



Idaho Values Alliance ~ P.O. Box 44882 ~ Boise, ID 83711

February 20, 2009

To: Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee

Re: Legislation to grant special employment protections on basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

One fundamental and yet little-recognized problem with legislation that grants special workplace protections based on either sexual orientation or gender identity is that such laws are quickly used to harass, intimidate and punish businesses and organizations which adhere to traditional, time-honored values regarding human sexuality.

These laws represent a serious threat to fundamental constitutional rights of freedom of association, speech and religion.

Here is just a partial list of examples:

- Catholic Charities of Boston ended its working of finding homes for hard-to-place adoptive children because Massachusetts' "sexual orientation" law required them to place children in homosexual households
- The Cradle of Liberty Boy Scouts of Philadelphia were evicted from a building they had occupied since 1928 because the organization refuses to allow homosexuals to serve as Scoutmasters, even though the Supreme Court has upheld the Scouts' policy
- Elaine Huegenin, a wedding photographer in New Mexico, was fined \$6,700 for politely declining to photograph a lesbian commitment ceremony, even though lesbian unions have no legal status in the state

- The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association was ruled guilty just last month of violating the state's discrimination law for declining to rent a lesbian couple space for a civil union ceremony
- An Appleton, Wisconsin nightclub has been sued for sexual orientation discrimination for refusing to admit a transgendered man because he insisted on using the bathroom of his choice. The man is biologically male but dresses as a woman.
- Tim Bono of Arlington, Virginia was ordered to make copies of films advocating the homosexual agenda or else pay for someone else to do so
- Starfish Creative Invitations, a Seattle printer, was required to apologize for refusing to print "wedding" invitations for two homosexuals and was required to pledge that he would never again make such a refusal
- The Ann Arbor City Council banned employee payroll deduction donations to the United Way because the United Way supports local Boy Scout troops
- In Chicago, county officials have barred the Salvation Army from bidding on contracts to serve the poor because the Salvation Army does not allow homosexuals to serve as clergy
- An Anglican bishop in England was fined almost \$100,000 for refusing to hire a homosexual to be his youth pastor and was ordered to seek counseling
- A Canadian newspaper, the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, was ordered to pay three homosexual men \$1,500 each after running an ad that contained Bible verses which criticize homosexual behavior
- A Canadian printer, Scott Brockie, was fined \$5,000 and ordered to print stationary for a homosexual rights organization

As these and many other examples make clear, it would be a mistake for Idaho to endanger the civil liberties of its businesses and faith-based organizations by granting special workplace rights based on non-normative sexual orientations.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan Fischer, Executive Director