

*A.M.E.N.*

*American Ministry Educating our Nation*

(John 8:32) And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

### **HATE CRIMES REDEFINED?**

In an unfortunate vote earlier this month, the United States House of Representatives voted 237-180 to pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1592), a bill that **expands federal hate-crime laws to include ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘gender identity’** in addition to religion, national origin, gender, and race. Should this bill become law, crimes “motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived” sexual orientation of the victim would be subject to the impositions of hate-crime penalties.

There are several reasons this bill is troublesome. Not only does it expand hate-crime protection for a lifestyle that is chosen, but it has unsettling implications for religious freedom: Similar legislation in Canada and parts of Europe has resulted in the prosecution of ‘hate speech’, which has stifled free speech rights of churches, pastors, and Christians opposing homosexuality on Biblical grounds. It is prudent to realize that H.R. 1592 serves as an impetus for the same infringements to occur here.

Clearly, the pro-homosexual movement is lobbying hard for Senate passage of this legislation. It is all the more important that those in opposition make their voices heard. **Call your senator today and urge them to oppose this bill in any form!**

#### **ACTION STEPS**

- 1. Pray! Paul writes in Ephesians that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. The flood of pro-homosexual forces is a deceptive tactic of the enemy.**
- 2. Call your senators! Sen. Grassley and Sen. Harkin can be reached at 202-224-3744 and 202-224-3254 respectively.**

AMEN is a ministry of:

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