

And Another Problem with “Hate Crimes” Laws...

The truth behind the interstate commerce myth

You already know that in other countries and even in many states here in the U.S., “hate crimes” laws have been used to quash religious liberties and free speech. And you know that similar legislation (H.R. 1592 and S. 1105) is now working its way through Congress. What you probably don’t realize, however, is that the constitutional concerns about this legislation extend well beyond the First Amendment.

The 14th Amendment guarantees “equal protection under the law” for all citizens — regardless of their sexual preference. So-called “hate crimes” laws fly in the face of the 14th Amendment by creating a two-tier justice system made up of first-class victims (homosexuals and cross-dressers) and second-class victims such as the elderly, children, the homeless and others who choose not to engage in homosexual behaviors.

The facts don’t lie. There is no epidemic of hate-induced violence against homosexuals as the left would have you believe. In fact, such alleged “hate crimes” are few and far between. According to the latest FBI statistics, in 2005 there were nearly 1.4 million violent



What happens when we start going to jail for telling the truth?

crimes in the U.S. Of those, the FBI classified little more than 1,000 as “hate crimes” directed against homosexuals or cross-dressers. Well over half of those were reports of minor and questionable items: intimidation, hateful words or pushing and shoving. There were 177 cases of aggravated assault nationwide, and there were ZERO “hate” murders committed against homosexuals or cross-dressers in 2005. The states are doing a good job of prosecuting such cases. There is no need for federal intervention.

This legislation is built on fraud. Consider that investigators have determined that the very “hate crime” exploited by liberals in Congress to whip

up an emotional frenzy to justify introduction of the bill was a false report from the start. It never even happened. And instances of fabricated and politically motivated “hate crime” reports keep piling up one after another.

But even more dubious is the interstate commerce language within the legislation, which proves that it’s rotten to the core. The 10th Amendment limits the federal government’s authority to those powers expressly delegated by the Constitution.

How’d they get around that pesky ol’ Constitution? The same way they always do — by disingenuously invoking the Commerce Clause.

Proponents of S. 1105 claim – despite indisputable evidence to the contrary – that droves of homosexuals and cross-dressers have had to flee across state lines to escape victimization. Even worse, those who would commit such crimes are crossing state lines in hot pursuit.

The claim is ridiculous – but read it for yourself. Here’s the bill’s language: “The incidence of violence motivated by the actual or perceived... sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim poses a serious national problem... Such violence substantially affects interstate commerce in many ways, including the following: The movement of members of targeted groups is impeded, and members of such groups are forced to move across State lines to escape the incidence or risk of such violence... Members of targeted

groups are prevented from purchasing goods and services, obtaining or sustaining employment, or participating in other commercial activity... Perpetrators cross State lines to commit such violence.”

Even the biggest supporters of this bill have to admit that these claims are fatally exaggerated. The weight of the evidence in no way supports these dishonest assertions.

So, with this “hate crimes” legislation, liberals in Congress have effectively trampled on the 14th, 10th and 1st Amendments. It makes you wonder whether there are any constitutional rights they intend to leave us. ■

By Matt Barber, Policy Director for Cultural Issues

PRAY

Ask the Lord to expose the true agenda behind “hate crimes” legislation and to change the hearts of men and women who are trapped in the homosexual lifestyle.

PRAISE

Thank God for the gifts of marriage and family, which he has freely given us for His purpose and glory.

ACT

Contact your Senators and ask them to vote against “hate crimes” legislation. Then contact President Bush’s office and thank him for pledging to veto “hate crimes” legislation.