



February 6, 2017

Honorable Timothy Ginter
77 High Street
Columbus, Oh 43215

To the Honorable Timothy Ginter,

Thank you for the opportunity that you have afforded to me, and many others like me, an opportunity to give our voices in support of HB 286 – The Ohio Pastor’s Protection Act.

It is unfortunate that legislation must be drafted and enacted to protect that which is common sense and reasonable to every man and woman. The fact that a bill has to be passed to protect a person’s conscience shows you the absolute absurdity in which the state has found themselves. Because those who are intolerant of others people’s beliefs claim tolerance, which is a great fallacy and actually oppression, we find ourselves in this position of good being called evil and evil being called good and in need of laws to protect us from an ever growing government overreach.

Regardless, of what a person accepts or does not accept, regarding the validity of same-sex marriage, the imposition of someone else’s will on the conscience of another is just plain wrong and against the very principles that govern us as a nation, and as a state and as individuals. George Washington may have expressed it with the greatest amount of passion and defensiveness defending the imposition of a person’s will upon another by stating:

“If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution framed in the Convention, where I had the honor to preside, might possibly endanger the religious rights [Christian rights] of any ecclesiastical society, certainly I should never have placed my signature to it; and, **if I could now conceive that the General Government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution.**” (Emphasis added)

“I have often expressed my sentiments that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious [Christian] opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity [the Lord] **according to the dictates of his own conscience.**” (Emphasis added)

The conscience is that special and unique part of all mankind that separates him from all other creations. It is the capacity to know the difference between right and wrong and make a conscious decision based upon that knowledge. While many that live among us may appear not to exercise any conscience, the reality is that have simply allowed their conscience to be seared and calloused toward the absolute truth and created relative truth in their minds. Thankfully, God can restore and revive their conscience according to the truth of God's Word.

Dwight D. Eisenhower warned,

" Every step we take towards making the State our Caretaker of our lives, by that we move toward making the State our Master"

Thomas Jefferson also warns of the danger of forcing the government to get involved in the legislating the opinions of the people,"

" That the opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction; that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at one destroys all religious liberty."

Let it be known and be reiterated that this is simply others attempting to take away the religious liberty of others to impose their own will on the conscience of others. That is what tyrants do, and bullies do, thus the reason we need a bill like HB 286- The Ohio Pastor's Protection Act to pass into law, to help protect against the constant attempt to erode the religious liberty and exercise that has been in this country since even before its official establishment as the United States of America.

Thank you for your willingness your courage to stand in these times in which we live.

We are praying for all of our legislators to be just, righteous, compassionate, and honorable in all matters they are entrusted with.

In Jesus Name,



John A. Lutz
Pastor

Isaiah 41:10, " Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

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