

March 5, 2008

“UNDER GOD” IN PLEDGE STILL A PRIORITY

BATTLE TO PASS PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT - The Religious Freedom Coalition is continuing the battle to move Congressman Todd Akin’s Pledge Protection Act forward in the House. With ultra liberal John Conyers (R-MI) heading the House Judiciary Committee, it is impossible to move the bill forward in the normal manner. Before becoming a congressman John Conyers was actually employed by the ACLU. If he could, he would remove “under God” from the Pledge without the help of liberal judges.



**Judiciary Chairman
Conyers was an ACLU
attorney in Michigan**

Congressman Akin’s office is circulating a “discharge petition” that would force San Francisco liberal Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to bring the Pledge Protection Act to a vote on the floor. There are 435 members of Congress, which means we need just 218 signatures on the discharge petition to force the issue. The Religious Freedom Coalition is using every tool available to persuade Congressmen to sign the discharge petition. One of our main tools is the signed petitions we have collected addressed to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. We have pioneered the concept of delivering the petitions on CD’s to congressmen.

As the petitions arrive in our office they are scanned and the names and addresses loaded into a data base. We then match the addresses with congressional districts. Once this is done we are able to place just one copy of the petition on a CD with all the signers from a particular congressional district and the disk is sent to that specific congressman. This process assures the congressman that every petition that was signed is verified as being in his district. This shows the support in his district for the Pledge Protection Act and encourages him to sign the discharge petition.

ONLINE PETITIONS ARE COMING - We have not as yet launched the online version of our petition to protect “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance because there is no way for us to verify a congressional district as we can when we have a physical address. The online version will be launched as soon as the 9th Circuit Court sides with atheist Michael Newdow again which could be at just about any time. When the Court once again finds “under God” unconstitutional, we will have the online petition ready; however the results will be nationwide and can only be given to Speaker Pelosi and not to individual congressman to help with the Pledge Protection Act. As a supporter of the Religious Freedom Coalition you can view the online version in advance at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/RFC/>. This will not be the Internet address once we launch the site, but you can visit it now and sign the online version and even leave a comment for others to read!

THE HOUSE

GLOBAL AIDS - In the previous Chairman’s Report I described how liberal Democrats headed by Congressman Tom Lantos in the Foreign Affairs Committee planned to turn the Global AIDS Bill (PEPFAR) into a honey pot for abortion groups. With the death of committee chairman Tom Lantos, the controversy surrounding the Global AIDS Bill has ended. As unbelievable as it may seem, it was the chairman’s office insisting on these pro-abortion provisions.

Democrat and Republican leaders have written a compromise bill that restores the pro-life provisions and it was so acceptable that a voice vote was used to approve it in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The Lantos version would have eliminated all pro-life language and made the bill a honey pot for abortion groups such as Planned Parenthood. Groups such as Catholic Charities which do much of the AIDS work in Africa would have been shut out of funding. However, there is no guarantee that radical speaker Nancy Pelosi will not try to turn it back into a huge fund to abort little black babies in Africa even though she claims to be a Catholic.

PROTECT AMERICA? PELOSI SAYS NO - Despite intense pressure from the White House and bipartisan passage by an overwhelming majority in the Senate, radical Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi refuses to allow a vote on the Protect America Act. This is not about policy; it is about cash. Trial lawyers give huge amounts of money to Democrat congressmen. The Protect America Act prohibits trial lawyers from suing telephone companies that give data on terrorists to our government. Pelosi wants the trial lawyers to be able to sue the phone companies on behalf of those with suspected ties to terrorists.

While Pelosi is tying up this legislation, the hands of our intelligence services are being tied. Communications today is far more complicated than just twenty years ago. Under the FISA rules that the intelligence services must still use, they can only get a tap order on specific phone numbers. Next time you are in a Walmart take a look at the wireless phone section. You can buy prepaid cell phones for less than \$20 and load them with cash to call overseas. The phones can be charged with cash and there is no way to track the phones without special technology that only the companies issuing the phones have. That is the problem. The phone companies will not give the FBI and the CIA the information they need because they can be sued for releasing the data.

The Protect American Act gives the phone and other communications companies immunity so they cannot be sued for giving the government requested information. Pelosi wants the lawsuits allowed so trial lawyers can make big bucks suing these companies and then donate funds to the campaigns of left-wing congressmen.

29 GOP CONGRESSMEN OUT - There are now 29 Republican congressmen who have either outright resigned or announced that they will not run for reelection this year. (This includes Bobby Jindal who resigned to become governor of Louisiana.) With that many incumbent Republicans leaving, we need as many good conservatives as we can find to fill the slots. A good friend of mine, Woody Jenkins, a true social conservative who fights for the Christian values this nation was founded on, has announced that he will run for the seat vacated in Louisiana by Congressman Jindal. He is one of many seeking the seats of departing GOP congressmen.

TWO CONGRESSMEN LOSE IN MARYLAND - In the middle of the presidential primary, people forget that there are other candidates on the ballot. In Maryland there were both Democrat and Republican primaries for Congress as well. And two incumbents lost their seats. Both were defeated because they had run afoul of the party's activist base. Reps. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) and Albert Wynn (D-MD) are from different parties. Neither had been involved in a scandal, and there had not been recent redistricting. Both lost because they were not ideologically in sync with their party's base.

Congressman Gilchrest, the Republican, voted with Democrats more often than with his own party, and his constituents had enough. Groups such as the Club for Growth spent nearly \$1 million to dump him. He did not vote with social conservatives and I am glad to see him go. Wynn, the Democrat, had the opposite problem, having sided with business more often than with his left-wing constituency.

THE SENATE

INDIAN HEALTH ACT VICTORY - In February the U.S. Senate passed Senator David Vitter's (R-LA) amendment to S.1200, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, prohibiting the use of federal Indian Health Service (IHS) funds for abortions except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest of a minor. This was a major pro-life victory.

On winning Senator Vitter said, "This is truly an important victory for the pro-life movement and for the unborn. We now need to work to make sure that this provision remains in the final bill as it continues to House-Senate legislative conference." While this is a victory, the bill still has to pass the House where it will face radical pro-abortionist Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Whatever damage she does to the bill will have to be corrected in a conference committee between the House and Senate versions.

PRO-HEALTH OR PRO-ABORTION? - The Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act (S-1042) which is sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy and Republican leader Mitch McConnell, may actually help abortion clinics get more clients. The bill would add numerous restrictions on the use of ultrasound that could force crisis pregnancy clinics to stop the service. The use of ultrasound machines to show women their unborn babies saves countless lives each year. Our office is working for clarification on various aspects of this "bipartisan" bill and we will keep you informed.

THE PRESIDENT

OIL IS NOT UP - THE DOLLAR IS DOWN - I am not anti-Bush, and much of what I write congratulates the many positive things the President has done, including reestablishing the Mexico City policy that prohibits the use of federal foreign aid funds for abortion. On the other hand, I am a bit of a populist and that is why I support Gov. Mike Huckabee for president. I believe the prosperity of the middle class and American jobs are real priorities and that sometimes big business has to take a back seat to the needs of the people.

In January of 2001 as George W. Bush was being sworn in, the US dollar was worth more than a Euro. A Euro back then could be bought for just 93 cents. As of today, it takes \$1.47 to buy one Euro. The price of oil in Europe has been virtually unchanged for the last 12 months at about 65 Euros a barrel. If the value of the dollar were the same as it was in January, 2001, oil would cost less than \$60 a barrel and gasoline would be under \$2.00 a gallon. The Bush Administration, Wall Street and the Federal Reserve have deliberately allowed the dollar to fall to "help exports." Someone needs to explain to me how gas at \$3.00 and more a gallon gas helps increase exports.

Many middle class people and those on fixed incomes who receive the Chairman's Report are being adversely affected by the drop in the dollar which increases the cost of gasoline. Supporters of the Religious Freedom Coalition have written to me saying that they have to borrow money to buy gas to get to work. In my humble opinion the fall of the dollar must be addressed before the cost of fuel causes the American economy to go into a full recession.

Economists agree that we are in a period of the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind. The prosperity our ancestors worked for, fought for, and died for is being handed over to Muslims who abuse the rights of human beings to an unprecedented degree. The dollars we hand over to the Muslim leaders of Saudi Arabia are being used to buy up everything from our banks to our farms. The deterioration of the dollar and the transfer of wealth must stop. Leaders with new ideas are needed. Unfortunately Senator McCain's mindset is in the 1980's and Senator Clinton's mindset is in the 1990's. Senator Obama's mind is in outer space.

INTERNATIONAL

AFGHANISTAN DEATH SENTENCE FOR INTERNET USE - For the third straight Chairman's Report I have to mention this because our government has been unable to save the life of this student. We are headed into the third month since Afghan student Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh was sentenced to death for copying a paper from the Internet that the courts there deemed "blasphemous" to Islam. Advocates of religious freedom should contact their Congressman and ask him or her for information on what is being done to save this man's life.

SAUDI PROFESSOR TO BE WHIPPED - A university professor in Saudi Arabia has been sentenced to 180 lashes and eight months in jail for having coffee with a female student. His lawyer says the well-respected Saudi teacher of psychology at Umm al-Qra University in Mecca, was framed by the religious police. Dr Abu Ruzaiz, a married man in his late 50's, said he did not know the student would be alone when he arrived at the coffee shop. In a previous Chairman's Report I reported on a 37-year-old American businesswoman who was thrown in jail for sitting with a male colleague at a Starbucks coffee shop.

When we allow Sharia law in the United States the same kinds of arrests will happen here. Slowly but surely Sharia law is coming, along with the Saudi money that is buying our society out from under us. Harvard University takes huge grants from Saudi Arabia. This month Harvard announced that a regular time is being set aside in a gym especially for women, in accordance with Muslim beliefs that men must not see them uncovered. **HOWEVER:** Christians and Orthodox Jews are forced to live in coed dorms, contrary to their religious beliefs.

JAIL SENTENCE FOR WALKING DOG - A 70-year-old Iranian man was arrested and sentenced to four months in jail and 30 lashes for walking his dog. The jail time is probably meaningless, because the 30 lashes will probably kill the old man. Islam rates pets just someplace between pigs and Christians.

YOUR PRESCRIPTION IS PROBABLY FROM CHINA - Upwards of 80% of prescription drugs from companies like Baxter and Johnson & Johnson are not made in the United States and there are no labeling laws requiring them to tell you that fact. The key ingredients in almost 80% of prescription drugs are manufactured overseas, most in China, in plants that are not inspected and are often filthy.

The drug Heparin is a blood thinner used by many people, including those on kidney dialysis. Recently, some Heparin made in China has killed at least four people and caused allergic reactions in hundreds. The Wall Street Journal reported on the filthy conditions at a pig intestine processing plant that produces the raw materials for Heparin. The factory also makes sausage casings out of the same pig entrails. We deserve to know where our drugs are made. Please consider contacting your congressman and asking him why your prescription drug is not labeled as to its country of origin.

LASTLY Please pray for our work on Capitol Hill. We are facing a tremendous problem as the lease on our building will not be extended. The building is to be torn down by a developer. Please pray that we can find office space once again near the Capitol.

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William J. Murray, Chairman

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