

Texas Faith & Family Day

At the Capitol

February 24, 2015
Austin, Texas

Make a difference for faith and family in Texas!



Please Co-Author the following legislation:

SJR 10 (by Sen. Campbell) & HJR 55 (by Rep. Villalba) – Texas Religious Freedom Amendment.

HB 623 (by Rep. Bell) & SB 673 (by Sen. Perry) – Texas Preservation of Sovereignty and Marriage Act.

HB 1556 (by Rep. Miller) – Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act.

HB 205 (by Rep. Leach) – No Sex Education by Abortion Providers.

HB 454 (by Rep. Krause) – Divorce Waiting Period Changed to 180 days.





SJR 10: Support Religious Freedom Protection

- Texas Religious Freedom Amendment, SJR 10, by Sen. Campbell places specific language in our Texas Constitution to protect religious freedom. HJR 55 by Rep. Villalba contains similar language.
- A state religious freedom constitutional amendment provides the best guarantee of lasting protection for religious liberties from overreaching government officials.
- This Texas constitutional amendment places in our state constitution, the substantive core of the Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRA), that was relied on in the Hobby Lobby court decision and that has been enacted at the federal level (to govern federal law) and in nineteen (19) states: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Thirteen (13) states have interpreted their state constitutions to provide similar protection: Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Examples of attacks on religious freedom in Texas:

- Christian pastors (Houston 5) had their sermons subpoenaed by the Mayor of Houston (Houston).
- High school valedictorian threatened with incarceration for using religious words in her speech at a graduation ceremony. (Medina Valley H.S.)
- Cheerleaders banned from using Bible verses on banners for sporting events. (Kountze)
- Following U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, a federal government official sought to censor a pastor's prayer, eliminating references to Jesus, during a Memorial Day ceremony honoring veterans at a national cemetery. (Houston)
- Pregnancy centers targeted by a City of Austin ordinance for their religious beliefs. (Austin)

HB 623: Texas Preservation of Sovereignty and Marriage Act

- Prohibits state or local funds, including governmental salaries, from being used to license or support same-sex 'marriage.' HB 623 expressly prohibits state or local government employees from recognizing, granting, or enforcing same-sex 'marriage' licenses and prohibits state courts from recognizing same-sex 'marriage' licenses.
- In 2005, 2/3rd of the Texas House and Texas Senate passed a Constitutional Amendment to confirm that marriage is between one man and one woman. Later that year, 76% of Texas voters, including 253 of the 254 counties in Texas, voted for this language to be added to our Texas Constitution at the polls. But in February of 2014, an unelected federal judge in San Antonio ruled against our marriage laws. A "stay" was placed on the decision.
- Texas has seen numerous recent attacks and threats to our state marriage laws and our state authority:
 - The Texas Supreme Court is being pressured to grant same-sex divorces.
 - A Travis County clerk recently issued a same sex marriage license to two women.
 - Houston Mayor Annise Parker is currently recognizing same-sex 'marriages' from other states for employee benefits in violation of state law and a current court order.

Marriage Talking Points

Q: Isn't this an issue of equality?

A: Let's talk about what redefining marriage "equals."

Redefining marriage equals private businesses being forced to fund and participate in an issue that is not settle by SCOTUS, ask wedding photographer and bakers currently under attack by the government, who serve and employ gay individuals but don't want to be forced to participate in a same-sex wedding.

Redefining marriage equals men entering little girls bathrooms; ask moms in Houston & San Antonio where a new transsexual bathroom ordinance has been passed.

Redefining marriage equals taxpayers being forced to fund gov't benefits for same sex couples.

Redefining marriage equals Pastor persecution; ask the Houston 5 pastors who's sermons were subpoenaed by the mayor. <http://txvalues.org/2014/10/15/city-of-houston-to-pastors-turn-over-your-sermons/>

Q: Isn't the proper role of the court to settle the issue of marriage? Isn't it nearly settled already?

A: Actually, the Texas people and other states already settled this issue, we had a 2/3 vote in the House/Senate; 76% of voters in 2005 confirmed that marriage is between one man and one woman. Any change should be proven at the Capitol or the voting polls.

A: Only a handful of people will decide whether to redefine marriage today, but millions of Texans were a part of the process to confirm our marriage laws.

Q: Why are you against letting people love each other? How will you personally be affected by this?

A: We understand that people have a variety of ways that they show love. This issue is about what is marriage and efforts by some to force the government to redefine marriage. If you remove the current boundaries in law regarding marriage, where does it end? If marriage is redefined, people and businesses would be punished for not supporting polygamy and a "throuple." Redefining marriage leads to legislation like HB 537 that removes "mother" and "father" references from Texas birth certificates.

Examples of what redefining marriage "equals":

Oregon: Redefining marriage = Cake bakers forced to shut down (Aaron & Melissa Klein- Sweet Cakes by Melissa) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0X_bEXtytc

New Mexico: Elane Photography: business owner forced by government to violate her conscience rights or participate in same-sex wedding. <http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/5537>

New York State: Redefining marriage = Farmers forced by government to host same-sex 'wedding' in their home <http://dailysignal.com/2014/09/26/farmers-lesbian-couple-hateful-people/>

Washington State: Redefining marriage = Great grandmother possibly losing florist business <http://dailysignal.com/2014/12/28/great-grandma-florist-lose-livelihood-saying-no-wedding/>