

## **CONSEQUENCES of LGBT Legislation from other states**

### **BACKGROUND:**

*The Nebraska Unicameral has 4 bills introduced in 2013 which sound innocent in nature but their passage would begin a severe erosion of religious liberties and freedom of conscience on Nebraska citizens. (The bills are LB 380, 385, 485, and 619). When Brian Camenker of MassResistance spoke in Omaha on 1-24-13, he warned of the "INTENDED CONSEQUENCES" resulting in other states with similar LGBT-protection legislation that is now law. This is a brief list of these INTENDED CONSEQUENCES now being inflicted upon citizens from several states.*

*ATLANTA GA – 30 VETERAN AND PRESIDENTIALLY HONORED FIRE CHIEF SUSPENDED AND THEN FIRED. Kelvin Cochran, Former Atlanta Fire Chief and Baptist Minister wrote a book, "Who Told You That You Were Naked", a book which details the state of man since the fall of Adam in the Book of Genesis. The takeaway of his book is that only in Christ can men be rescued from their fallen condition and fulfill their purpose as husbands and fathers. The book briefly discusses the clear biblical teaching that sex is reserved for marriage between a man and a woman. The mere statement of this drew the ire of people seeking to redefine marriage. They claim that Kelvin, in his official capacity as fire chief, shouldn't be able to keep his job because his thoughts and beliefs don't conform to theirs. <http://adflegal.org/detailspages/client-stories-details/kelvin-cochran>*

*MINNESOTA – TELESCOPE MEDIA GROUP – Carl and Angel Larsen, a Christian married couple that have a passion for marriage. They have founded their company to tell great stories that honor God through the power of film. They have chosen wedding cinematography as their market path. They have hit a huge roadblock. The Minnesota State's Human Rights Act mandates that if the Larsens make films celebrating marriage between one man and one woman, then they must make films celebrating same-sex marriages as well. State officials have repeatedly threatened to prosecute expressive business owners who decline to create speech promoting same sex marriages. Steep penalties apply for violating the law, including payment of a civil penalty to the state, triple compensatory damages, punitive damages up to \$25,000, and even 90 days in jail. They have filed a lawsuit before entering the wedding films, seeking a court order that says Minnesota cannot threaten them with severe penalties and jail time if they exercise their First Amendment right to decline to promote a message with which they disagree. <http://adflegal.org/detailspages/case-details/telescope-media-group-v.-lindsey>*

*WASHINGTON STATE – GROCERY/PHARMACY CHAIN – The Storman family and pharmacists Margo Thelen and Rhonda Mesler have over 100 years of combined experience in pharmacy. The Stormans, Margo and Rhonda are Christians whose faith forbids them from participating in the destruction of human life, including dispensing abortion-inducing drugs, like the morning after pill (Plan B), and Ella. Prior to 2007, in Washington State, pharmacies were permitted to refer any customer requesting one of these drugs to a nearby pharmacy that dispensed it. In 2007 after extreme pressure from pro-abortion groups, like Planned Parenthood and Washington's governor, the Washington Board of Pharmacy issued a new regulation requiring pharmacies to dispense Plan B and made religiously motivated referrals illegal, while at the same time permitting referrals for almost any unlimited number of business and convenience reasons. Stormans, Margo, and Rhonda challenged the new regulation in Federal court. After a 12-day trial in 2012, they won their case. The state of Washington and interveners represented by PP and Legal Voice appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. On July 23, 2015, the decision was reversed. Unfortunately, on June 28, 2016, the court denied review of the case. <http://adflegal.org/detailspages/case-details/stormans-v.-wiesman>*

*DENVER COLORADO – GRAPHIC DESIGNER – Specializing in designing and creating custom websites filed suit in federal court Tuesday to challenge a state law that forces her to use her artistic talents to promote same-sex ceremonies if she creates custom websites and graphics celebrating weddings between one man and one woman. The law also forbids Lorie Smith and her studio from publicly expressing the religious reasons she declines to do so, including her belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman and why she cannot use her artistic talents to promote a same-sex marriage. This lawsuit is known in legal circles as a "pre-enforcement challenge which allows a citizen to challenge a law that threatens their rights before the government enforces it against them. Such lawsuits are the bread and butter of civil rights litigation, with organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union and the Planned Parenthood routinely filing them to attack laws they oppose, sometimes even prior to the effective dates of those laws. This case is ongoing, <http://adflegal.org/detailspages/case-details/303-creative-v.-elenis>*

*EAU CLAIRE WISCONSIN – STUDENT’S RIGHT TO PROVIDE MANDATORY COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT ALIGNS WITH THEIR FAITH. – A law suit has been filed on behalf of two students at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire who are being denied credit for mandatory community service simply because their activities involved religion.*

*(<http://www.adflegal.org/forattorneys/cases/>) Liebl vs Schmidt*

*LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY IN STATE OF KENTUCKY – HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION V. HANDS ON ORIGINALS -*

*Blaine Adamson, the owner of Hands On Originals, a promotional printing company has turned down several requests to create shirts based on the message that he was asked to print on them. But when he declined one particular design, he faced charges of illegal discrimination. That order came from the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO), and the requested shirt promoted the group’s Pride Parade. Blaine explained that he could not print a shirt bearing a message that conflicts with his faith. He then offered to connect the GLSO to another printer who would create the shirts for the same price that he would have charged. The GLSO rejected Blaine’s offer and filed a discrimination complaint with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission. If the situation were reversed, would a homosexual printer be forced to print material stating that homosexuality is morally wrong? The Human Rights Commission ignored this question, declared Blaine was guilty of illegal discrimination, and ordered him to print shirts with messages that conflict with his religious beliefs. <http://adflegal.org/detailspages/case-details/hands-on-originals-v.-lexington-fayette-urban-county-human-rights-commission>*