being treated with “fairness.” Their circumstances make the answer obvious.

Citizens want a public square with mutual respect and SB 180 delivers that.

# What YOU Can Do:

**Pray (as if it all depends on you)** - If God does not answer prayer, it is stupid to pray. But, if God does, it's stupid NOT to!

**Call (the Legislative Message Line)** - Let your prophetic voice be heard! If God's kids don't speak up for His values, who will? Who can?

**Come (to the Rally on April 11)** - Your presence in Frankfort and your making the sacrifice to come speaks volumes to legislators.

**Lead (multiply your impact by encouraging others)** - One person can do a great deal, but more can do much more. Tell others to *Pray, Call, Come and Lead*.

## We can make the difference

*It's about us being what we were created to be – Salt and Light.*

Consider these words, attributed to Martin Luther, the Father of the Reformation:

***“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefields besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”***

To say it another way: Salt without flavor should be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. And, a light should never be placed under a bushel.

The battle across the nation now in the aftermath of the *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision is about religious liberty – Does everyone *have to participate* even if their deeply-held religious beliefs say not to? Do we have to violate our conscience?

It would be easy to quit now since Speaker Stumbo has said he doesn't even want to consider the bill. But it has already cleared the Senate . . . And it is the right thing to do – to protect rights of conscience for all and create a “live and let live” environment.

If we don't act now, how long will it take the ACLU, or other attorneys, to isolate and intimidate bakers, photographers and florists through lawsuits? Remember that Kim Davis was sued by ACLU attorneys not just in her public capacity, but personally. And, they went after her personal assets, wanting her to pay court costs and punitive damages. They wanted to punish her!

Since when does an American get punished for following their orthodox and commonly-held convictions?

Let us act now. Let us act together, each in his or her own way.

And let us stand together to see what the Lord will do when we humble ourselves and pray, and seek His Face and turn from our wicked ways of ignorance and apathy.



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

*Kut*

## We must act!!!

### 1. Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave this message for *“all the Representatives from your county.”* (Ask them to “copy your message” to House Leadership.)

***“Pass the Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act - Senate Bill 180”***

Contrary to what many are saying, SB 180 protects ALL citizens and their rights of conscience.

### 2. Come to the Rally April 11

Your presence and your sacrifice will speak volumes to legislators, particularly ones who want truth to go away.

### 3. Go To kentuckyfamily.org

Print off the “Green Slip Project” sign-up sheets and get others involved. If you are in a Democrat Representative's district this effort is particularly critical! Sign and mail to us ASAP. We will copy onto green paper, cut and deliver.



# With Democrats in charge of the House, it would only take a few of them to act to get bills moving

*With the ratio at 53 Democrats to 47 Republicans in the House, it's clear that if just four Democrats used their clout, votes would be taken and many of the bills currently held hostage would pass. This means that calls from citizens can make the difference.*

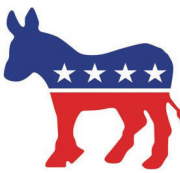
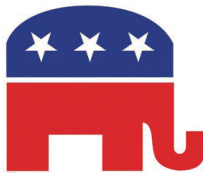
Politics often run roughshod over principled legislation. Currently, Senate Bill 180 – cutting-edge legislation that brings balance after the *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision – has cleared the Senate, but is being blocked in the House. With SB 180, gays and lesbians have full access to their new-found same-sex marriage rights *AND* everyday Kentucky citizens, whose convictions do not allow them to participate, have their freedom as well. Even more, on the everyday things of life, *ALL CITIZENS* are served.

But, as said above, politics often run roughshod over principled legislation . . . Unfortunately, the political landscape in the Commonwealth has been a volleyball game of back-and-forth for the last five months. In the Fall, Republicans Gov. Bevin and

Lt. Gov. Hampton won a surprising victory over Democrats Jack Conway and Sannie Overly. To make matters worse for the Democrat Party, three other Executive Branch seats were won by Republicans: Treasurer Allison Ball, Auditor Mike Harmon and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

From the Republican perspective, it was a huge and unexpected landslide victory.

From the Democrat perspective, it seemed to forecast what some had come to view as the inevitable – a Republican takeover of the House. With Kentucky being the last southern state with a non-Republican legislative Chamber, that Nov. 3 election seemed to



be the final blow before the crossover.

During election night television coverage, Democrat Speaker Greg Stumbo, recognizing the Christian voter turnout, challenged Democrats across the Commonwealth: “So you go home, and you go to church, and you tell the people, ‘I am a Democrat. I am a God-fearing Democrat. I’m a Democrat that believes the principles of the Bible.’”

The ratio of Democrats to Republicans in the House became 50 to 46 after the dust cleared from the new Administration’s appointments and Party switches. Democrats were forlorn. In the House they even allowed a minor “corrective” pro-life bill to pass in the

first month of the Session – the first pro-life bill on the House Floor in 10 years.

Then came the four Special Elections on March 8 to fill the vacancies and the Democrats stunned the Republicans, winning three of the four races. With that victory, Democrat House Leadership became emboldened, following a liberal track on legislation outlined by the ACLU. (*See story on page 7*)

Now, at the close of the 2016 Session, many pro-life, pro-family and pro-liberty bills are stuck in the 53-47 Democrat-controlled House needing only a debate and a vote on the Floor to pass them. This is where the citizenry has its opportunity — if Kentucky citizens speak and Democrat Representatives listen, SB 180, and other good bills will pass.

***These legislators are the House Leadership team. They could make all the difference!***



**House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D).** He serves Floyd and part of Pike County.



**Majority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins (D).** He serves Elliott, Lewis and Rowan Counties.



**Majority Whip Johnny Bell (D).** He serves Barren County and parts of Warren County.



**Majority Caucus Chair Sannie Overly (D).** She serves Bath, Bourbon, Nicholas and parts of Fayette County.



**Speaker Pro Tem Jody Richards (D).** He serves part of Warren County.



**Minority Floor Leader Jeff Hoover (R).** He serves Clinton, Cumberland, Russell and parts of Pulaski County.

***As you leave your message for your Rep, ask them to “copy it” to these House Leaders.***

## Senate Bill 180: *Frequently Asked Questions* ?

*A misinformation campaign is being waged against Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience. Don’t fall for it!*

***Does Senate Bill 180 (SB 180) authorize discrimination?*** No. This *ONLY* clarifies the point where same-sex marriage collides with other rights. *IT DOES NOT* allow restaurant owners, hotels, etc . . . to refuse service to members of *ANY* community. *ALL* people should be served and respected. It simply protects sincerely-held religious convictions.

***Does SB 180 allow ill-treatment of LGBT or any others?*** No. SB 180 protects *ALL* citizens who are engaged in customized artistic, expressive or ministerial services. *It allows* the Jewish baker to decline to create a special cake for a Neo-Nazi event , . . . an African-American baker to decline to create a special cake for a Ku Klux Klan event. . . and an LGBT baker to decline a cake for Westboro Baptist Church. It is a shield for *ALL* people; it is not a sword against any. No person should be able to force another to do something that violates their conscience. During World War II, when we could have lost this nation, we did not even require soldiers to fire a weapon if they were conscientious objectors! *THAT* is the American way!

***Does SB 180 intervene in a current and on-going court case?*** No. The *Hands-On Originals* case focuses on the rights of conscience in regard to the First Amendment right of free speech. SB 180 focuses on the rights of conscience in regard to the First Amendment right of free exercise of religion, exclusively with respect to custom-contracted artistic, expressive and ministerial services provided.

***What if SB 180 does not pass?*** Some activists do not want to “live and let live.” Rather, they are on a “search and destroy” mission against anyone who does not agree with and serve or participate in a same-sex marriage. The fact that lawsuits have been filed, that *PUNITIVE* damages have been sought, and that those who oppose SB 180 are already claiming “discrimination,” indicates that they will sue, punish and impugn any citizen who does not agree with and use their creative services and skills to participate in a same-sex wedding ceremony or celebration.

***Won’t this create numerous court cases and clutter the courts?*** No. It will actually lessen the anticipated load. The *Obergefell* decision has created chaos in marriage law. The U.S. Supreme Court legislated from the bench and it is now incumbent upon state legislatures to help clarify the new collision course created between this new right to same-sex marriage and long-existing rights such as freedom of conscience.

By comparison, the Supreme Court legalized abortion but *DOES NOT FORCE ANYONE* to participate. In the same way, we now have a new right to same-sex marriage and the law should not require all citizens to participate in it with their artistic and expressive skills if it is against their deeply-held religious convictions of conscience.

***If we hesitate in this moment,*** *we will be allowing an “open season” on Christian businesses in Kentucky.*

## SB 180 creates common sense in the public square

*If Americans lose their most sacred inner freedom, they may cease being Americans. Rights of conscience make Americans unique.*

Senate Bill 180 is a bill to protect the freedom of religion and rights of conscience of those individuals who provide artistic, expressive, creative, ministerial or spiritual goods or services.

What this bill does *NOT* do is allow businesses to deny service to customers based on their sexual orientation. Public accommodations that provide general goods and services must serve all customers. For example, a restaurant owner could not deny service to a transgendered individual, and a bakery could not refuse to sell pies or cookies to some-

***They were punished and, in some cases, run out of business because of their conscientious objection to participating in the celebration of a same-sex marriage.***

*NOT* because they were unwilling to serve members of the LGBT community; in fact, they *DID* serve the LGBT community with their products and services. They were punished and, in some cases, run out of business because of their conscientious objection to *participating* in the celebration of a same-sex marriage. (*See bottom of page 2*)

Because of sincerely-held, orthodox religious beliefs, they simply cannot use their skills to provide a customized service celebrating something that violated one of the tenants of their faith.

Shouldn’t florists, bakers and other creative artists’ First Amendment right of **free exercise of religion** be respected?

A true test of good policy is that it deals with both sides equally. Senate Bill 180 also protects LGBT bakers who don’t want to create and deliver a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration cake to Westboro Baptist Church. Likewise, a Jewish bakery would not have to create a

cake with a swastika for a neo-Nazi event.

Section 5 of the Kentucky Constitution says that “No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience,” yet that is what many wish to do to others – to have government force people into using their creative skills to participate in something that violates their faith and conscience.

**The free exercise of religion is considered America’s “first freedom.” SB 180 is designed to uphold that freedom and to clarify the junction where civil rights intersect . . .**

Could the people who brought suit against these small business owners have easily gotten their wedding cakes, photographs, or floral arrangements from other individuals? Of course! Very easily! But there is an agenda at work here that seeks to force people with sincerely-held religious convictions to either abandon those beliefs, violate them or face government action that could close their businesses and destroy them financially.

The freedom of conscience has been long respected in America. The free exercise of religion is considered America’s “first freedom.” SB 180 is designed to uphold that freedom and to clarify the junction where civil rights intersect – the newly-created right to marry someone of the same sex and the longstanding right of conscience and right to free exercise of religion.

This bill helps promote the time-honored principle of “live and let live” and encourages a balanced environment of mutual respect and civility in our public square. And, it stops the “search and destroy” mentality of some groups and individuals.

**Go to page 3. Make the call & engage the “Green Slip Project”!**

# Other good bills that deserve a debate and a vote!

*The House - “the peoples’ Chamber” - is where issues should be debated. Pro-Life and other bills should not be blocked!*

Besides Senate Bill 180 (see page 2), there are several other “Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness” bills that are being held hostage in the House by Democrat Leadership. Consider:

## **Senate Bill 5 - County Clerk Marriage License Clarification:**

This bill corrects the problems experienced last year after the *Obergefell* decision.

## **Senate Bill 15 - Student Free Speech & Religious Liberty Act:**

This guarantees First Amendment free speech and religious liberty rights to students K thru college.

## **Senate Bill 278 - Biblical Literacy**

**Class:** This bill authorizes a course for the literary study of the Bible in high school.

All three of these bills are being held in House Committees without a debate and without a vote on the House Floor. Some believe blocking conservative bills helps secure “liberal” money from out-of-state for the Fall elections.

**Senate Bill 5, 15 & 278 - each need a House vote**

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

## **Pro-Life bills are also trapped in the House**



Since 2004 – **for 12 years** – no new pro-life bills have been allowed on the House Floor by House Leadership. The Senate, and then the House, did pass SB 4 earlier this Session but it provided only a minor correction that “fixed” the 1998 Informed Consent bill. Clearly, whether you are “pro-life” or “pro-choice” you should be for honest and robust debate on ALL issues that separate us. This should be particularly true for the House of Representatives, which holds the distinction as “the peoples’ Chamber.”

## **Senate Bill 7 - Tiered Funding of**

**Abortion Providers:** After the discovery of Planned Parenthood’s selling of fetal body parts for profit, SB 7 prioritizes funding so that public funds are given first to organizations that do not provide abortions. It passed the Senate 32-5 on Feb. 2 and is in House A & R Committee.

### **Status of Senate Bill 7**

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

## **Senate Bill 25 - Ban on Sale of Fetal**

**Body Parts:** This bill bans the sale of aborted baby parts in Kentucky. It is in response to the video revelations from last year, demonstrating that Planned Parenthood was profiting from the deliberate harvesting of body parts taken from aborted fetuses. This bill cleared the Senate 36-2 on Jan. 27. It has stalled in the House Judiciary Committee.

### **Status of Senate Bill 25**

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

## **Senate Bill 152 - The Ultrasound Bill:**

This is a common-sense Ultrasound Bill that simply lets the patient see all the hi-tech information that patients in all other surgeries are offered. The House has repeatedly killed all Ultrasound bills for more than a decade. Kentucky’s two abortion clinics advertise that they already do ultrasounds so there is no increased cost. It passed the

### **Status of Senate Bill 152**

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

**Call 1-800-372-7181**

**Because all the good bills are being held in the House, call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave this message for “all of the Representatives from my county.”**

**“Pass Senate (or House) Bill # \_\_\_\_”**

Senate 32 to 4 on Feb. 29 and was placed in the House Health & Welfare Committee.

## **House Bill 257 - The Unborn Child Respect Act:**

This bill bars the dismemberment of an unborn child and it provides for the humane disposal of the fetal remains. The bill has 56 co-sponsors, demonstrating to all that if the bill is brought to the House Floor, it will pass. Unfortunately it has remained in the House Health & Welfare Committee (the “Graveyard Committee”) under Chairman Tom Burch since Jan. 19.

### **Status of House Bill 257**

- ⬇ In Senate Committee
- ⬇ Passed Senate Committee
- ⬇ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee

## **House Bill 492 & Senate Bill 212 - Abortion Clinic Regulations:**

These two almost identical bills protect women by regulating abortion clinics like any other free-standing surgery center. This means that they cannot slip by with less-than-standard safety measures as has been allowed by Gov. Beshear. Introduced on Feb. 29, HB 492 is stuck in House Health & Welfare Committee. SB 212 cleared the Senate on March 9 with a 32-5 vote. It has joined HB 492 and is stalled.

### **Status of House Bill 492 and Senate Bill 212**

- ✓ In Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed Senate Committee
- ✓ Passed by Full Senate
- ☐ Signed by Governor
- ⬆ Passed by Full House
- ⬆ Passed House Committee
- ✓ In House Committee



# The ACLU: From Liberty to Suppression

*The ACLU's influence in Democrat-controlled House is H-U-G-E! Evidence suggests it's become the Anti-Christian Legal Union.*

When the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was founded in 1920, its declared intent was to defend the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment freedoms protecting citizens from the government oppression.

Nearly 100 years later we now must ask "What, if any, First Amendment freedoms do they still protect?" And, "Are they now attempting to use the force of government to oppress citizens who disagree with the ACLU?"

When Sen. Ted Kennedy sponsored the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1993, the ACLU was one of its ardent supporters. Today it actively opposes religious freedom legislation. On June 25, 2015, one day before the Supreme Court released its *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision, the *Washington Post* published an article written by the ACLU entitled, "Why We Can No Longer Support the federal 'Religious Freedom' Law."

Currently, the ACLU's national website features 2016 "Anti-LGBT Religious Exemption Legislation across the Country" and describing them as "bills in state legislatures across the country and in Congress that could allow religion to be used to discriminate against gay and transgender people in virtually all aspects of their lives."

On this list are six of the bills currently being considered by Kentucky's General Assembly. Two of these bills simply protect pastors and churches from being forced to participate in same-sex marriage.

Another, HB 364, protects student privacy by not allowing schools to permit biological males and females to use the same restroom or locker room at the same time. The ACLU views HB 364 as "punishing transgender students for who they are."

Still another, HB 180, secures the rights of conscience of artistic, creative or ministerial service providers, protecting them from being forced into participating in something that violates their sincerely-held beliefs. The bill was passed by the Senate on March 15

but the next day House Speaker Greg Stumbo was quoted in at least two newspapers saying the bill was "unconstitu-

tional" and "would not be heard in the House." He, in effect, said that our freedom of conscience, clearly established in our Kentucky Constitution, is "unconstitutional."

The ACLU also advocates for abortion, with its "Reproductive Freedom Project." Their position? "Across the country, we are seeing hospitals, insurance companies, pharmacies, and other

health care entities discriminate against women by denying basic care — such as birth control, emergency contraception, and abortion — in the name of religion. Many of these institutions receive taxpayer funding. The ACLU works to ensure that women are not denied information and the health care they need because of the religious views of their health care providers." (Source: ACLU website "Religion and Reproductive Rights.")

"The litmus test for civil liberties protected by the ACLU seems no longer to be the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, but rather the 'First Opinion' of the ACLU," said Joyce Ostrander, policy analyst for The Family Foundation. "The ACLU ignores our 'First Freedom' — the First Amendment Right to Free Exercise of Religion — and instead has made 'Reproductive Rights' and 'Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity' rights their goal."

The ACLU is a major influencer in public policy. Its 2014 annual budget was \$133.4 million (not including the budgets of its 55 affiliates).

Its impact is evident in Kentucky where we hear political "double speak" from many representatives. They reassure voters that they are "pro-life" and "pro-religious freedom" but then do not lift a finger to help these bills get a hearing in the House. Ultimately, it seems that on these issues Democrat House Leadership answers not to the citizens of Kentucky but to the will of the ACLU.

## On the national ACLU "Naughty" List (Kentucky bills actually listed!)

**House Bills 14, 17 & 28 - Marriage Exemptions:** Exempts religious institutions/persons with objections from being forced to solemnize same-sex marriages.

**House Bill 31 - Marriage Licensure:** Adjusts marriage licensing process.

**House Bill 364 - Student Privacy Act:** Allows schools to accommodate transgender students but prohibits placing opposite biological sexes in same bathroom/locker room at the same time.

**Senate Bill 180 - Religious Liberty/Freedom of Conscience Act:** Permits limited creative, artistic, ministerial service providers to decline to participate when they have a conscientious objection.

**Honorable Mention:** Although the following bills are not specifically listed, similar bills in other states are.

**Senate Bill 15 - Student Free Speech/Religious Liberty Act:** Grants students K thru college First Amendment rights.

**Senate Bill 5 and House Bills 211 & 258 - Marriage Licensure:** Adjusts marriage licensing process.



**"I have an idea! Let's block ALL pro-life, religious freedom and rights of conscience bills."**

**Go to page 3 and ACT!**

# **NOW is the time to ACT!**

*Time remaining in the 2016 General Assembly Session is short.*

**RALLY on April 11:** Come to Frankfort on Monday, April 11. Meet us at 12:00 Noon in the Rotunda to ask *ALL* Representatives (especially the majority Democrats) to move Senate Bill 180 and other pro-life, pro-liberty and pro-family bills. *(For more regarding what you can do, go to page 3)*

**MAKE your CALL:** Call on SB 180. *YOU* have an opinion (God's opinion) and if you don't share it with your Representative, it most likely will not be heard.

## **GO to our WEBSITE:**

Download the "Green Slip for Legislators Project" PDF, copy it, get others to sign it and send it back to us as soon as possible to have more voices heard.

**Please do your part!**

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# **Come, let the Body of Christ stand as one in Frankfort**

*We are the Salt of the earth / Light of the world. If our culture is headed in the wrong direction, have we been salty and light enough?*

In some sense, "big city values" and the ACLU (*See story on page 7*) are having their way in Kentucky over the will of the people. The Founding Fathers desired the will of the people to preside in our state and nation, and they wanted the people to be well-schooled in the things of God as they determined their course.

Unfortunately, the nation and the state are falling away from that understanding. We have a choice: Lay back and let things crumble without a challenge, OR, stand for what we know is right and what is best.

What we saw last year was a nation in confusion after the *Obergefell* decision, but Kentucky rallied because we had the three County Clerks that stood their ground. It wasn't New York, California, or Illinois . . . it was Kentucky that



God graced with courageous individuals.

Because they stood, we could rally around them. And we did!

That was exactly what Scripture describes in the *Isaiah 59:19* passage: "When the enemy

shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard . . ." *Isaiah 59:19* Those three County Clerks – Kim Davis, Casey Davis and Kay Schwartz – were the standards that the Lord raised up. Positioned like flags, we rallied around their faith, their faithfulness and their courage. It was our privilege to stand with them and for them . . . and yet today there is more work to be done.

**We have a choice: Lay back and let things crumble without a challenge, OR, stand for what we know is right and what is best.**

**Our thanks to Sen. Albert Robinson, sponsor of three key Senate Bills - one in each of the "Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness" categories: SB 212, SB 15 & SB 180.**

raised a standard for us to rally around. Sen. Albert Robinson (R-London) has actually sponsored three of these key bills, one in each of the three categories. Each has made it through the Senate, but now is stalled in the House. Other legislators in the Senate and House have proposed similarly important bills that fall outside the liberals' circle of what they will tolerate.

That is why it is incumbent upon us to stand once again in Frankfort – this time with the legislators who are being raked over the coals by their peers and by the media.

But even more importantly, we need to stand together as one as Jesus prayed we would.

Currently House Leadership is blocking the Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness bills. (That's Pro-life bills, Religious Liberty bills and Rights of Conscience bills.) If we do not prevail, it won't be County Clerks that are assaulted in court by the ACLU and their ilk; it will be the bakers, the photographers and the florists who just cannot in good conscience be a part of something their faith says not to be a part of.

We should be grateful for legislators who have

**But even more importantly, we need to stand together as one as Jesus prayed we would.**