



## Bad gay rights bill fails in committee

*The Idaho Affiliate of the American Family Association*

[Signup For Updates](#) | [Donate Online](#)

Friday, February 20, 2009

Bryan Fischer, Executive Director

### **GREAT NEWS: SPECIAL RIGHTS BASED ON NON-NORMATIVE SEXUALITY DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE**

The Senate State Affairs Committee declined this morning even to print Sen. Nicole LeFavour's latest bill to provide special workplace protections based on non-normative sexual orientations.

It failed on a voice vote, with only Republican Joe Stegner and Democrat Kate Kelly in support. Two other Republican lawmakers, Sen. Chuck Coiner of Twin Falls and Sen. Tim Corder of Mountain Home, signed on as co-sponsors of this exceedingly dangerous bill.

This bill – as the following segment will illustrate in full – would have represented a grave threat to constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of association, conscience, speech and religion. If passed, it easily could be used to put the Boy Scouts out of business in Idaho along with every value-driven enterprise.

It would have spawned a host of lawsuits, including potential lawsuits against any municipality, public concern or private business that would not allow a transgendered individual to use the bathroom or locker room of his choice.

The rest of the panel – Russ Fulcher (R-Meridian), Bob Geddes (R-Soda Springs), Denton Darrington (R-Declo) and Monty Pearce (R-New Plymouth) - all voiced votes against printing the bill. Committee chairman Curt McKenzie (R-Nampa) is also opposed to it.



Sen. LeFavour complained in her remarks that this is a subject we don't talk about enough, and that gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders feel marginalized and live in fear in Idaho.

But where is the evidence that Idaho is so hateful toward gays? Here we have an openly lesbian lawmaker – who campaigned as an open lesbian and continues to win re-election by huge margins -

can publicly appeal to one of the most powerful committees in the Idaho legislature without fear of reprisal and have her remarks published statewide by a fawning press. Her arguments were heard in full – she was allowed to talk for as long as she wished – and were rejected.

Sen. LeFavour must accept the fact that the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances does not come with a guarantee that you will get what you want. She was given an opportunity to make her case without rebuttal (no testimony is taken at print hearings) and yet still could only persuade two lawmakers to go along with her radical proposal. This is how decisions are made in a democratic republic.

[Spokesman.com | Eye On Boise | Senate panel rejects human rights protections for gays](#)

## **EXAMPLES OF REPRESSIVE USE OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY LAWS**

A fundamental reason to oppose sexual orientation and gender identity laws is the rather severe danger they pose to fundamental human and civil rights, including freedoms of association, conscience, speech and religion.

Here are just a few examples, which I cited in a letter delivered this morning to every member of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

Catholic Charities of Boston ended its work 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' constitutional right to do so

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 space to a lesbian couple 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 to remediate his homophobia

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

### **IVA letter to Senate State Affairs Committee on dangers of sexual orientations laws**

#### **IVA IN THE NEWS**

*Bryan Fischer, executive director of the Idaho Values Alliance, handed out a letter to committee members before the hearing. In the letter, Fischer said, "These laws represent a serious threat to fundamental constitutional rights of freedom of association, speech and religion."*

### **Idaho Senate committee kills bill to protect gays from discrimination | Idaho Statesman**

### **Idaho Press-Tribune 'Intelligent Design' has no business in schools**

**If you value the work of the IVA, please consider a donation today. Information on how to donate, including making a secure online donation, may be found [here](#). Thank you!**

#### **BONUS BYTES**

If you like honesty and transparency in government, you'll love a bill sponsored by Rep. Phil Hart (R-Athol) which will put the state's checkbook online where any concerned citizen can track what our state government is doing with your money. The hitch is the approximate price tag of \$250,000. The city of Eagle, spurred by new councilman Norm Semanko, has already adopted such a policy. ([Rep.: Balance checkbook online](#))

The three renegade Republicans who voted for the porkalooza bill, a vote against every conceivable principle of fiscal responsibility, are beginning to discover that utter apostasy has consequences among alarmed members of the GOP. Sen. Arlen Specter was jeered by his own constituents at a Pennsylvania press conference yesterday, a sign that a re-election effort on his part is likely to be met with fierce opposition from conservatives in his own party. ([Protestors Jeer Sen. Arlen Specter For Supporting Stimulus Bill - kdka.com](#))



You likely will have heard by now about renegade CNBC reporter Rick Santelli, who gave a passionate speech against Obama's mortgage rescue plan on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange yesterday. His particular concern is that the bill forces responsible mortgage payers not only to continue paying for their own mortgages but also for the mortgages of irresponsible borrowers. Even though his way-left colleagues have sneered at his riff, CNBC's own poll this morning indicates that 93% (!) of CNBC's own viewers agree with him and are ready to join the "Chicago Tea Party" he plans to organize for this summer. ([Countermoonbat Santelli Backed by 93% of CNBC Viewers - Right Wing News](#))

Well, I guess we have an idea now about what ACORN wants to do with its \$2 billion share of the porkapalooza monstrosity: use it to break into houses. They've already started, busting the padlock on a foreclosed Baltimore area home and then breaking into the home in what they call an act of civil disobedience. Said an ACORN representative, "This is our house now." They plan to train sympathizers to carry out similar demonstrations in six other cities. Just think what they'll be able to do with \$2 billion! ([ACORN Trains Citizens To Protest Home Foreclosures - wjz.com](#)) (hat tip: Michelle Malkin)

Speaking of paying your debts, President Obama still owes the city of Chicago \$1.74 million for his election night celebratory blowout in Grant Park. The city is already staring at a \$50.5 million budget shortfall and could use the money. A city spokesman said that the city is "reaching out to" the Democratic National Committee this week, as if for Obama to pay his debt to the city was an act of charity and generosity on his part. The city is owed, among other things, \$1 million for the police, \$86,000 for the fire department, \$72,000 for "Streets and Sanitation" (translation: trash cleanup), \$69,000 for the jumbo-trons, \$29,850 for stagehands (yep), and \$12,500 for portable toilets. When Mayor Dailey was asked on Nov. 5 if Obama was good for the debt, he said, "I don't know why you're so negative ... What is this? He just won for president, and you say, 'He's not gonna pay his bills.'" ([Obama victory bash owes city \\$1.74 mil. :: CHICAGO SUN-TIMES :: 44: Barack Obama](#))