



March 29, 2010

Dear ACLU-TN Legislative Alert Network:

Our freedoms are at stake this week in a number of Tennessee legislative committees, as lawmakers consider bills on access to justice, immigrants' rights, LGBT rights, privacy, reproductive freedom, students' rights and voting rights.

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 standing for freedom in Tennessee!

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p.s. Please note that the list below is in order by issue area, not by chronological order.

**Access to Justice**

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><b>Complaints Against Firefighters and Law Enforcement</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB 2659</a> (Faulkner)</p>	<p>Requires complaints against law enforcement officers and firefighters to be in writing, signed by the complainant and given to the affected officer or firefighter within five business days.</p> <p>ACLU-TN opposes this bill because it is intimidating and could dissuade people from filing legitimate complaints against law enforcement or firefighters.</p>	<p><a href="#">House Judiciary Criminal Practice &amp; Procedure Subcommittee</a></p> <p>Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 11:00 a.m. – LP 31</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>

## Immigrants' Rights

<b>English-Only Drivers' Exams</b>		
<p>This week committees will hear two similar bills that would only allow written examinations for drivers' licenses to be in English (HB 2940 and HB 262). (The companion bills are SB 2660 and SB 0063 respectively).</p> <p>Talking points - click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>		
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Will Be Heard</b>	<b>ACLU-TN Position</b>
<a href="#">HB 262</a> (Watson, E.)	<a href="#">House Transportation Committee</a> Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 3:30 p.m. – LP 16	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<a href="#">HB 2940</a> (Carr)	<a href="#">House Public Safety Subcommittee</a> Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 4:00 p.m. – LP 16	<b>OPPOSE</b>

<b>English-Only Workplaces</b>		
<p>This week a Senate committee will hear one of two companion bills (SB 2753/HB 2685) that would authorize employers to require English be spoken in the workplace if necessary to conduct the employer's business. HB 2685 is slated for the House floor on Wednesday.</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. SB 2753/HB 2685 can't change pre-existing federal protections and would only create confusion amongst employers and workers without accomplishing anything.</p>		
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Will Be Heard</b>	<b>ACLU-TN Position</b>
<a href="#">SB 2753</a> (Johnson)	<a href="#">Senate Commerce, Labor &amp; Agriculture Committee</a> Monday, 03/29/10 at 3:30 p.m. – LP 12	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<a href="#">HB 2685</a> (Hill)	<a href="#">House Floor</a> Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 2:00 p.m. – House Chamber	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## LGBT Rights

<b>Don't Say Gay</b>		
<p>This week committees will hear two bills that would prevent teachers, school counselors and other school administrators from providing “any instruction or materials discussing sexual orientation other than heterosexuality” (HB 0821/SB 1250).</p> <p>For talking points, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>		
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Will Be Heard</b>	<b>ACLU-TN Position</b>
<a href="#">HB0821</a> (Campfield)	<a href="#">House Education K-12 Subcommittee</a> Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 10:00 a.m. – LP 16	<b>OPPOSE</b>
<a href="#">SB1250</a> (Bunch)	<a href="#">Senate Education Committee</a> Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 2:30 p.m. – LP 12	<b>OPPOSE</b>

## Privacy

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Bill Description</b>	<b>Will Be Heard</b>	<b>ACLU-TN Position</b>
<b>Safe Access to Medical Cannabis</b>  <a href="#">HB 2562</a> (Richardson)	<p>Establishes the Safe Access program to provide a means of registration for patients diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition to receive medical marijuana.</p> <p>ACLU-TN supports this bill because all people have the right to take medication to alleviate the painful symptoms and side effects of life-threatening illnesses. Medical marijuana is the only hope that some seriously ill patients have for relieving chronic pain, nausea and other side effects of chemotherapy, radiation treatment and HIV/AIDS medications. Often patients need to use medical marijuana because the alternative is powerful prescription drugs that cause debilitating side effects and leave them in drug-induced stupors.</p>	<a href="#">House Health &amp; Human Resources Committee</a>  Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 10:30 a.m. – LP 16	<b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>Stop REAL ID in Tennessee</b>  <a href="#">HB1426</a> (Nicely)	<p>Prohibits the state from participating in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. Companion bill is <a href="#">SB1934</a> (Burchett), which passed the Senate 05/20/09.</p> <p>Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<a href="#">House Public Safety Subcommittee</a>  Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 4:00 p.m. – LP 16	<b>SUPPORT</b>

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## Reproductive Freedom

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><b>Coverage of Abortion Services Prohibited</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB 2681</a> (Hill)</p>	<p>Prohibits coverage for abortion services under any health care plan required to be established in Tennessee pursuant to federal health care reform legislation. Companion bill is SB 2686 (Black).</p> <p>ACLU-TN opposes these bills because they fail to treat abortion as a part of basic health care and instead marginalize and diminish its importance to a woman's health and life. Furthermore, they expose women and their families to thousands of dollars of financial risk should, for example, a woman need to terminate a pregnancy because of a severe fetal anomaly or because her health is threatened by her pregnancy. Such coverage restrictions could force some women to continue a dangerous or unviable pregnancy.</p>	<p><a href="#">House Commerce Committee</a></p> <p>Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 9:15 a.m. – LP 16</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>

## Students' Rights

Random Drug Testing of Students		
<p>This week committees will hear two bills that would establish 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 (HB 3200/SB 2621).</p> <p>Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>		
Bill	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><a href="#">HB 3200</a> (Winningham)</p>	<p><a href="#">House Education Committee</a></p> <p>Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 11:00 a.m. – LP 16</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>
<p><a href="#">SB 2621</a> (Tracy)</p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Education Committee</a></p> <p>Wednesday, 03/31/10 at 2:30 p.m. – LP 12</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>

## Voting Rights

Bill	Bill Description	Will Be Heard	ACLU-TN Position
<p><b>Protecting the Integrity and Reliability of Voting Machines</b></p> <p><a href="#">SB 3216</a> (Finney, L.)</p>	<p>Requires the coordinator of elections to develop and implement policies to preserve and protect the integrity and reliability of voting machines and related equipment used in the November 2010 regular election. Companion bill is HB 3455 (Odom).</p> <p>ACLU-TN supports these bills because they will help ensure that Tennessee's elections are fair and accurate.</p>	<p><a href="#">Senate State &amp; Local Government Committee</a></p> <p>Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 10:30 a.m. – LP 12</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>
<p><b>Financial Burden to Restore Voting Rights</b></p> <p><a href="#">HB 0969</a> (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 SB 0440 (Overbey) passed the Senate on 04/16/09.</p> <p>Talking points-click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">House Finance, Ways &amp; Means Committee</a></p> <p>Tuesday, 03/30/10 at 2:00 p.m. – LP 16</p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p>