



April 13, 2009

Dear ACLU-TN Legislative Alert Network:

It's yet another busy week at the Tennessee General Assembly. Over the next few days, several bills will be heard in committees that require ACLU-TN voices to be heard. Please contact your legislators about the bills described below and let them know how you think they should vote. The easiest way to identify your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to "Find My Legislator," put in your address and click "search." Once you identify your legislators, please check to see if they serve on any of the committees that are scheduled to hear these bills this week. If they do, please contact them immediately to let them know how you would like them to vote in the committee. If your legislators do not serve on the committees hearing the bills this week, you should contact them and explain how you want them to vote when the bills come to the Floor.

Many thanks for using your voice to protect our constitutional freedoms.

Warm regards,
Hedy

Access to Justice

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Recording of Murder Interrogations SB 0261 (Jackson) HB0596 (Coleman)	Requires all statements made by a person during a custodial interrogation relating to a homicide to be electronically recorded and preserved.	Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, 4/14/09 at 1:30 pm – LP 12 House Judiciary Criminal Practice Subcommittee Wednesday, 4/15/09 at 12:00 pm – LP31	SUPPORT

Free Speech

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Saggy Pants = Criminal	Makes wearing pants below the waistline a Class C misdemeanor criminal offense.	House Judiciary Committee	OPPOSE

HB2099 (Towns)	This bill is a violation of freedom of expression and encourages racial profiling. Companion bill is SB1757 (Ford O.)	Wednesday, 4/15/09 at 8:30 a.m. – LP31	
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Immigrants' Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Comprehensive Illegal Immigration Act SB1683 (Ketron)	Implements a number of anti-immigrant laws, including requirements that drivers' license exams be in English and that adults provide proof that they are legally in the U.S. before receiving certain public benefits. It also allows employers to require employees to speak English and requires them to verify employment eligibility through the federal electronic work authorization verification service, which is currently riddled with data errors. Companion bill is HB1137 (Shipley).	Senate State & Local Government Committee Tuesday, 04/14/09 at 8:00 a.m. – LP12	OPPOSE
Prohibition of Undocumented Students from State Universities HB0808 (Campfield)	Prohibits a student from being admitted to and enrolled in a public university in Tennessee unless the student establishes proof of U.S. citizenship or can prove s/he is lawfully in the U.S. Companion bill is SB1237 (Bunch). Talking points – click here .	House Higher Education Subcommittee Tuesday, 04/14/09 at 8:30 am -- LP 29	OPPOSE
No birth certificates for children of undocumented mothers HB0817 (Campfield)	Prohibits registration of a birth certificate for a child of an illegal immigrant mother unless the father is a U.S. citizen and he provides a written agreement for financial support of the child until age 18. This bill is blatantly unconstitutional and would not survive a legal challenge. Companion bill is SB1241 (Bunch).	House Health Care Facilities Subcommittee Wednesday, 04/15/09 at 12:30 pm – LP 30	OPPOSE

LGBT Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Don't Say Gay SB1250 (Bunch)	Prevents teachers, school counselors and other school administrators from providing "any instruction or materials discussing sexual orientation other than heterosexuality." Companion bill is HB0821 (Campfield). Talking points-click here .	Senate Education Committee Tuesday, 4/14/09 at 3:30 p.m. – LP 12	OPPOSE

Religious Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p>Religious Freedom Restoration Act</p> <p>HB1598 (Lynn)</p> <p>SB1283 (Bunch)</p>	<p>Prohibits the state from “substantially burdening” a person’s free exercise of religion without a compelling governmental interest. ACLU-TN believes SB1283/HB1598 is seriously flawed because it does not include language to prevent the law from being used to justify violations of civil rights.</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>House Civil Practice & Procedure Subcommittee</p> <p>Tuesday, 04/14/09 at 12:00 pm – LP 31</p> <p>Senate Judiciary Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 04/14/09 at 1:30 pm – LP 12</p>	<p>ONLY SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT</p>

Reproductive Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p>Mandated Waiting Period</p> <p>SB1800 (Herron)</p>	<p>Requires informed consent and a subsequent 24-hour waiting period for “reflection” after a woman receives information about the abortion procedure. Companion bill is HB0445 (Maddox).</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>Senate Judiciary Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 04/14/09 at 1:30 pm – LP 12</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p>

Safe and Free

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p>Stop REAL ID in Tennessee</p> <p>SB1938 (Burchett)</p>	<p>Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. Companion bill is HB1426 (Niceley).</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>Senate Transportation Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 4/14/09 at 10:30 a.m. – LP 12</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>
<p>Stop REAL ID in Tennessee</p> <p>SB1934</p>	<p>Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. Companion bill is HB1696 (McDaniel).</p>	<p>Senate Transportation Committee</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>

(Johnston J.)	Talking points-click here .	Tuesday, 4/14/09 at 10:30 a.m. – LP 12	
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Voting Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
No Photo – No Vote SB0150 (Ketron)	Requires voter to show “qualified photographic identification” before being allowed to vote. Companion bill is HB0639 (Maggart). Talking points-click here .	Senate Floor Monday, 4/13/09 at 5:00 p.m. – Senate Chamber	OPPOSE
Prove Citizenship Status to Vote SB1999 (Norris) HB1838 (Todd)	Requires applicants to vote to submit evidence of U.S. citizenship with the registration application. Voters must also present photo ID including name and address upon registration. Talking points – click here .	Senate Floor Monday, 4/13/09 at 5:00 p.m. – Senate Chamber House Elections Subcommittee – Wednesday, 4/15/09 at 10:00 am – LP 31	OPPOSE
Financial Burden to Restore Voting Rights SB 0440 (Overbey)	After completion of sentence, requires a person to have paid all restitution, fines and court costs before having the right to vote restored. Companion bill is HB0969 (McCord). Talking points-click here .	Senate Consent 2 Monday, 4/13/09 at 5:00 p.m. – Senate Chamber	OPPOSE

Women’s Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Prohibit Shackling of Pregnant Inmates	Prohibits the use of restraints on pregnant incarcerated women in Tennessee jails or prisons unless the inmate presents a serious safety or flight risk. Companion bill is SB1209 (Woodson).	House State Government Subcommittee Wednesday, 4/15/09 at	SUPPORT

HB1437 (Harwell)	Talking points-click here .	8:30 am – LP29	
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