

Pastor Protection Act HB 36

The 1st Amendment is meant to define for the Government what they are not allowed to do in regards to Establishment and Prohibition of the Exercise of Religion. Today we have people who are attempting to use our legal system to remove any reference or influence that God and religion has on our nation. Blinded by their personal agenda they refuse to see that our society's foundations were laid using the principles which they stand against.

"Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." George Washington's Farewell Address 1796.

Members of our society often attempt to use our nation's system of law as an instrument of intimidation against people they deem as being of a wrong mind set. It is not rare to see activists use the threat of law suits to halt the free exercise of one's religion while claiming they are protecting the preferences of a specific group. I am concerned that these law suits are more about forcing Americans to set aside their deeply held beliefs to appease an opposing opinion of another group of Americans.

Pastors and church leaders spend their energy on learning God's Law, and God's Book, and are attempting to build society on the principles our nation was founded on. They are not lawyers. I am concerned that the threat of being sued for standing for what his faith teaches him may cause him, out of fear, to cower to the abuse of our legal system. George Washington cited God's Word as the book that would ever stand as proof, when he warned about the certainty of the abuse of societies institutions:

"The blessed Religion revealed in the word of God will remain an eternal and awful monument to prove that the best Institutions may be abused by human depravity; and that they may even, in some instances be made subservient to the vilest of purposes. Should, hereafter, those who are intrusted with the management of this government, incited by the lust of power & prompted by the supineness or venality of their Constituents, overleap the known barriers of this Constitution and violate the unalienable rights of humanity: it will only serve to shew, that no compact among men (however provident in its construction & sacred in its ratification) can be pronounced everlasting and inviolable—and if I may so express myself, that no wall of words—that no mound of parchment can be so formed as to stand against the sweeping torrent of boundless ambition on the one side, aided by the sapping current of corrupted morals on the other."

(p. 34 of a draft of a discarded and undelivered version of his first inaugural address April 30, 1789)

We need HB 36 to ensure by specific wording the protection of people of faith to hold and practice their faith without fear of civil law suits. These law suits, seemingly designed to intimidate and drain financially, brought against them for helping hold up the foundations on which our nation was set. We need this act to ensure that threats by people that will attempt to protect the preferences of one group of Americans, in exchange for removing the clearly stated Rights of another group, need no longer be feared by those in leadership of people of faith.