



# FACT Focus

## A WIN FOR LIFE

Senate Joint Resolution 127, allowing the people to reverse our state Supreme Court's ruling that abortion is a fundamental "right" under our state constitution, passed the House overwhelmingly, 77 to 21, after years of failed attempts. The resolution must be passed again, by a 2/3 majority in both houses of the General Assembly, in 2011-12 before appearing on the ballot in 2014.

You can track other family-related bills easily at [FACTn.org/legislation.htm](http://FACTn.org/legislation.htm).

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**The Family Action Council of Tennessee**

a family policy council associated with Focus on the Family.

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## Religious Freedom in Tennessee



*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* — (2 Corinthians 3:17)

State Sen. Dwayne Bunch and state Rep. Susan Lynn have introduced the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in the General Assembly, which would prevent state and local government

laws/ordinances from substantially burdening the religious freedom of Tennesseans.

Some might ask, "Doesn't the First Amendment already protect religious liberty?" Unfortunately, no—at least not like it has historically been. In 1990 the U.S. Supreme Court "gutted" our Free Exercise right by holding that if a law didn't target a particular religion or denomination and appeared neutral, then the law would be constitutional regardless of the impact the law might, in fact, have on religious practices. Since then, RFRA bills have passed in at least 13 states.

This law will be important to protect the free exercise rights of Christian teachers, students, schools, colleges, and businesses as the demand by homosexual activists for legal acceptance grows. Tennessee's RFPA will be voted on in the state House and Senate in the coming days. Please pray that our legislators will do all that they can to protect the religious freedoms that we, as Americans, hold so dear.



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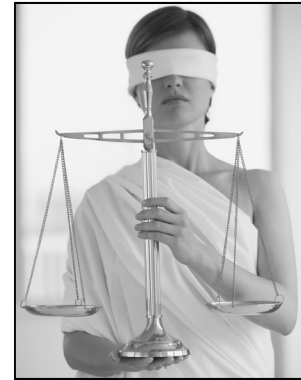
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**OUR MISSION** is to promote and defend a culture that values the traditional family, for the sake of the common good. We seek to do so by:

- 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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