

October 3, 2006

**RESULTS OF OUR WORK IN THE 109TH CONGRESS**

There are a lot of people who believe the liberal media line that the 109th was a “do-nothing” Congress. The truth is that this is liberal media hype, meant to discourage conservatives and help elect secularists and other liberals to Congress. What the liberal press really means is: “The 109th Congress didn’t do any thing for liberals.” When it comes to family and conservative social issues this Congress did a lot, despite the stalling and delaying tactics of Minority Leader Reid in the Senate. Below is a list of some of the significant legislative actions taken by the 109th Congress as a result of the work of the Religious Freedom Coalition and other social conservative groups.

**Pro-Family Bills: Signed into Law**

**Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005** Passed House (379 - 35) and Senate (66-32). Signed into law 6/15/06. Increases fines for indecency violations on public TV stations to up to \$325,000.

**Fetal Farming Prohibition Act of 2006** Passed unanimously in House and Senate, and signed into law 07/19/06. Prohibits "farming" of human fetuses for research purposes.

**Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005** - Passed House (by voice vote) and in Senate, agreed to as engrossed amendment to an appropriations bill. Signed into law 7/24/06. Prevents condominiums or homeowners' associations from prohibiting displays of the American flag.

**Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005** - Passed House (431 - 1) and in Senate, agreed to as an engrossed amendment. Signed into law 12/20/05. Provides federal funding to increase availability of cord blood to treat patients. Cord blood is a rich, non-controversial source of stem cells that can be matched to patients and has already been used to treat at least 72 diseases.

**Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2005** - Passed House (by voice vote) and in Senate, agreed to as an engrossed amendment. Signed into law 7/27/06. Reforms sex offender registration laws and strengthens laws to prevent child pornography.

**Preserving the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial** - Passed House (349 - 74) and agreed to in Senate as an engrossed amendment. Signed into law 8/14/06. Allows the federal government to acquire the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial, including a 29-foot cross, to protect it from destruction.

**Pro- Family Bills: Passed the House**

**Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act - H.R. 748/S. 403** - House Passed 9/26/06 (264 - 153) Includes language from previously passed House and Senate versions. Prohibits transportation of a minor girl across state lines for an abortion to circumvent parental notification or parental consent laws in the girl's home state. Requires an abortion provider in a state without a parental notification requirement to notify a parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state. A version of the bill passed in the Senate and then was blocked from reaching conference in a procedural move by Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

[Sustaining Presidential Veto of Embryonic Stem Cell Bill - H.R. 810](#) - House sustained the veto 7/19/06 (235 - 193) Bill would have allowed tax payer funding for research that requires the destruction of human embryos.

[Public Expression of Religion Act - H.R. 2679](#) - Passed the House 9/26/06 (244 - 173) Provides that when state or local officials are sued over public expressions of religion, no monetary damages, costs, or attorney's fees may be awarded.

[Pledge Protection Act - H.R. 2389](#) - Passed the House 7/19/06 (260 - 167) Bars certain courts from ruling on the phrase "under God" in the pledge and invokes Congress' constitutional right to define the jurisdiction of the lower courts.

[Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act - H.R. 4411](#) - Passed the House 7/11/06 (317 - 93) Provides tools to law enforcement to enforce the ban on Internet gambling.

[Abortion in Military Facilities - Andrews Amendment to Defense Authorization Act](#) - Defeated 5/10/06 (191-237) Amendment would have allowed abortion at military facilities. Picked up 4 votes over last year's vote of 194-233. The liberal-backed bill was stopped by House conservatives!

[Earmark for Gay and Lesbian Center](#) - King amendment to HUD appropriations bill - Passed 6/14/06 (Voice Vote) This bill stops a HUD block grant of \$300,000 earmarked for a multi-purpose gay and lesbian facility in Los Angeles, CA. This was a major victory for us!

[Medical Marijuana - Hinchey amendment to SSJC appropriations bill](#) - Defeated 6/28/06 (163 - 259) Amendment would have prevented the Department of Justice from enforcing ban on marijuana usage. We stopped the liberals from defacto legalization of marijuana use.

[Resolution Supporting Responsible Fatherhood - H.Res. 318](#) - Passed the House 6/13/06 (407 - 0) Supports responsible fatherhood, promotes marriage, and encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.

[Marriage Protection Amendment - H.J.Res. 88](#) - House vote 7/18/06 (236 - 187) States that marriage in the United States consists of the union of one man and one woman. Allows states rather than courts to grant benefits of marriage. This measure did not actually pass the House, as a two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Constitution. However we picked up 9 votes over last year's vote of 227-186.

### **Pro- Family Bills: Pending Consideration**

[Human Cloning Prohibition Act - H.R. 1357](#) Prohibits the creation of human clones to be used in research experiments, after which they would be destroyed.

[Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act - H.R. 356](#) Requires notification to pregnant women that their unborn children will feel pain during an abortion and that there is the option of anesthesia for the child.

[Marriage Penalty Tax Relief - H.R.293 and H.R. 3384](#)  
Permanently extends the marriage penalty tax relief.

## **THERE STILL MAY BE MORE**

### **PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT**

Although the Congress adjourned on Friday, September 29, 2006 for members to return to their home states to campaign for reelection, there will be one last chance to pass social conservative legislation in a 'lame duck' session in November. Regardless of the outcome of the general election on November 7th, the House and Senate will return on November 13th and hold a short session until Thanksgiving. That will give us about ten legislative days to try to push in the Senate for legislation, such as the Pledge Protection Act, which has already passed in the House.

Because of the tens of thousands of petitions we have delivered to Senators and the hard work of our Executive Director Peggy Birchfield, there are now a total of 19 Senate sponsors for the Pledge Protection Act. With just two or three more co-sponsors before the lame duck session in November, we would have a good shot at bringing up the legislation as an amendment to an appropriations bill. Oftentimes the only way to pass social conservative legislation in the Senate is to attach it to a required spending bill. We are still hopeful of getting Democrat Senator Ben Nelson who is in a tight race in Nebraska. Please pray that some Senators will get close to God on this issue as the election nears!

### **PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF RELIGION ACT**

As mentioned above, the Public Expression of Religion Act passed the House on September 26, 2006 with a whopping 244 to 173 victory. Many Democrats crossed the aisle to help Republican conservatives pass this important legislation that would stop ACLU blackmail.

This Act amends 42 U.S.C. which currently allows parties to sue state and local governments claiming their individual rights were violated and demand attorneys' fees in the case if they win. The ACLU and other liberal groups use this clause to threaten lawsuits claiming cities and towns violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution by allowing, for example, city council members to pray before meetings. PERA would amend 42 U.S.C. to make it clear that plaintiffs such as the ACLU do not receive any court costs or legal fees. This will return the status as it was before 1983.

Again, our only hope remaining in the 109th Congress for passage of PERA is as an Amendment to an appropriations bill in the November lame duck session. Congress will not meet at all in December! In January of 2007 the 110th Congress will be convened and the legislative calendar is wiped clean! That means we must pass PERA and the Pledge Protection Act in the House yet again before it can be presented to the Senate.

### **WHAT IF THE REPUBLICANS LOSE IN NOVEMBER?**

I receive calls almost every day from people asking what will happen to social conservative legislation such as the pledge Protection Act and PERA if the Democrats take over the House, the Senate or both chambers.

The answer is simple: All social conservative legislation dies.

Whichever party controls the House or Senate chooses the chairman of every committee. The Chairman decides what legislation will move forward for a vote. If the Democrats win the House it is very possible that homosexual Congressman Barney Franks will head the Judiciary Committee.

There is no way that homosexual activist Barney Frank is going to even allow a vote on any bill that supports traditional marriage or the traditional family. On the second page of this update it was mentioned that an earmark for \$300,000 for a gay and lesbian center in Los Angeles was blocked by the House. With pro-homosexual activists in the Democrat Party in charge there would not even have been a vote to block the earmark. There will be a lot more spending to support gay and lesbian centers in a Democrat controlled Congress and there will be no votes at all to support marriage as between one man and one woman.

On the Senate side Senator Harry Reid, (D-NV) led his Democrat Party caucus fight against the Terrorist Detention bill in the last few days of the 109th Congress, claiming that it did not afford foreign terrorists enough "civil liberties." The bill was needed to continue the use of detention camps to hold and try terrorists caught in foreign nations such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) was the only presidential candidate to vote against holding and trying terrorists in military courts.

Senator Clinton believes that terrorists who have killed innocent women and children should be afforded the same or better rights than American citizens and tried in federal courts with defense attorneys paid for by the tax payers. If Reid and Clinton controlled the Senate there would have been no vote to detain terrorists; instead, they would have been granted the same rights and privileges in courts as American citizens. The Senate Democrats were also against building a fence on the Mexican border and want everyone to be able to vote in elections without showing any ID at all. Hmmm!

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM - KOSOVO**

On Thursday, September 28, 2006 the Religious Freedom Coalition and Christian Solidarity International held a one day conference at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Speakers included Father Keith Roderick, Robert Spencer, Cliff Kincaid and Srdja Trifkovic. More than 50 organizations and congressional offices participated in the conference which was covered by members of the media including Robert Novak. It is through sponsored events such as this that the Religious Freedom Coalition is able to expose the true conditions of persecution endured by Christians living in Kosovo under the new Muslim-led administration. Kosovo, a part of Serbia, was taken over forcibly by the Clinton Administration for the purpose of establishing a Muslim state in Europe in the 1990s. The reward for this kindness to Muslims was the 9-11 Jihad attack against the United States.

## **REALIGNMENT**

During the next few months the Religious Freedom Coalition will be taking certain actions to contain costs and to be more efficient. On November 1, 2006 we will move from our Virginia operations center in Fredericksburg to smaller facilities in Stafford. The size and scope of our Washington, DC office located just a few blocks from the Capitol Building will not change. Please be in prayer for our staff while these changes are taking place.

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William J. Murray, Chairman

*Religious Freedom Coalition, PO Box 77511, Washington, DC 20013 \*(202) 543-0300 \* [www.rfcnet.org](http://www.rfcnet.org)*