



CALLING ALL  
CHRISTIANS TO VOTE  
**RESTORE  
AMERICA** *Alert!*

## Pastor's Call To Action on SB 2

March 24, 2007

*On Wednesday, March 21st, The Oregon State Senate voted 21-7 in favor of Senate Bill 2 (SB2), a bill that constitutes an egregious threat to our religious liberties.*

***The below invitation to Pastors to meet with House Representatives in Salem on Thursday, April 5th, by several leading Portland area pastors, is a serious 'Call' to Action.***

"Never in our nation's 230 year history have religious freedoms faced so serious a threat as the one currently in the Oregon Legislature. Legislative leaders in Salem are dismantling one of America's most fundamental liberties, the right to religious expression, in an effort to appease an extreme special interest group. We believe it is imperative that pastors and other religious leaders respond now!

Rest assured, the signers of this letter are not alarmist or political activists. We are pastors and religious leaders just like you. But when an overt and aggressive threat against our right to freely worship God is being fast-tracked through the Oregon legislature, we feel compelled to respond. We hope as you read the following information, you will agree to join us.

***Pastors and Religious Leaders Day at the Capitol Thursday, April 5th, 11:30 am Salem Evangelical Church 455 Locust NE, Salem, OR***

On this day, we are asking senior and staff pastor, elders, board members and leaders of private schools and religious ministries to join us for a special meeting in Salem. Our intent is through a unified expression of concern to reason with elected officials and urge them to honor the fundamental religious freedoms that have always characterized this nation.

Because of limited meeting rooms and parking at the Capitol, attendees will gather at Salem Evangelical Church, enjoy a lunch and informative briefing and then be shuttled over to the capital on charter buses. **Meetings with your legislative leaders in your area will be pre-scheduled** to take place between 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

### **How To Register**

To reserve a place for yourself and other staff pastors or leaders, simply return the coupon enclosed with this letter. You can also **register online at [www.pastorday.com](http://www.pastorday.com) or call 503-257-0444**. (We're working with the Oregon Family Council to help facilitate the day's activities. Registration will help them schedule appointments and prepare lunches.)

### **How Senate Bill 2 Poses a Threat to Religious Freedom**

The threat to religious freedom stems from Senate Bill 2. This bill grants minority protection to gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgender individuals. It includes affirmative action provisions and **requires a statewide program of public education**. The inclusion of transgender individuals in the bill also open the door for problems concerning restrooms, locker rooms and other gender specific areas of public accommodation.

### **Religious Exemption Falls Short**

For many Oregonians, much of the above is troubling. But **the most extreme aspect of Senate Bill 2 is its very limited exemption for churches**. The religious exemption "applies only if the employment, housing or the use of the facilities is closely connected with or related to the primary purpose of the church..." (Areas in quotes taken directly from SB2).

In other words, while a church could choose not to hire a homosexual pastor, a church could not deny employment to a gay janitor or staff at what could be considered more secular positions. Organizations that open their facilities to the public as a community service may be **required** to open them to homosexual gatherings on the same basis. Private religious schools and other religious organizations would have **no exemption at all**, even though they may have strong moral policies in place for all of their employees.

To make matters worse, if a church was suspected of violating this law, **a court would define what is the primary purpose of the church**, not church leaders.

We've included a variety of supporting documentation in this packet, including an analysis from a prominent law firm, which specializes in First Amendment issues as it relates to religious organizations. We encourage you to review these materials. You can also access a copy of Senate Bill 2, using the lobby resources page at [www.pastorday.com](http://www.pastorday.com) which passed the Senate on Wednesday, March 21 by a vote of 21-7.

Naturally, all of these materials were presented to Senate leaders and in public testimonies regarding this bill. These concerns were more than ignored, they were actually scoffed at. One State Senator repeatedly suggested during the public hearing on Senate Bill 2 that religious freedom should be eliminated altogether.

**This is no time to be silent**. Please join us on **April 5th** as we stand together to preserve religious liberties. We look forward to hearing from you.

In Defense of our Right to Freely Worship,

- Frank Damazio, Senior Pastor, City Bible Church
- Ray Cotton, Senior Pastor, New Hope Community Church
- Dale Ebel, Senior Pastor, Rolling Hills Community Church
- James Martin, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

- Bill Wilson, Senior Pastor, Portland Christian Center
- Dave McGarrah, Senior Pastor, Salem First Church of the Nazarene
- Mark Cockerham, Senior Pastor, Salem Central Seventh Day Adventist
- Dave Miller, Senior Pastor, Bend Christian Fellowship
- Ray Young, Executive Pastor, East Hill Church
- Dennis Tuuri, Executive Director, Parent's Education Association
- Dale McNeil, Associate Pastor, Beaverton Christian Church"

***I urge you to make time in your schedule for this important and potentially historic day. Please call the above number and let them know you will be there. I look forward to seeing you.***

Prayerfully  
David Crowe  
Executive Director

Click [here](#) for more information about **Restore America**

"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5

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