

**WITNESS INFORMATION FORM – 132ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN – TIM GINTER**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 2/12/2012
NAME: Jonathan Marshall
ORGANIZATION: Hope Baptist Church
(IF APPLICABLE)
POSITION/TITLE: Assistant Pastor
ADDRESS: 6250 South Ave
CITY: Toledo STATE: OH ZIP: 43615
TELEPHONE: 419-867-9996

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON?
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 36
SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE _____ THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

I favor passage of HB 36 because it guarantees a continuation of the current liberties enjoyed by pastors.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?
YES _____ NO
(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 2.5 minutes



February 27, 2017

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

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 36, THE PASTORS' PROTECTION ACT

Thank you Chairman Ginter and all members of this committee for your time today. I also wish to thank Rep. Sheehy, our representative in Toledo, for his continued service to our state.

If HB 36 passes committee and is voted into law, pastors will continue to enjoy their Constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms of religious expression. If it does not pass, they will *ostensibly* enjoy the same freedoms. The question arises, was this bill created by the Department of Redundancy Department?

If it is redundant, as its critics claim, why are there *any* opponents to its passage? It requires no additional funding, seeks no preferred conditions other than the status quo, and suggests no changes to current law. The existing state of affairs will simply continue. Thus, from its opponents' perspective, approving this bill could be seen as the bothersome task of pacifying overly anxious pastors at no cost to the taxpayer.

If, however, the increasing number of lawsuits by the LGBT community against Christian business owners suggests that litigation is on a trajectory toward houses of worship, this amendment guarantees that Ohio pastors will continue to be protected.

Baptists in America have historically been nervous about mixing politics and religion. The Danbury Baptist Association wrote to President Thomas Jefferson in 1801, concerned that government might intrude into their sincerely-held religious beliefs. Jefferson responded thusly:

*"Believing with you that **religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God**; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature*



*should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus **building a wall of separation between Church and State.**"*
- Jefferson, *Writings*, Vol. XVI, pp. 281-282, to the Danbury Baptist Association on January 1, 1802.

As a Baptist, I too believe that matters of religion are between a person and his God. As I would never sanction the forced "conversion" of an individual to any faith, I therefore urge the passage of this bill to protect pastors in the same way.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Marshall". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Pastor Jonathan Marshall

**WITNESS INFORMATION FORM – 132ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN – TIM GINTER**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 2/14/17
NAME: David Heaton
ORGANIZATION: Hope Baptist Church
(IF APPLICABLE)
POSITION/TITLE: Assistant Pastor
ADDRESS: 6250 South Ave
CITY: Toledo STATE: OH ZIP: 43615
TELEPHONE: 419-867-9996

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON?
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB36
SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE _____ THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

I am in favor of the "Ohio Pastor Protection Act." I strongly urge you to pass this Bill.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?
YES _____ NO

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? _____