Religious Freedom Coalition

The Chairman's Action Report



November 29, 2006

A TOUGH YEAR AHEAD

The 109th Congress is coming to a close and in January of 2007 the 110th Congress will be sworn in. Since in the November elections the Democrats won both the House and the Senate, this means they will control all the committees in both Houses and have total control of the congressional agenda. Not a single social conservative will be in charge of a committee. Men and women who promote abortion and homosexual marriage will be in charge of every important committee such as Education, Judiciary and even Homeland Security.

EXAMPLE 1 : Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) will be in charge of Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Out of the box he will attempt to defund all Abstinence Education projects and move those funds to abortion clinics. He also wants to make it a criminal offense to "insult" homosexuals, and wants federal legislation to legalize homosexual marriage.

EXAMPLE 2: Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) will be in charge of the House Judiciary Committee. Conyers is a member of the House Progressive Caucus which consists of all the out and out socialists in the House. That caucus calls for, among other things, universal free medical care paid for by the taxpayers, elimination of the anti-terrorist Patriot Act; and legislating "equality" based on sexual orientation.

In other words, not a single committee in either the House or the Senate will consider social conservative legislation. There will be no hearings on how to stop abortion, but there will be hearings on making abortion more affordable -- or even making taxpayers pay for abortions.

Let's compare that to what happened in the 109th Congress:

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 and in Senate. 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 and in Senate. 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. See page 2)

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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.

In addition there were 13 pro-family victories in the House in the 109th such as:

Abortion in Military Facilities - Andrews Amendment to Defense Authorization Act - Defeated 5/10/06 (191-237) <u>Amendment would have allowed abortion at military facilities</u>. Picked up 4 votes over last year's vote of 194-233. The liberal-backed bill was stopped by 109th 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!

Previous to the 109th, in the 108th Congress we passed a Partial Birth Abortion ban. I could go back even further. In the last decade dozens of pro-life, pro-family measures have been passed. That all ends now because there will not be any votes on pro-family bills in the committees and there will be no votes on the House or Senate floors for pro-family legislation.

John Conyers' idea of "pro-family" is to allow homosexuals to adopt children, His idea of pro-family is to pass laws mandating jail time for calling homosexuality an abomination. One of the first agenda items for John Conyers as the chairman of the Judiciary Committee will be to pass hate crimes legislation to shut up conservative Christians. He wants to strip churches of their tax exempt status if they do not hire open homosexuals as church employees. This man wants to make evangelical Christians and conservative Catholics second class citizens who are forbidden to publicly express their views.

HOW DO WE COMBAT THIS LIBERAL INSANITY?

Social conservatives are really going to have to put up a fight to stop a very far left agenda from undoing all the accomplishments of the last ten or twelve years.

FIRST: We must stand firm with President George W. Bush and convince him to veto any pro-homosexual bills such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). This bill is specifically designed to force people to hire homosexuals in virtually any job. The Boy Scouts, for example, would be forced to hire homosexuals into positions where they would have close contact with young boys.

ENDA would also make it virtually impossible to fire a homosexual regardless of his wrongdoing on the job. Even if a homosexual did not perform his duties, he could claim discrimination and force the employer to let him keep the job.

We must make sure that when ENDA is passed by the new Democrat controlled House and Senate, that President George W. Bush vetoes it. That will only happen if we put great pressure on the White House. With the Democrats in control of the entire government except the White House, the President will be forced to compromise on a lot of liberal bills in order to get just some of what he wants back in return. We may be forced to deliver millions of petitions to the White House on this issue.

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PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT

In the 109th Congress we passed the Pledge Protection Act by a very wide margin. I am sure that Congressman Todd Akin will once again introduce this important bill to protect "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. However, there is absolutely no way that ultra liberal socialist John Conyers will allow this bill to have a hearing in the Judiciary Committee, and it must pass there to go onto the House floor. Like most socialists, Conyers does not even believe there should be any national borders. He would be happy to have no Pledge of Allegiance at all.

We must keep the Pledge Protection Act in front of congressmen and Senators for the next two years and we must prove to the new ultra left wing Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, that we will not back down.

The Religious Freedom Coalition will once again push for petitions for the Pledge Protection Act but with a change Not only will we ask you to sign a petition to your congressman in the 110th Congress, we will ask you sign one to Nancy Pelosi as well. This San Francisco liberal will be the third most powerful person in the United States after President Bush and Vice President Cheney. She will have a Secret Service escort with her everywhere she goes because she is now second in line for the Presidency after Vice President Cheney.

We cannot let Nancy Pelosi forget that she is the Speaker of the House for all the people, not just her liberal homosexual constituency in San Francisco that sent her to Congress.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF RELIGION ACT

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

The Public Expression of Religion Act (PERA) could win again, but we will have to find someone other than Congressman John Hostettler (R-IN) to introduce it. He was one of several good men in the House who were defeated on November 7th in the Republican debacle.

This Act would have amended 42 U.S.C. which currently allows parties to sue state and local governments claiming their individual rights have been 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 violate the Establishment Clause of the Constitution by allowing, for example, city council members to pray before meetings. PERA would have amended 42 U.S.C. to make it clear that plaintiffs such as the ACLU do not receive any court costs or legal fees.

In the final November meeting of the 109th Congress, Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) valiantly tried to attach this bill as an Amendment to spending bills, knowing that it would be virtually impossible to pass it out of the House under the San Francisco leadership of Nancy Pelosi.

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.

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INTERNATIONAL

ISRAEL AND THE NEW CONGRESS

Don't even for a minute think that the liberals who have taken over the Congress favor the nation of Israel. Far from being pro-Israel, many of those who now control Congress are far more interested in protecting "Muslim rights" than helping to protect innocent people from acts of terrorism such as suicide bombings. Congressman John Conyers, who will be the head of the Judiciary Committee, last year offered a congressional resolution condemning any attacks on Islam. His resolution referred to the "holy Koran" and asked that local, state and federal officials protect it. Oddly, Congressman Conyers had no problem with a Crucifix being placed in urine and displayed at a New York Museum.

The official liberal view of Israel is that it is occupying the lands of the Palestinians and that the suicide bombings are just resistance to that occupation. Of course, the persecution of Christians in Muslims areas of the world does not seem to be a problem for liberals like Conyers at all.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Senator Rick Santorum was the head of the Congressional Working Group for Religious Freedom. He has lost his Senate seat, and as of now there is no one to head the group. The organization, made up of dozens of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) such as the Religious Freedom Coalition, exposed the persecution of Christians all over the world. Senator Santorum's loss will be felt, as will the sad fact that men such as Ted Kennedy and John Kerry are now in charge of important committees.

It was hard enough before to pass pro-family legislation in the Senate, now it is virtually impossible. The next two years will be the hardest we have had for over a decade in attempting to fight the socialist, pro-secularist agenda that is sweeping the world and has already almost destroyed the family in Europe.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO FIGHT

During December we will expand out Washington, DC office that is just seven blocks from the Capitol Dome. I want to make sure that I am in walking distance of Nancy Pelosi and the rest of the secularist San Francisco-type liberals that will be running the Congress. Just this past week our phone lines were upgraded and faster DSL lines were installed. To accomplish this we are shutting down some of the functions of our Virginia office. After Christmas we will no longer operate our own Internet store and some of our bookkeeping and accounting will be outsourced so that our staff can concentrate on our efforts with the new liberal and anti-family Congress.

Please pray for us as we will be doing battle almost daily with far left elements that now control much of our government. You can help. We do need your prayers, but your financial help is also much needed during the hard times to come for conservatives on Capitol Hill.



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