



March 15, 2010

Dear ACLU-TN Legislative Alert Network:

Tennessee legislative committees will discuss bills this week on a range of civil liberties issues, including immigrants rights, LGBT rights, privacy, reproductive freedom and more.

Please contact your legislators about the bills described below and let them know how you think they should vote on these bills.

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 if the bills come to the Floor.

Thank you for using your voice to protect our freedoms!

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Immigrants’ Rights

English-Only Drivers’ Exams		
<p>This week committees will hear four similar bills that would only allow written examinations for drivers’ licenses to be in English (SB 2660/HB 2940 and (HB 262/SB 0063).</p> <p>Talking points - click here.</p>		
Bill	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
SB 2660 (Ketron)	Senate Transportation Committee Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 11:30 a.m. – LP 12	OPPOSE
SB 0063 (Bunch)	Senate Transportation Committee Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 11:30 a.m. – LP 12	OPPOSE
HB 262 (Watson, E.)	House Transportation Committee Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 3:30 p.m. – LP 16	OPPOSE

HB 2940 (Carr)	House Public Safety Subcommittee Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 4:00 p.m. – LP 16	OPPOSE
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Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
English-Only Workplaces HB 2685 (Hill)	<p>Authorizes employers to require English be spoken in the workplace if necessary to conduct the employer's business. Companion bill is SB 2753 (Johnson).</p> <p>ACLU-TN opposes these bills because federal civil rights law (Title VII) already sets out the controlling restrictions on English-only policies in the workplace, and the state legislature has no power to overturn or contradict federal worker protections. HB 2685 can't change pre-existing federal protections and would only create confusion amongst employers and workers without accomplishing anything.</p>	<p>House Consumer & Employee Affairs Committee</p> <p>Wednesday, 03/16/10 at 8:30 a.m. – LP 29</p>	OPPOSE

LGBT Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Don't Say Gay HB0821 (Campfield)	<p>Prevents teachers, school counselors and other school administrators from providing "any instruction or materials discussing sexual orientation other than heterosexuality." Companion bill is SB1250 (Bunch).</p> <p>For talking points, click here.</p>	<p>House Education K-12 Subcommittee</p> <p>Wednesday, 03/17/10 at 10:00 a.m. – LP 16</p>	OPPOSE

Privacy

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Stop REAL ID in Tennessee HB1426 (Nicely)	<p>Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. Companion bill is SB1934 (Burchett), which passed the Senate 05/20/09.</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>House Public Safety Subcommittee</p> <p>Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 4:00 p.m. – LP 16</p>	SUPPORT

Reproductive Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Freedom from Coercion Act SB 3812 (Johnson, J.)	<p>Requires facilities where abortions are performed to post a notice stating that no one can coerce another to have an abortion and informing patients that law enforcement can be contacted. Requires pregnant minors to receive and sign certain notice documents. Companion Bill is HB 3301 (Lynn).</p> <p>ACLU-TN opposes this bill because it stigmatizes abortion by applying a different set of standards to it from other medical procedures; it demonizes certain health care providers; and it patronizes women by implying that they are incapable of making their own medical decisions regarding what is best for themselves and their families.</p>	<p>Senate Judiciary Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 3:00 p.m.— LP 12</p>	OPPOSE

Students' Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
Random Drug Testing of Students HB 3200 (Winningham)	<p>Establishes that students participating in extracurricular activities may randomly be tested for illegal drugs without individualized reasonable suspicion as long as previous legal requirements are followed. Companion bill is SB 2621 (Tracy).</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>House Education K-12 Subcommittee</p> <p>Wednesday, 03/17/10 at 10:00 a.m. – LP 16</p>	OPPOSE

Voting Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p>Financial Burden to Restore Voting Rights</p> <p>HB 0969 (McCord)</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Talking points-click here.</p>	<p>House Finance, Ways & Means Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 03/16/10 at 2:00 p.m. – LP 16</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p>
<p>Elimination of Child Support Requirement for Reenfranchisement</p> <p>HB 0675 (Turner, J.)</p>	<p>Eliminates the requirement that people with past convictions be current on child support obligations in order to be eligible to have their voting rights restored. Companion bill is SB 0637 (Marrero).</p> <p>Talking points – click here.</p>	<p>House Civil Practice Subcommittee</p> <p>Wednesday, 03/17/10 at 12:30 p.m. – LP 31</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>