

Pastor Troy Kline Speech 2/8/17

I would like to thank the chairman and the committee members for the opportunity to speak this evening on the issue of the pastor protection act.

As a pastor of a church in southeastern Ohio in a community with varying ideals and lifestyles I find great value in the passing of this bill which would protect both the pastorate and the property of any church.

The teachings and values that are held within any church are what make up the identity of that church and pastor. If those values and teachings are not upheld or allowed to be practiced then the identity of that local body is possibly lost.

I am thankful for the country that I live in that enables me to practice what I believe to be true. I am also thankful for a government that is established to protect these rights for all people.

There will always be disagreements between people on matters of faith and practice but when someone interferes with pre-established beliefs and tries to force compromise within a private organization or church liberty is lost.

We may not always be free to practice what we believe in all places but we should have the liberty to practice what we believe in our own churches in our private lives.

If this bill is passed it will protect the liberties that we assume to hold and I hope to have future confidence in that liberty.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee for allowing me to speak today.