



752 N. Stewart Rd. Mansfield, Ohio 44905

February 8, 2017

Robert J. Kurtz
Pastor/Administrator

Eric Humble
Administrative Pastor

Paul Baird
Youth Pastor/Principal

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The Honorable Timothy Ginter
Community and Family Advancement Committee
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Ginter:

Thank you for the time you are giving to consider the Pastor Protection Act. Thank you for your service to our great country and state!

I am writing to request passage of the Pastor Protection Act because our country was founded upon freedom of speech and freedom of religion. We do a great disservice to our country, our state and our local communities when we place restrictions on the proclaiming of God's truth from our pulpits and restrictions on our free exercise of religion. To demand or to require a pastor to go against the Word of God and to sanction a marriage which is not God-honoring is a travesty. Protection against abuse of the free exercise of religion is vital to our churches!

A perusal of our early leaders' writings illustrates their understanding of this importance for our country. Justice John McLean (1785-1861) served in the U. S. Congress, as a judge on the Ohio Supreme Court, and then held cabinet positions under two U. S. Presidents. He once made this statement - "For many years, my hope for the perpetuity of our institutions has rested upon Bible morality and the general dissemination of Christian principles. This is an element which did not exist in the ancient republics. It is a basis on which free governments may be maintained through all time. . . . Free government is not a self-moving machine. . . . Our mission of freedom is not carried out by brute force, by canon law, or any other law except the moral law and those Christian principles which are found in the Scriptures."

To protect pastors from censorship is key to the dissemination of key Biblical truths! Woodrow Wilson once said "America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture."

Although the righteousness proclaimed in God's Word can be offensive to we sinful men, it is still the message we must share and strive to live! I cannot express this truth any better than did Alexis de Tocqueville, the famous 19th century French statesman, historian and social philosopher. "I sought for the key to the greatness and



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genius of America in her harbors...; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Please vote to maintain freedom of speech and freedom of religion! Please vote to pass the Pastor Protection Act!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert J. Kurtz".

Robert J. Kurtz
Senior Pastor