

The Pastor Protection Act (HB 36) is an extremely important bill that the Ohio Senate should pass. Ohio Value Voters is in complete support of this bill due to the threat from those that would minimize the rights of our churches and pastors throughout the State of Ohio.

The organization known as the "[Human Rights Campaign](#)", which promotes the LGBTQ agenda, is behind the initiative to require churches to preform same sex marriages along with the use of church facilities for same sex receptions and/or programs.

Many would argue that House Bill 36 is not necessary due to our rights which are already defined within the First Amendment of the Constitution. However, there continues to be an erosion of these rights by the LGBTQ community. The following three excerpts from prior articles eliminates any doubt of the objectives of the Human Rights Campaign and the LGBTQ community:

In an article by Matt Wash on October 22, 2014, he writes:

There has been a lot of outrage from radical right wing circles this week, as slobbering fundamentalist bigots in backwards cesspools like Texas and Idaho are finally being called to task for their anti-gay hatred. Conservative Christians are about the only thing we should hate more than bigotry, so it's about time we start cracking down on these cretins...

Now, all of this so-called "persecution" of Christians has led a few of them — the observant ones, anyway — to fret rather frantically about the possibility that one day even churches will be required to perform same sex weddings. And, once again, we liberals have tried to calm those fears by assuring them that no such thing will ever happen. But I think it's time we end that particular charade. Of course churches will soon be required to marry gay couples. Of course. Those wheels have been in motion for many years, and there is no reason why they should slow down now. Not when we're so close. The full article can be found here: [Link](#)

In an article by Joy Pullman on July 6, 2016, she writes,

Iowa churches and church-run daycares must let males and females pee, dress, and shower next to each other, and pastors and Christians could be brought before extrajudicial tribunals if they "directly or indirectly" make "persons of any particular...gender identity" feel "unwelcome," according to new regulations from Iowa's Orwellian-named "Civil Rights Commission." The full article can be found here: [Link](#)

In an article by Mark Hodges on February 22, 2017, he writes,

At the same time as Ohio legislators consider a bill to protect the religious freedom of churches and pastors, a prominent Ohio gay activist has admitted that her group does indeed want to force churches to rent their facilities to homosexuals for receptions, weddings, dinners, and meetings.

The surprising admission came as legislators are debating Ohio Pastors Protection Act (HB-36). The bill would protect pastors from forced participation in homosexual 'marriages' and allow churches to refuse to rent space for ceremonies or activities "that do not conform" to the church's "sincerely held religious beliefs."

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Nino Vitale, recently debated Alana Jochum, executive director of the LGBTQ advocacy group "Equality Ohio," on NPR. Rep. Vitale explained to LifeSiteNews, "*Basically, I've been trying to get them to admit that they are going after church facilities.*"

During the NPR interview, Vitale asked if churches should be legally forced to rent to someone who wants to use their facilities for something that's against their church's belief system. "Yes," Jochum answered. *That facility "should be open to everyone."* The full article can be found here: [Link](#)

Recently in Cuyahoga County, a three member Human Rights Commission was formed due to the passage of an ordinance on September 25, 2018. Former Speaker of the Ohio House and now County Executive Armond Budish signed this legislation into law on September 27, 2018. [Link](#)

This legislation was support by all eight Democrats on the Cuyahoga County Council. The three Republican council members opposed the ordinance.

On September 24th, one day prior to the vote on this legislation, Cleveland Baptist Church Pastor Kevin Folger, Pastor Peter Folger, and I met with Cuyahoga County President (former Ohio House and Senate member) Dan Brady. The primary objective of this meeting was to urge Mr. Brady to provide county pastors, churches and houses of worship an exemption to this legislation that impacts fifty-seven cities in Cuyahoga County.

During our conversation, I asked Mr. Brady if he would refer this legislation back to committee and support an amendment to exempt pastors, churches and houses of worship. He stated that he would not do it because "*they*" don't want it. I questioned further the "*they*" and asked the question, "*who are they, the Human Rights Campaign*"? Mr. Brady responded "*yes*".

It is obvious that the Human Rights Campaign and LGBTQ community will continue their pursuit to force pastors and churches to conduct same sex marriages.

Ohio Value Voters supports House Bill-36, the Pastor Protection Act, and respectfully urge you to vote for this legislation.

Sincerely,



John Stover, President
Ohio Value Voters, Inc.