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# Courier Citizens'

◆ PROTECTING THE FAMILY SINCE 1983 ◆

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## "Anti-discrimination" Laws That Discriminate in the Worst Way!

*Federal, state laws deny religious freedom in order to force acceptance of destructive lifestyles.*

In the U.S. Congress they call it "ENDA" — short for "Employment Non-Discrimination Act."

The Ohio Legislature refers to their version as "EHEA" — short for "Equal Housing & Employment Act."

ENDA. Or EHEA.

Whichever four-letter combination you choose to examine, it spells blatant, oppressive discrimination against the majority of Americans and it represents one of the most serious threats yet to freedom of religion and freedom of expression in our state and our nation.

The federal and state laws differ with respect to scope, enforcement mechanisms and ancillary provisions.

But the core injustices in both are identical.

### The Federal Version

Since the beginning of the "homosexual rights" movement in the early 90's, the U.S. Congress has been considering an ENDA in one form or another.

During the administration of George W. Bush, the president through his Executive Office threatened to veto ENDA if the bill made it to his desk.

President Barack Obama, on the other hand, made passage of ENDA one of his campaign pledges to the massive homosexual/transgendered lobby that he depended on to fund his campaign.

ENDA would make it a federal offense for employers to base employment decisions on their own religious convictions regarding homosexual, transgendered (cross-dressing) or other distorted sexual behaviors. It would do so by adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the list of protected classes granted such favored status under the nation's employment discrimination laws.

In addition to denying employers their right of



*Two blatantly unconstitutional bills that will pit state and federal governments directly against the free exercise of religion.*

conscience, freedom of association and freedom of religious expression, the bill would result in blatant reverse discrimination. Under ENDA, a person who self-identifies as a homosexual, bisexual or transgendered person would have the right to file a discrimination claim against an employer for any decision the employer made relating to that employee's status. The employer would be required to prove in court that his decision was not based on the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity — or be subject to significant penalties. Many employers would feel compelled to make decisions in favor of homosexual or transgendered employees out of fear of litigation or misrepresentation. The result is blatant reverse discrimination.

In June, proudly homosexual Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) introduced ENDA in the House.

In August, Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced an almost identical version in the Senate. Among the 37 co-sponsors immediately signing onto the Senate bill was Ohio's Sherrod Brown.

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# Anti-Discrimination

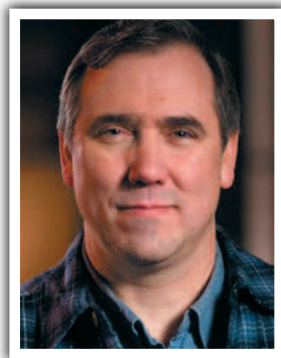
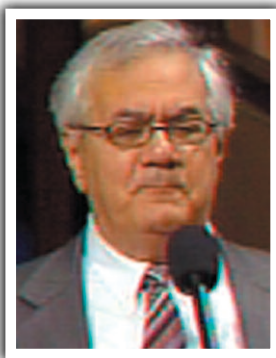
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## Speaking out of both sides of his mouth...

The nation's largest LGBT (lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgendered) lobbying organization, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), immediately hailed introduction of ENDA in both chambers. Ignoring the bill's inherently discriminatory effect on all non-LGBT persons, HRC president Joe Solmonese wrote, "We all share the challenges of today's economic downturn, but our community also faces arbitrary discrimination in the workplace, simply because of who we..."

Very recently, however, Solmonese delivered a quite different message — admitting that elimination of discrimination in the workplace was not the true motive behind his organization's drive for ENDA.

"Today," proclaimed Solmonese, "these (LGBT) employees don't have to ask for workplace protections. Instead, they can pick and choose from strong employers in nearly every major industry."



*Proudly homosexual Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), left, and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) were the primary sponsors of ENDA in their respective chambers.*

On the HRC Web site, Solmonese points out, "An estimated 85 percent of Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their equal employment policies, and more than one third also include gender identity."

So if anti-discrimination is not the real issue, what is it that motivates Solmonese and other special rights activists to push for ENDA and similar legislation?

The 1987 document still considered the homosexuals' manifesto and playbook, *The Overhauling of Straight America*, spells it out.

***In any campaign to win over the public, gays must be portrayed as victims in need of protection... Our campaign should not demand direct support of homosexual practices but should instead take antidiscrimination as its theme.***  
(Emphasis added.)

Right! The true goal behind the push for ENDA is forcing on all Americans complete social acceptance of the homosexual, bisexual and transgendered lifestyles.

## Christians Targeted

Critical to this true goal of the homosexual lobby is the silencing of any opposition to such lifestyles. It is Christianity, of course, that represents the greatest threat to their success.

The inclusion of "gender identity" makes this latest ENDA

proposal the most dangerously anti-Christian yet. Underlying ENDA is a denial of the foundational truth that God created mankind male and female and established the institution of marriage between one man and one woman as a unique reflection of the very nature and character of God, Himself.

ENDA would require Christian employers to grant special protections to persons specifically because such persons engage in what they believe to be immoral behaviors, and then threatens to punish them if they do not fall in line.

## The Ohio Version

The special rights bill making its way through the Ohio legislature is even more insidious.

Like the federal ENDA, House Bill 176, the so-called "Equal Housing and Employment Act," would force employers to make decisions contrary to deeply held religious convictions against the behaviors associated with homosexual, bi-sexual, transgendered and other distorted sexual identities.

The Ohio bill goes beyond the scope of the federal bill, however, in that it adds sexual orientation and gender identity to all civil rights laws in Ohio and thus extends the discriminatory protections to housing and public accommodations as well.

Written into the proposed state legislation is an affirmative action requirement. All state agencies, all political subdivisions of the state and all private employers seeking contracts with the state would be required to actively pursue persons in the protected categories of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## Public School Indoctrination

The proposed Ohio bill further would require the Department of Education to prepare training programs for all public school students — kindergarten through high school. The effect of such programs would be to teach that moral objection to distorted sexual behaviors is equivalent to prejudice and hatred and to force children who have been taught at home that homosexual behaviors are wrong to remain silent or risk being penalized by teachers and ostracized or bullied by their classmates.

CCV's vice president of public policy, David Miller, predicts that HB 176 will be one of the first bills passed by the Democrat controlled Ohio House of Representative after their summer recess. It is anticipated that debate in the Senate would begin immediately after passage in the House.

Miller heads the CCV team that has been meeting one-on-one with Ohio's 33 senators.

For a review of CCV's full strategy to defeat HB 176 in the Senate, refer to last month's *Citizens' Courier* or visit CCV's Web site, CCV.org.

"HB 176 is one of the most un-American and anti-Christian bills ever considered by our Legislature," Miller contends. "Defeating it in the Senate will remain our overriding legislative issue."

## Your Part!

It is critical that elected officials at both the state and federal levels know where you stand on these blatantly unconstitutional bills that will pit state and federal governments directly against the free exercise of religion.

To easily send e-mails to your elected officials at the state and federal levels, visit the Action Center at CCV.org.

# Taxpayer Group Sues Cleveland

## Claims Domestic Partnership Registry Violates State Constitution

**Wednesday, August 12, 2009** – A group of Cleveland taxpayers filed suit in state court against their own city, claiming that an ordinance establishing a “domestic partnership registry” in the city represented a clear violation of the Marriage Protection Amendment of Ohio’s constitution.

Following is a timeline of the events leading up to that historic action.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2004** – Sixty-two percent of Ohio voters cast their ballot in favor of embedding the Biblical definition of marriage in Ohio’s Constitution.

The Marriage Protection Amendment to Ohio’s constitution reads as follows:

*Only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this state and its political subdivisions. This state and its political subdivision shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage. (Emphasis added.)*

**DECEMBER 8, 2008** – The City Council of Cleveland voted 13-7 to establish a “Domestic Partnership Registry.” The purpose of the registry was to grant official recognition — a “legal status for relationships” — to two persons living together outside of a marriage relationship. Clearly a violation of the Marriage Protection Amendment.

**MAY 7, 2009** – Cleveland’s Domestic Partnership Registry became official, and non-married couples began to sign up at the Court House to be officially recognized as a live-together couple.

**MAY 7, 2009** – The group of Cleveland taxpayers approached the Cleveland City Law Director seeking an injunction to prevent the city from continuing to operate the Domestic Partnership Registry. That effort failed.

**AUGUST 12, 2009** – Left with no alternative, the taxpayer group filed suit in state court. David Langdon, a Cincinnati-based attorney affiliated with the Alliance Defense Fund, filed the suit on behalf of the taxpayers. Langdon was the primary author of the state’s Marriage Protection Amendment.

CCV supports the Cleveland taxpayers named in the suit and will continue to stand by them throughout the legal battle.

“It’s a sad day for any society when elected officials believe that they are above the law,” said CCV’s vice president of public policy, David Miller. “The registry created by the Cleveland City Council is an obvious attempt to do exactly what the constitution says that they cannot do, which is to “create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage.”



## More on Healthcare

# Obama’s Defense Contradictory

Surrounded by supporters at a staged “townhall” meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on August 12, President Obama again publicly defended his healthcare reform proposal by making statements that ranged from misleading to contradictory to plainly false.

Here are just a few of those statements, followed by a reality check. Our thanks to the Heritage Foundation (Heritage.org) for the reality research.

**“I have not said that I was a single-payer supporter.”**

Compare that quote with this one from candidate Obama’s own Web site: “If I were designing a system from scratch I would probably set up a single-payer system... So what I believe is we should set up a series of choices... Over time it may be that we end up transitioning to such a system.” That statement not only contradicts the August assertion, but also sheds light on Obama’s real purpose in a “public option.”

**“Under the reform we’re proposing, if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.”** Again, plainly false. As noted above, moving people out of private coverage into a government controlled plan is the purpose of Obama’s public option. Independent analysis from the Lewin Group

demonstrates that under the House bill approximately 88.1 million workers would see their current private, employer-sponsored health plan replaced by the public plan. And that public plan would dictate which doctors participants would be allowed to see.

**“We have the AARP on board because they know this is a good deal for our seniors.”** Plainly false!

Do we trust the AARP to genuinely reflect the concerns of those over 50 years of age? Given their liberal track record, no! However, the president’s statement that AARP was on board was false. Immediately after the New Hampshire townhall, in fact, the AARP issued a statement correcting the president: “While the President was correct that AARP will not endorse a health care reform bill that would reduce Medicare benefits, indications that we have endorsed any of the major health care reform bills currently under consideration in Congress are inaccurate.”

**“I said I won’t sign a bill that adds to the deficit or the**



*President Obama’s healthcare reform – Rhetoric verses reality*

*Continued on page 4*



# Expansion of Gambling A Bad Bet for Ohio

It seems that everyone in Ohio is talking about gambling. That is, about the expansion of legalized gambling in Ohio.

Proponents of casino gambling again have been successful in placing a casino-gambling issue on our November ballot. This proposed amendment to our constitution would authorize casinos in four cities across

the state — Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland and Toledo.

Most of the talk surrounding the gambling issue has focused on legal and income issues. Those issues are debatable.

Our primary concern regarding an expansion of gambling in Ohio, however, focuses on issues that are factual — the social ills connected to such an expansion. Here are a few of the facts about gambling that we must keep on our minds and in our conversations.

**Addiction** – Just remember the 50-2x rule: Within 50 miles of a casino, the prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers roughly doubles.

**Bankruptcy** – SMR Research Corporation called gambling “the single fastest-growing driver of bankruptcy.”

Professors from Georgetown and Purdue Universities performed research on the link between gambling and bankruptcy,

concluding, “We found statistically significant increases at the county level in the number of personal bankruptcy filings due to the introduction of casino gambling.”

**Crime** – The U.S. Department of Justice and The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found a correlation between high levels of criminal activity related to pathological gambling. The percentage of pathological gamblers among arrestees was three to five times higher than the general population.

**Destruction of families** – In a survey of nearly 400 Gamblers Anonymous members, 28 percent reported being either separated or divorced as a direct result of their gambling problems. In the National Gambling Impact Study, the lifetime divorce rates for problem and pathological gamblers were 39.5 percent and 53.5 percent, respectively; the rate in non-gamblers was 18.2 percent.

**Domestic violence** – A University of Nebraska Medical Center study concluded that problem gambling is as much a risk factor for domestic violence as alcohol abuse.

**Suicide** – One in five pathological gamblers will attempt suicide, while one in ten of their spouses will attempt suicide. “Suicide attempts among pathological gamblers are higher than for any of the addictions and second only to suicide attempt rates among individuals with major affective disorders, schizophrenia and a few major hereditary disorders,” according to Dr. Rachel A. Volberg, President of Gemini Research, Ltd.

Legal and income issues aside – expansion of legalized gambling in Ohio is a bad bet for the families of Ohio.

## HEALTHCARE

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**national debt. Okay? So this will have to be paid for.”** The director of the Congressional Budget Office disagrees. Said Doug Elmendorf: “In sum, relative to current law, the proposal would probably generate substantial increases in federal budget deficits during the decade beyond the current 10-year budget window.”

**“My belief is, is that [Obamacare] should not burden people who make \$250,000 a year or less. Not so. Both the**

House and Senate versions fund their respective programs by imposing “employer mandates” or “pay or play” provisions. Specifically, HR 3200 would impose a tax of 10.5 percent of wages (8 percent on the employer; 2.5 percent on the employee) of workers who do not have adequate insurance. Along with the increased tax burden, increased consumer costs, lower wages and lost jobs, especially for low-income workers, would be inevitable.

Unfortunately, such conflicting, false and misleading statements compel us to treat every statement of our president with skepticism.

*Courier*  
*Citizens*

JERRY LYON, *Editor*

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