



CWA of California Action Alert

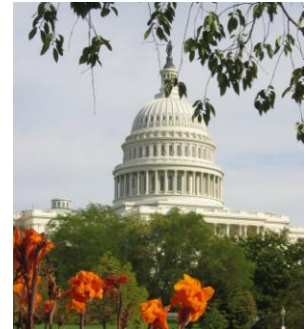
October 20, 2008

Fight Back Against the ACLU

Ask your representative to protect cities from suits against religion expression

Action: Please make just one phone call today or tomorrow and ask your representative in Congress to co-sponsor [H.R. 725](#), the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2007 (PERA), if the House reconvenes after the election. There are currently just 66 co-sponsors, with only six from California. See the co-sponsors [here](#).

You can say, "If Congress reconvenes this year, please help stop frivolous lawsuits against cities by co-sponsoring H.R. 725, the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2007, or PERA." If your representative is a co-sponsor, please express your appreciation for his or her support.



Contact information:

Our CWA [Project 535](#) lobby team will be in Washington, D.C. visiting the Capitol on Wednesday, October 22. Please help ensure that our California representatives will have heard from constituents on this important issue prior to the time our citizen lobby teams visit their offices. California State Director Phyllis Nemeth will be part of the 535 lobby teams on Wednesday.

If you are unsure who your representative is, visit www.house.gov to search by zip code. Call any member of Congress at (202) 224-3121. Send an e-mail by clicking "[Write Your Representative](#)."

Pray that the very real concerns our team expresses will fall on ears that will hear the truth.

Background:

H.R. 725's author is Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN). The bill is currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

You have probably heard of many cases involving cities that have been sued for violations of the Establishment Clause for everything from Ten Commandments monuments to the miniscule cross on the L.A. County seal.

Under current federal statutes, parties can threaten to file lawsuits and the municipalities know that a single adverse judgment at any level of the court system will require them to pay not only their own legal fees, but the plaintiffs' as well, and that *these legal fees will come at the cost of local taxpayers*. So, presently the ACLU and its affiliates have a win-win situation. They often get their desired result just by threatening these localities.

PERA will ensure that each party in an Establishment Clause lawsuit shoulders its own cost. When the carrot (attorney's fees) is taken away from the ACLU and similar groups, they will be less likely to file frivolous Establishment Clause suits. If lawsuits are filed, this bill will ensure that the states and localities are on equal footing with those who are suing them.

H.R. 725 still allows Establishment Clause cases, but they can be brought only for injunctive relief, which means the only relief a court could order in those cases is that the State or local government stop doing whatever it was doing that was an alleged violation of the Establishment Clause.

Thank you for making a difference!

Visit our California website: <http://ca.cwfa.org> for information about the upcoming election and how you can help pass Prop 8!

Concerned Women for America of California

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