

GR Grand River Baptist

The Honorable Timothy Ginter
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

February 19, 2017

Dear Chairman Ginter and most honorable elected Representatives,

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to earnestly defend the need for HB 36 in this Great State.

Woodrow Wilson said "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do". And so I would like to take a moment to remind us, as citizens what our national heritage is:

- Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, 96% (or fifty-four) of them were fundamental, Biblical Christians, and 43% (or twenty-four) of them held bible school or seminary degrees.
- Of the fifty five delegates to ratify the United States Constitution, 80% (or forty-four) of them were ministers of the gospel, and 95% (or fifty-two) of them were members of Biblical Christian Churches.
- In 1860, 91% of our two hundred eighty-eight nations colleges, had college presidents that were also ministers of the Gospel.
- In 1890 a survey conducted of state universities found that 90% of our universities had daily chapel services, 50% of those universities made those services mandatory and 25% of them required church attendance in addition to those chapel services.

Dear representatives while the first amendment of the United States Constitution would seemingly make HB 36 unnecessary, we have seen some very troubling lawsuits, and even more troubling court decisions, during the past several years, and this bill is a great undergird of our first freedom here in Ohio.

James Wilson, one of the 4 fathers of the constitution, and one of the first 6 supreme court justices, was appointed by the Father of our country George Washington, He invented the idea of law school, even authored the first text books and said this "you cannot have good civil law without it being based on divine law (if your civil law contradicts divine law, your law is wrong)"

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Each one of us in this room has a national guarantee. A guarantee that our speech be free, and unrestrained by others who disagree with us. In addition that same guarantee also states that we have the ability to exercise our individual religious beliefs without the fear of government intervention or prohibition. Our constitution makes this abundantly clear. It is because of this seemingly clear first amendment that some argue that Ohio doesn't need this legislation, and it is because of this argument that I would like to point out a small sample of individuals whose professional lives, reputations and business have been utterly destroyed in the past three and a half years because other citizens, attorneys and judges believe that their personal belief system trump that of their neighbors and trump the original intent of our constitution, our bill of rights and our Judeo Christian heritage.

Consider Dick & Betty Odgaard who lost their entire wedding business in the state of Iowa for simply having a business designed to honor marriage as it has been understood for our entire national history, two individuals disagreed with them, and as appose to finding someone else to do business with, they instead sued them and destroyed their entire life's work.

Then there is Aaron & Melissa Klein whose bakery was lost and whose bank accounts were garnished by the Oregon's State Labor Commission, ordering them to pay a \$136,927.07 to two ladies for not baking them a cake.

Or how about Elaine Huguenin who was told by the Supreme Court of New Mexico in 2015 that she must take same sex ceremony photographs against her constitutionally protected religious beliefs or lose the business she built.

The stark reality is we need this legislation to protect our constitutional rights and the property of our citizens. This legislation not only protects our churches, our pastors and neighbors but also the great history of our land. There is a constant attack on religious liberty, and it is our bible preaching churches that according to many of our founding fathers, are directly responsible, and happily cultivating law abiding and governmental respecting citizens.

In July 1851 Daniel Webster who spent nearly twenty years in the senate and served as secretary of state for three presidents stated: "Man is not only an intellectual but he is also a religious being, and his religious feelings and habits require cultivation. The cultivation of the religious sentiment ... inspires respect for law and order, and gives strength to the whole social fabric...Whatever makes men good Christians makes men good citizens"

In George Washington final address 1796 he stated: "of all the habits and dispositions which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports..."

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James McHenry, the Secretary of war for George Washington and John Adams stated that "... the Holy Scriptures alone, secure to society, order and peace, and to our courts of justice and constitutions...purity, stability, and usefulness..."

Our dear elected representatives. Our churches and their ability to preach the Holy Scriptures to our State and the churches ability to strengthen families and citizens and to defend our governmental institutions, relies on our institutions doing what is right. And what is right, is protecting our Constitution against our enemies foreign and domestic. And in this case, the enemies, which are afoot are domestic enemies, seeking to take away our constitutional rights, and liberties. To bankrupt businesses, eliminate Biblical Christian influence in the public sphere and change the message from the pulpits. In essence, to fundamentally change our nation's history, and in turn our prosperity, as our prosperity is only a blessing from God.

I want to thank you for your attention and for your hard work for our State, and I would like to end with a quote by John Jay, Author of the Federalist papers and the original chief justice who said "unto him who is the author and giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks for his manifold and unmerited blessing, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved Son... Blessed be His holy name" Thank you.

Sincerely,



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