

Is “tolerance” taking away our freedom?

It has recently been in the news that two doctors in Vista are required to spend their hard earned money and time to defend themselves in a lawsuit where they refused to artificially inseminate a lesbian because of the doctor’s religious beliefs concerning insemination of unmarried persons. The woman seeking this service was referred to other doctors within the same office who were willing to perform the procedure. Where is the tolerance for the religious beliefs of the doctors or their freedom as private doctors to choose to not perform a procedure because of their religious beliefs? Artificial insemination is not a life saving procedure, and as such refusal to do so, does not violate a physician’s Hippocratic Oath. Who is defending the rights and freedoms of these doctors?

This month, our elected representatives in the state assembly will be considering two new laws, AB 606 and AB 1056. Again, the word “tolerance” is being used to take away more of our rights. These proposed laws mandate “tolerance” of homosexuality in public schools grades K-12. To accomplish their real agenda, the author of 1056 actually redefined the word tolerance. Section 1 (e) of AB 1056 states, “Tolerance does not mean a passive allowance or indulgence of the beliefs or practices of another individual”; however, the Webster dictionary states that tolerance is “sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or one's own.” According to the definition of tolerance in AB 1056, homosexuality must be embraced and promoted. This means any student who has a negative opinion of homosexuality will be considered unacceptable. Where is the tolerance and freedom of belief for those who have a different opinion?

The goal of these proposed laws is to indoctrinate our children. In the 1950’s citizens of communists countries who did not agree with the government were forced into re-education camps to “instruct” them on the merits of communism. Our children, in much the same way, are not being taught facts but rather told how to think. The purpose of public education is not to force a social agenda on our children, but to give them the foundation to build a successful life.

We must wake up and realize the way some are redefining words and our very way of life. True tolerance is civility for all people. There should not be one group that is given preference over another. This chipping away of our freedoms must be stopped. It is time to take a stand. You can make a difference by calling your senator and the governor and ask them to vote no on AB 606 and 1056.