



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

A Publication of Concerned Women for America of Kansas

2007-22 August 16, 2007

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO RELAX

Hate crimes legislation will be back!

Before the August recess, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) pulled the Kennedy-Smith Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (**S.1105**) from the Senate floor. This bill creates "tiers" of protected classes of citizens, giving enhanced penalties for crimes committed against those citizens. A crime committed against a homosexual would then receive more penalties than a crime committed against a white Anglo-Saxon straight man. We must not think that Sen. Reid did this out of the goodness of his heart, that he had received a sudden revelation that hate crimes legislation is legislation against thoughts and motives; he pulled the bill because he did not have enough votes at that time to consider amendments to the Department of Defense Reauthorization Bill (**S. 1105** was attached by Sen. Kennedy [D-MA] as an amendment to the reauthorization bill). For Sen. Reid to bring up this amendment and others, he would need to have unanimous consent of the body or invoke cloture which requires 60 votes. Thanks to vigorous lobbying, he had to withdraw the motion. That; however, does not mean that hate crimes legislation is dead. In fact, the Human Rights Campaign, the largest homosexual advocacy organization, is urging its members to "energize and mobilize our grassroots advocacy to strengthen support for hate crimes." They are being urged to call and write their senators. This means that **we must continue to call and write urging the Senate NOT to vote for legislation that makes thoughts and motives a crime.** The Senate is on recess right now; call your senators at their district offices.

According to *Webster's New World Dictionary*, "Hate implies a feeling of great dislike or aversion, and, with persons as the object, connotes the bearing of malice." Under this definition, any crime of passion could be termed a hate crime. Ironically, criminal courts attach less severity to a crime committed in a fit of passion than they do to premeditated, calculated crimes. Calculated evil is what differentiates first degree and second degree criminal activity. Adding "sexual orientation and/or gender identity" to a list of groups of people specially protected under the Constitution is a dangerous precedent. Any crime committed against any person whether they are white, straight and male or female, lesbian and black should be punished under the law. We are all equally protected by law. When government decides what constitutes "appropriate" attitudes toward a group of people, our freedom is diminished. The perceived "motive" behind the act then becomes more serious than the act itself. This proposed hate crimes legislation makes the law protect "groups" rather than individuals, creating special classes of people who government perceives as injured parties.

These laws against "thought crimes" are already having a huge impact across our country and the world. In Boston in 2005, a mob descended upon a Baptist Church hosting the "Love Won Out" conference that features former homosexuals explaining how one can get out of the lifestyle if he/she chooses to do so. Obscenities, threats of violence and even a sound truck to block

speakers' words were virtually ignored by the police and by the media in spite of the fact that the group of over 1000 had no permit. In Philadelphia in 2004, several Christians ranging in age from 17- 74 were taken to jail for violating the Pennsylvania hate crimes law . . . the violation was singing hymns and carrying signs encouraging homosexuals to repent. In spite of a homosexual group, The Pink Angels, blocking and accosting them, the Christians were the ones who spent the night in jail. Five were charged with various felonies and misdemeanors that would have carried 47 years in prison. After months, a judge dismissed the charges.

In Sweden a pastor was arrested and sentenced to a month in jail for preaching against homosexuality. Eventually, the Swedish Supreme Court over-turned the conviction, but not without a grueling battle. In Scotland, the Scottish Parliament has banned criticism of homosexuality by religious guest speakers during "A Time to Speak" . . . a four-minute time slot in which religious denominations are allowed to speak. In Canada, journalist Robert Jason was visited by two police officers who were sent to investigate a "hate crime" after a homosexual activist complained about Jason's family newsletter. He was encouraged to be more careful about posting e-mails on homosexuality. Scott Brockie refused to print some business cards and other material for Lesbian and Gay Archives, contending that he would be an accomplice in sin. The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal ruled that he had violated the ban of "sexual orientation" discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code. He was ordered to pay \$5000 in damages to the president of the tribunal and ordered to print materials for homosexuals on the same basis as other clients. He appealed and lost after amassing over \$100,000 in legal fees. The Human Rights Commission then demanded that he pay their legal expenses as well and won, leaving him with \$40,000 in additional fees. These are just a few examples of what can happen if our thoughts and motives are monitored by the government.

How prevalent are hate crimes against homosexuals? According to the FBI's statistics in 2005, only 5,190 hate crimes were directed against ALL persons. Of this, only 1,171 were from sexual orientation bias. Out of this number, 301 were listed as "intimidation"; 333 were described as "simple assault" (no weapon; no serious injury); 1 forcible rape; 30 robberies; 10 burglaries; 27 larceny theft; 2 motor vehicle theft; 1 arson; 275 damage/vandalism; and 5 crimes against society. (Three were listed as "other.") Compare that to 862,947 reported aggravated assaults against all persons.

We have to ask ourselves: What is the real motive behind hate crimes legislation that includes perceived gender identity and sexual orientation? Where will it lead? The American Psychiatric Association lists 30 sexual orientations ranging from homosexuality to pedophilia, voyeurism, bestiality and incest. Will those be included in law as "gender identity" and sexual orientation?

Action: Contact Sens. Brownback and Roberts and urge them to continue to oppose hate crimes legislation.