



FACT Focus



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BE HEARD

To find or contact your state legislator, visit the Family Action Council of Tennessee's Web site at FACTn.org/contact_legislator.htm.

STAY IN TOUCH

Receive free e-mail newsletters and alerts about religious liberty threats and other issues at FACTn.org/archives.html.

SEE MORE INFO

Learn more about SB1283/HB1598 at FACTn.org/legislation.htm

Distributed by

The Family Action Council of Tennessee

a family policy council associated with Focus on the Family.

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Religious Freedom in Tennessee

II Corinthians 3:17 says, *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* One of our most important freedoms is that of religion. "Congress



shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," says the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Nevertheless, the free exercise of religion is gradually being eroded in the U.S. and in the state of Tennessee.

When courts forbid coaches from bowing their heads while teams prays, when some public schools tell students they can't read their Bibles at school, when laws are considered that would force Christian doctors to prescribe abortifacient drugs, when Christian adoption agencies are just one ACLU lawsuit away from being forced to place children in homosexual homes, when hate crime bills under consideration would have a chilling effect on the preaching the word of God ... our religious liberty is in jeopardy!

To prevent these abuses, 12 states have enacted Religious Freedom Restoration Acts in the last several years. Right now, the Tennessee General Assembly is debating such a bill (Senate Bill 1283 / House Bill 1598). To learn more about this and other important bills, please visit www.FACTn.org."

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OUR MISSION is to promote and defend a culture that values the traditional family, for the sake of the common good. We seek to do so by:

- Encouraging public policies in Tennessee that support the institution of marriage, the sanctity of life, traditional family values, and religious liberty,
- Identifying, educating, and mobilizing like-minded people and churches through local Truth Project trainings, sponsorship of Ministers' Day on the Hill (state Capitol), establishment of church Salt and Light Committees and other initiatives.

WE BELIEVE that a strong, vibrant, and healthy future for our citizens is grounded in the strength, vitality, and health of today's families. Families are the cornerstone of any nation, state and community, and, as the family goes, so go those communities of people. Neglecting common-sense, biblical values contributes to many of our nation's current ills like crime, disease, divorce, unwanted pregnancies, teen suicide and academic failure.

OUR VALUES include Biblical worldview, healthy families, respect for life, sexuality within marriage, respect for parental authority, and religious liberty. When the state protects these time-tested values, they in turn protect the family. We believe churches, families and individuals are best equipped to foster these values, but we believe that government should not work against them. Our desire is to provide factual educational resources for each of these to function in their respective areas of responsibility.

FACT is led by David Fowler, formerly a practicing attorney and twelve year veteran of the Tennessee state Senate. Dr. David Shelley, who has pastored churches in Georgia and Tennessee for 20 years, is the Director of Church and Community Relations. Please visit our web site at:

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