



2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

February 3, 2021

Protecting Families and Churches from Executive Orders by the Governor HB 1121 & SB 256

BACKGROUND: In 2020 Governor Holcomb issued a series of **Executive Orders** beginning in March, that among other things: **closed** churches (and kept abortion clinics open!), **closed** schools, **closed** thousands of businesses, **forced** hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers out of work and **forced** every man, woman and child to stay at home (in essence placing every Hoosier under house arrest!) unless they had permission from the Governor to leave their home. Anyone who violated an Executive Order could be **arrested** and go to **jail** for up to 180 days and pay a **fine** of up to \$1,000! All of the Executive Orders issued by Governor Holcomb were done **without the approval of the General Assembly** and **without giving citizens** the chance to go to the State House and testify against the Executive Orders!

House Bill 1121

AUTHORS: Representatives Jim Lucas, Bob Morris, Alan Morrison and Chris Judy

SUBJECT: House Bill 1121 would **substantially reign in** the power of the Governor to issue future Executive Orders like those issued in 2020: (1) by **limiting** the maximum length of time for an Executive Order and one renewal for a total of **28 days** after which the Governor must get **legislative approval**; and (2) by preventing the Governor from **closing churches!**

ACTION: If you support protecting freedom **call or email** your State Representative right away with the following message: "Please vote **YES** on **House Bill 1121** to protect the children, families, churches, schools, businesses, jobs and freedom by limiting the power of the Governor to issue an Executive Order for a maximum of 28 days after which time the Governor must obtain approval of the General Assembly to extend the Executive Order; and preventing the Governor from closing churches."

House of Representatives:
317-232-9600 or 800-382-9842

Senate Bill 256

AUTHOR: Senator Aaron Freeman

SUBJECT: SB 256 would require the Governor to get the **approval** of the General Assembly in order to extend an Executive Order dealing with a disaster **after 7 days** or the Executive Order is **terminated**, and requiring a local health official and local elected official to get the approval of the local legislative body **after 7 days** in order to extend an order dealing with a disaster or the local order is **terminated**.

ACTION: If you support protecting freedom for families, churches, schools and businesses call or email your State Senator with the following message: "Please vote **YES** on Senate Bill 256 to protect the freedom for families, churches, schools and businesses from Executive Orders by the Governor and orders from local health officials and local elected officials."

State Senate: 1-800-382-9467

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION

BILL: House Bill 1005

AUTHOR: Representative Bob Behning

SUBJECT: Indiana currently has one of the most expansive school choice laws in the nation. HB 1005 would enable more families to qualify for a school voucher. According to a published report, "by 2022-23 a family of four would qualify if earning up to about \$145,000 per year." The bill also would create education savings accounts to help students with special needs and students whose parents are in the military.

ACTION: If you support helping empower more parents to choose the best school for their child, please call or email your Representative with the following message: "Please vote YES on HB 1005 to empower more parents to choose the best school for their child by receiving a school voucher."

House of Representatives: 317-232-9600 or 800-382-9842

PROTECTING CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: Christian schools are presently free in Indiana to operate according to the Bible. Some members of the General Assembly want to take this freedom away. There will no doubt be another effort in the 2021 General Assembly to force **Christian schools to hire** teachers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The effort could also **force Christian schools to admit** students regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. By the way, if the government can tell a Christian school how to operate, they can tell a **church** as well!

ABOUT ADVANCE AMERICA

Advance America is Indiana's **largest pro-family and pro-church** organization founded in 1980. Advance America is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse any candidate or any political party. Advance America is **dedicated** to giving Hoosiers information about what is going on in their state government and what they can do to **make a difference** on those issues of importance to them and their family. For more info go to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.

TEXT OF BILLS AVAILABLE!

The complete text of a bill or resolution can be accessed at: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2021/bills/>

NEW PROUD HOOSIER PARTNERSHIP BOOK!

Go to our website at www.AdvanceAmerica.com and view the Proud Hoosier Partnership Video. You can also find out more about the book written by Eric Miller, "*The Proud Hoosier 2021 Resource Book*."

Advance America will continue to **lead** the effort at the State House to protect the current freedom Christian schools now have to operate including the right to hire their own teachers and staff and to admit students according to Biblical guidelines.

PROTECTING UNBORN CHILDREN

Advance America will continue, as we have since our founding in 1980, to support pro-life legislation at the State House. Unborn children should be protected in Indiana. Unborn children deserve the right to live!

PROTECTING CHURCHES FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND TAXATION

Churches in Indiana are **currently free** to operate their various ministries **without** government control. Churches are of course required to meet fire codes and sanitation requirements. But the government should **not** be able to tell a church **who** they can hire, **what** they can teach and **how** they operate! This includes **all** of the ministries of the church including: Vacation Bible School, day camp, Sunday school, Christian school, etc. Unfortunately, some legislators want to **take away** this freedom churches have enjoyed for generations! **Advance America** will continue to **lead** the effort at the State House to protect churches from government control and from **being taxed!**

WHO ARE YOUR LEGISLATORS?

If you don't know who your State Senator and Representative are, go to our website at www.AdvanceAmerica.com and click on "Who Are My Elected Officials?" You can also call your County Clerk's Office.

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." -Edmund Burke

Contributions are Needed and Appreciated!

In order to continue to serve as the eyes and ears for the families and churches of Indiana, Advance America depends on the **tax deductible contributions** of individuals, families, and businesses around the state. Advance America receives **NO** government money. Your contribution of \$35, \$50, \$100 or more will help us pay our expenses throughout 2021. Follow this link to make a contribution; <https://www.advanceamerica.com/contribute/> or individuals can mail their contribution to Advance America at 101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 660; Indianapolis, IN 46204.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

House of Representatives: 800-382-9842 and 317-232-9600 | State Senate: 800-382-9467 and 317-232-9400 | Governor: 317-232-4567 Lt. Governor: 317-232-4545
Please let us know about any response you receive from your legislator. You can find out who your legislators are and get their email address by going to www.AdvanceAmerica.com.