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**New Legislation Threatens Our Liberties**

Tell your elected officials not to support the hate crimes bill

In the next few days or weeks, the United States Senate will be considering S. 1105, a bill identical to the one passed by the House earlier this month by a vote of 237 to 189. This Hate Crimes bill not only establishes a new federal offense adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes in the U.S. criminal code, but also provides federal prosecutorial and financial support to the enforcement of state and local "hate" crime legislation.

This Hate Crimes bill - if enacted into law - could put the full weight of the federal government behind the enforcement of existing state and local laws prohibiting so-called "intimidation" or other similar "threats," such as calling homosexual conduct or cross-dressing a sin. Indeed, such a bill - if enacted into law - could result in the expenditure of federal tax revenues in support of the "hate" crime policies of such local government bodies as the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

As Glen Lavy of the Alliance Defense Fund has documented, the Hate Crimes bill is a **"discriminatory measure that criminalizes thoughts, feelings and beliefs [and] has the potential of interfering with religious liberty and freedom of speech."**

While the Hate Crimes bill only threatens religious liberty, openly homosexual Congressman Barney Frank's Employment Non-Discriminatory bill (H.R. 2015), is a direct attack on such organizations as Christian schools, adoption agencies, child care facilities, Boy Scouts and other faith-based organizations. The bill would force employers of fifteen or more employees to hire and promote persons who publicly flaunt their "sexual orientation" or "gender identity," exempting only "the employment practices of a religious corporation, association, educational institution or society, which has as its primary purpose religious ritual or worship or the teaching or spreading of religious doctrine or belief."

**What YOU can do to help!**

Contact your senators and urge them to oppose the Hate Crimes bill (S. 1105). Contact your representative and urge him or her to oppose the Employment Non-Discrimination bill (H.R. 2015).

Take a few moments and send an email to your Senator and Representative, by entering your zip code where indicated. If you want to contact your member of Congress by telephone, you may reach them through the Capitol Hill switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Please share this message with your friends and family. Ask your pastor to urge church members to contact their elected officials.

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