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LIBERTY COUNSEL'S MONTHLY ACTION/ALERT NEWSLETTER
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

LIBERTY COUNSEL FILES SUIT AGAINST OUTRAGEOUS NEW CALIFORNIA LAW BANNING CHANGE THERAPY

Leave it to California to pass an outrageous and clearly unconstitutional law designed to prevent individuals from receiving counseling to reduce or eliminate unwanted same-sex attractions. This new law endorses the view that same-sex attractions are good and that any attempt to reduce or eliminate them is bad. Liberty Counsel immediately filed suit to block this law, which is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2013.

On the last weekend in September, when California Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 1172 into law, he boasted that change therapy "will now be relegated to the dustbin of quackery." The new law requires minors to receive and counselors to provide only one view on same-sex attractions.

Unless this law is struck down by our lawsuit, the only viewpoint allowed in California will be that same-sex attractions are healthy and that any attempt to reduce or eliminate them is unethical. This is unbelievable!

The law defines "sexual orientation change efforts" as any practice that is designed to reduce or eliminate same-sex attraction. Such broad language will prohibit any counseling that does not affirm and encourage experimentation with, or acceptance of, same-sex

attractions, regardless of whether the attractions are unwanted by the person seeking counsel.

We represent parents and minors in this case who are currently benefiting from counseling. In one case, the parents

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Liberty Counsel has fought long and hard in the State of California to stop radicals from redefining marriage. At top left, Founder and Chairman Mat Staver is shown addressing the press after arguing at the California Court of Appeals against "same-sex" marriage licenses issued by San Francisco's then-mayor, Gavin Newsome, who is now California's Lieutenant Governor and a chief supporter of the state's disastrous new "Change Therapy" law. In the center image, President Anita Staver is shown next to the literal mountain of documents generated by our appeal to the California Supreme Court (shown bottom left) in 2007, during Liberty Counsel's case against changing the centuries-old definition of marriage. At right, top and bottom, Mat Staver is shown during a climactic California Supreme Court hearing on Proposition 8, California's famous 2008 popular vote to limit the definition of marriage to being between one man and one woman. Final resolution of this crucial issue was diverted into the federal judiciary and now awaits an answer from the United States Supreme Court on a petition for hearing.

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candidly acknowledge past family difficulties, and the father acknowledges that he was frequently absent or detached from his son. The son developed identity confusion, which later led to unwanted same-sex attractions.

The boy does not want to act on these attractions and does not want to identify as being a homosexual. Through counseling, the boy's self-esteem has increased, his confusion and anxiety have decreased, and the relationship with his

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parents is being repaired. *Naturally, the family is terrified that come January 1, this counseling will end unless Liberty Counsel prevails in court.*

We also represent counselors, including the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) and the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), the latter organization having about 50,000 Christian professional counselors as members.

This newly passed law prohibits any counseling to reduce or eliminate unwanted same-sex attractions, even when the client seeks help. Counselors who provide the banned therapy, or who refer clients to another counselor who does so, will be charged by the state with ethical misconduct and risk losing their licenses!

Counselors will face a "Catch-22." Under all licensing codes, clients have the right to "self-determination." A Christian has the right to seek Christian counseling and has the right to prioritize

Christian and moral values on sexuality over unwanted same-sex attractions.

But under California's SB 1172, counselors will be forced to disregard their clients' religious beliefs...or change them. If counselors obey the law, they will violate existing ethical codes because they will be forced to overrule their clients' right to self-determination. If counselors provide counsel or referral to clients seeking to reduce or eliminate same-sex sexual attractions, they will violate the new law. Counselors will lose their licenses no matter what they do!

SB 1172 and the ethical codes of all of the licensing boards are on an inevitable collision course. *The licenses of countless mental health professionals hang in the balance. Even worse, the lives of many young people and their families will be destroyed under this law.*

Our minor clients will suffer irreparable harm, because they will no longer be able to receive the kind of counseling they have chosen, even though they are greatly benefiting from it.

I recently debated California Senator

Ted Liu, who sponsored SB 1172, on National Public Radio (NPR). He showed astounding ignorance. He says that after watching a TV program about someone who developed same-sex attractions, he then approached Equality California, a homosexual advocacy group, and was "excited" to sponsor the bill. He shamelessly admits SB 1172 is

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designed to "interfere with the rights of parents," because he thinks *he* knows what's best for their children!

This law undermines parental rights. Mental health decisions should be left to the minor clients, their parents, and counselors – not to the government to license just one viewpoint!



Both "Only One Mommy" by Professor Rena Lindevaldsen and Mat Staver's "Same-Sex Marriage" are extremely well-documented and provide keen insight into the social consequences of redefining marriage in American jurisprudence. These books are informed by decades of experience in fighting against radical organizations intent on forcing the pro-homosexual agenda on the vast majority of Americans who hold to the view that marriage is reserved for the union of one man and one woman. Either book will greatly enhance your understanding of the battle that is raging in our courts and culture – order yours today on the enclosed Gift Card form!

This law forces clients to receive, and counselors to provide, only one viewpoint on the subject of same-sex attractions, even when the clients do not want to act on these attractions. The law even forbids counselors from referring clients to someone of their choice!

For the state to assume that it knows best what kind of counseling individuals should receive is the height of hubris and ignorance.

SB 1172 is a blatant attempt by the state to force people to accept homosexuality and elevate it to a preferred status under the law.

Imagine an innocent young boy sexually molested by the likes of a Jerry Sandusky. This boy develops low self-esteem and gender confusion because of this horrible trauma. He begins to experience same-sex attractions but does not want to act on them and does not want to identify as being a homosexual.

Now, suppose the parents of this boy believe homosexuality is wrong and harmful. Under SB 1172, the only counseling they will be able to secure for their confused son is that which will confuse him even more!

SB 1172 will force counselors to tell this young boy he should not worry about his confused feelings because same-sex attractions are good and normal. "Don't worry about these same-sex attractions. Instead, you need to modify your religious and moral beliefs!"

My heart breaks for the boys and girls of California. Christian counselors will be pushed from the counseling profession. This law affects all counselors, not just those who offer change therapy. SB 1172 will force counselors to affirm homosexuality as good or refer their patients to someone who will.

I will argue this case in federal court before the end of this year, and I will ask the court for an emergency court order to block this law. Please, pray for the Liberty Counsel legal team. We have just learned that the state of New Jersey is also considering a similar law. If it passes there, we will also file suit in that state.

These are critical times and we must stand up to the forces of destruction!

In addition to your fervent prayers, I urge you to help Liberty Counsel with a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500 or more. This case has already been very time-consuming, but we simply cannot afford to lose this battle!

Would you stand with us with an immediate financial gift? For any gift of \$50 or more, we will send you a choice of either my book, *Same-sex Marriage: Putting Every Household at Risk*, or Professor Rena Lindevaldsen's book, *Only One Mommy: The Lisa Miller Story*. Both of these thoroughly researched and documented books reveal why this battle is vitally important and is worthy of every thoughtful American's prayer and support.

Whether you choose to order a book or not, I pray you will send a special gift this month. ***The battle to stop pro-homosexual legal activism is one of the most important fights in American history.***

Now, the children of our nation's most populous state have been taken hostage to this radical social agenda. Please help us STOP this insanity! ✂



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization's Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.

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must encourage, educate, and recruit our friends and neighbors who have been brainwashed by mass media, distracted by their personal "to do" lists, discouraged by a seemingly impenetrable bureaucracy, or deflated by two-faced, immoral politicians.

Those who care about preserving our God-given freedom must unite! We must engage the culture for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and for future generations. And remember this: Action based on Godly values and virtue is the only force powerful enough to bring positive change!

Then, when we have done all that we can, if it becomes necessary to defend our children, our families, or our country from the godless forces that try to destroy us, I pray each of us will have the courage to face those who challenge our God-given, blood-bought liberty.

Those who care about preserving our God-given freedom must unite! We must engage the culture for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and for future generations.

We must be willing to stand up to our detractors and freedom's adversaries and shout with all our might: ***"I will not surrender... I have not yet begun to fight!"*** ✂

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel's President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.

From Anita Staver, President

WE HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FIGHT!



*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world
but are mighty in God... 2 Corinthians 10:4*

Whether we are relieved or discouraged by the outcome of the November elections, our work has not ended. Now is not the time to let down or relax!

We must stay engaged and make sure the radicals are on the run, whether they are in power or not. Further, we must hold our leaders at every level of government accountable for their actions. *No one* deserves a free pass just because they belong to a particular political party!

So regardless of how we feel about the current state of American government, we must stay involved at every level. Substantial disengagement on the part of pro-faith, patriotic Americans is how our nation got into the sad state we have recently experienced in the first place!

Planning should start *now* to assume positions on library boards, city councils, county commissions, school boards, legislative assemblies,

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and other local, state, and national offices. We should identify and support those who will uphold our values at every level of government.

We have been given a Republic "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Divine Providence has brought us to this very place at this time in history, and we must fulfill our responsibilities. We must not take our freedom lightly.

Our form of government always costs us much more in time and effort than if we lived under a monarchy or a dictatorship.

But let us never forget that it cost those who went before us much more! What is the price of our freedom? Those brave souls who fought to secure this government for their descendants were willing to give everything. Many times, the battle raged around them and the future looked bleak, but our very

existence as a free people proves they did what was necessary to persevere.

During the American Revolution, in fact, a great number of forward-looking patriots engaged in battles that secured our freedom. In 1779, a naval captain led an intense fight against a British ship from a much smaller American vessel. Although vastly outgunned by the British, when taunted to surrender, Captain John Paul Jones shouted these now-famous words: "I have not yet begun to fight."

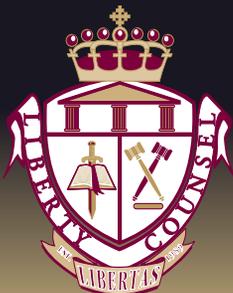
Today, we don't fight a great empire, and most of us have not been called upon to take up arms to protect this nation, but the battles are no less intense. In our generation, we face radical Islamists, God-hating secularists, far-left activists, mind-abusing

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"educrats," truth-twisting bloggers, vile pornographers, gun-banning bureaucrats, and other serious threats to our culture and its ability to survive.

Because we face so many challenges, none of us can afford to waste time! We

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***Restoring the Culture by Advancing
Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of
Human Life, and the Family***

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