



May 11, 2009

Dear ACLU-TN Legislative Alert Network:

**SJR127, the bill that would remove the right to abortion from the state constitution, is up for first reading on the House floor today, Monday, May 11.** While it seems likely that SJR127 will pass, **we ask that you continue to contact your house representatives and tell them to vote NO.**

Please contact your legislators about all of the other bills described below as well 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,  
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### Reproductive Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Removing Right to Abortion</b>  <a href="#">SJR0127</a> (Black)	<p>Opens door to amending the State Constitution to take away the privacy protection as it pertains to women seeking abortions. Were <u>Roe v. Wade</u> 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.</p> <p>The Senate passed SJR0127 24 to 8 on 3/23/09. It is up for first reading on the House floor today, Monday, May 11. While it seems likely that the bill will pass the House as well, <b>we urge everyone to call their representatives asap.</b></p> <p>Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	House Floor  Monday, 05/11/09 at 4:00 p.m., House Chamber	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Strip Title X</b>	This bill would take away Title X federal	<a href="#">House Health &amp;</a>	<b>OPPOSE</b>

<b>Funding from Planned Parenthood</b>  <a href="#">HB1756</a> (Hensley)	funds from non-profit health care clinics in Tennessee, limiting access to quality family planning and other health care services for women and men in Tennessee. Companion bill is <a href="#">SB0470</a> (Johnson, J.).  Talking points – click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">Human Resources Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 11:00 am – LP16	
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## Free Speech

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Saggy Pants = Criminal</b>  <a href="#">SB1757</a> (Ford O.)  <a href="#">HB2099</a> (Towns)	Makes wearing pants below the waistline a Class C misdemeanor criminal offense.  This bill is a violation of freedom of expression and encourages racial profiling. The Attorney General agrees with us and recently issued an <a href="#">opinion</a> that this bill is unconstitutional.	<a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 10:00 am – LP 12  <a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 8:30 am – LP31	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## Immigrants' Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>People arrested without immigration papers reported immediately to Homeland Security</b>  <a href="#">SB1141</a> (Gresham)  <a href="#">HB0670</a> (Dennis)	Requires jailer or officers to notify the Dept. of Homeland Security of people whose immigration status cannot be determined from documents they are carrying at the time of their arrest. These bills impose burdens on local law enforcement without any additional training, oversight or funding.	<a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 10:00 am – LP 12  <a href="#">House Calendar &amp; Rules Committee</a> Thursday, 05/14/09 at 8:00 am – LP16	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<b>Mandated local cooperation with federal officials</b>	Prevents local governments from enacting policies that limit peace officers, local officials or local government employees from communicating with federal officials	<a href="#">Senate State &amp; Local Government Committee</a>	<b>OPPOSE</b>

<a href="#">SB1310</a> (Tracy)  <a href="#">HB1354</a> (Carr)	with regard to the immigration status of any person within the state.	Tuesday, 5/12/09 at 12:30 pm – LP12  <a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 8:30 am – LP31	
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## LGBT Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<b>Adding Gender Identity to Hate Crimes Law</b>  <a href="#">SB253</a> (Marrero)  <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.	<a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 10:00 am – LP 12  <a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 8:30 am – 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)	Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. Companion bill is <a href="#">HB1426</a> (Nicely).  Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a> .	<a href="#">Senate Finance, Ways &amp; Means Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 3:00 pm – LP 12	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>Release of medical test results of child to parent</b>  <a href="#">HB1762</a> (Shipley)  <a href="#">SB2089</a> (Beavers)	These bills violate the privacy rights of young people by requiring any licensed physician providing healthcare services to a minor child to provide the results of any medical test or procedure performed on the child to the child’s parent or legal guardian. The bills not only deter teens from getting health services they need, they also put the state at risk of losing \$6,500,000 in federal grant funds for non-compliance with Title X family planning regulations.	<a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 8:30 am – LP 31  <a href="#">Senate General Welfare Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 11 am – LP12	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## Religious Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><b>Religious Freedom Restoration Act</b></p> <p><a href="#">SB1283</a> (Bunch)</p> <p><a href="#">HB1598</a> (Lynn)</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><a href="#">Senate Judiciary Committee</a> Tuesday, 05/12/09 at 10:00 am – LP 12</p> <p><a href="#">House Judiciary Committee</a> Wednesday, 05/13/09 at 8:30 am – LP31</p>	<p><b>ONLY SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT</b></p>

## Voting Rights

The following two bills are being recalled from the Elections Sub-Committee to the full House State and Local Government Committee even though they both failed in the Elections Sub-Committee in April.

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><b>No Photo – No Vote</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB0639</a> (Maggart)</p>	<p>Requires voter to show “qualified photographic identification” before being allowed to vote.</p> <p>The companion bill, <a href="#">SB0150</a> (Ketrone), passed the Senate 29-3 (with 1 present, not voting) on 04/13/09.</p> <p>Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">House State &amp; Local Government Committee</a>, Tuesday, 5/12/09 at 3:00 pm – LP 16</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>
<p><b>Prove Citizenship Status to Vote</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB1838</a> (Todd)</p>	<p>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. The companion bill is <a href="#">SB1999</a> (Norris).</p> <p>Talking points – click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">House State &amp; Local Government Committee</a>, Tuesday, 5/12/09 at 3:00 pm – LP 16</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>