



April 27, 2009

Dear ACLU-TN Legislative Alert Network:

Debate on the issues we care about continues this week at the Tennessee General Assembly. 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
<b>Exclusionary Rule Reform Act</b>  <a href="#">HB1700</a> (Watson)	States that any evidence that is obtained as a result of a search or seizure will not be excluded in a proceeding in a state court on the ground the search or seizure was in violation of the 4th amendment to the Constitution of the United States when the search or seizure was carried out in circumstances justifying an objectively reasonable belief that it was in conformity with the 4th Amendment. Companion bill is SB0518 (McNally).	<a href="#">House Criminal Practice &amp; Procedure Subcommittee</a>  Wednesday, 04/29/09 at 12:00 pm – LP 31	<b>OPPOSE</b>

**Free Speech**

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Saggy Pants = Criminal</b>  <a href="#">HB2099</a>	Makes wearing pants below the waistline a Class C misdemeanor criminal offense.  This bill is a violation of freedom of	<a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 4/29/09 at 8:30	<b>OPPOSE</b>

(Towns)  <a href="#">SB1757</a> (Ford O.)	expression and encourages racial profiling.	a.m. – LP31  <a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 4/29/09 at 3:30 p.m. – LP12	
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## Immigrants' Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Comprehensive Illegal Immigration Act</b>  <a href="#">SB1683</a> (Ketron)  <a href="#">HB1137</a> (Shipley)	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.	<a href="#">Senate State &amp; Local Government Committee</a> Tuesday, 04/28/09 at 8:00 a.m. – LP12  <a href="#">House Civil Practice Subcommittee</a> Tuesday, 4/28/09 at 12:00 p.m. – LP 31	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Prohibition of Undocumented Students from State Universities</b>  <a href="#">SB1237</a> (Bunch)	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 HB 0808 (Campfield).  Talking points – click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">Senate Education Committee</a> Tuesday, 04/28/09 at 3:30 pm – LP 12	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>No birth certificates for children of undocumented mothers</b>  <a href="#">SB1241</a> (Bunch)  <a href="#">HB0817</a> (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.	<a href="#">Senate General Welfare Committee</a> Wednesday, 4/29/09 at 10:00 a.m. – LP12  <a href="#">House Health Care Facilities Subcommittee</a> Wednesday, 04/29/09 at 12:30 pm – LP 30	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## LGBT Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Don't Say Gay</b> <a href="#">SB1250</a> (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 <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">Senate Education Committee</a>  Tuesday, 4/28/09 at 3:30 p.m. – LP 12	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Adding Gender Identity to Hate Crimes Law</b> <a href="#">HB0335</a> (Richardson)	This bill would add "gender identity or expression" to Tennessee's hate crime sentencing enhancement law. The categories in the statute currently include race, religion, national origin, age, disability and sexual orientation. Eleven states and the District of Columbia include "gender identity and expression" in their sentencing enhancement law. It is time for Tennessee to join these states. Companion bill is SB253 (Marrero).	<a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a>  Wednesday, 4/29/09 at 8:30 a.m. – LP31	<b>SUPPORT</b>

## Privacy

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Stop REAL ID in Tennessee</b> <a href="#">SB1934</a> (Burchett)  <a href="#">HB1426</a> (Nicely)	Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005.  Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">Senate Transportation Committee</a> Tuesday, 4/28/09 at 11:00 a.m. – LP 12  <a href="#">House Public Safety Subcommittee</a> Tuesday, 4/28/09 at 3:45 p.m. – LP 16	<b>SUPPORT</b>

## Religious Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Religious Freedom Restoration Act</b>	Prohibits the state from "substantially burdening" a person's free exercise of religion without a compelling governmental interest. ACLU-TN	<a href="#">House Civil Practice &amp; Procedure Subcommittee</a>	<b>ONLY SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT</b>

<a href="#">HB1598</a> (Lynn)  <a href="#">SB1283</a> (Bunch)	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.	Tuesday, 04/28/09 at 12:00 pm – LP 31  <a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 04/29/09 at 3:30 pm – LP 12	
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## Reproductive Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Strip Title X Funding from Planned Parenthood</b>  <a href="#">HB1756</a> (Hensley)	This bill would take away Title X federal funds from non-profit health care clinics in Tennessee, such as Planned Parenthood, leaving an estimated 12,000 women and men in Tennessee without services. Companion bill is SB0470 (Johnson, J.).  Talking points – click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">House Public Health and Family Assistance Subcommittee</a>  Tuesday, 4/28/09 at 4:00 p.m. – LP 30	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Removing Right to Abortion</b>  <a href="#">SJR0127</a> (Black)	Opens door to amending the State Constitution to take away the privacy protection as it pertains to women seeking abortions. Were <i>Roe v. Wade</i> to be overturned, and our State Constitution to be amended, women in Tennessee would not be protected under the current state constitutional right to privacy that ensures a woman can obtain an abortion.  The Senate passed SJR0127 24 to 8 on 3/23/09.  Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">House Finance Budget Subcommittee</a>  Wednesday, 04/29/09 at 11:00 am – LP 29	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## Students' Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Random Drug Testing of Students</b>  <a href="#">SB0074</a> (Tracy)	Allows school systems to randomly drug test students participating in voluntary extracurricular activities, even if there is no individual reasonable suspicion that the student has used drugs. Companion bills are HB1508 (Winningham), SB1792 (Herron) and SB0074 (Tracy) respectively.	<a href="#">Senate Education Committee</a> Tuesday, 04/28/09 at 3:30 pm – LP 12	<b>OPPOSE</b>

<a href="#">HB 2026</a> (Maddox)  <a href="#">HB 1508</a> (Winningham)	Talking points – click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">House Education K-12 Subcommittee</a> Wednesday, 04/29/09 at 10:00 am – LP 16	
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## Voting Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Financial Burden to Restore Voting Rights</b>  <a href="#">HB0969</a> (McCord)	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 SB0440 (Overbey), which passed the Senate 30-1.  Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a>  Wednesday, 4/29/09 at 8:30 a.m. – LP 31	<b>OPPOSE</b>