



THE AMERICAN VALUES AGENDA

In June of 2006, Speaker Dennis Hastert announced the American Values Agenda. In a statement released following this announcement, the Speaker asserted that “through this agenda, we will work to protect the faith of our people, the sanctity of life and freedoms outlined by our founding fathers. Radical courts have attempted to gut our religious freedom and redefine the value system on which America was built. We hope to restore some of those basic values through passing this legislative agenda and renewing our country’s commitment to faith, freedom and life.”

The Pledge Protection Act HR 2389 — Sponsored by Rep. Todd Akin (MO-02)

Designed to protect the Pledge of Allegiance from attacks by activist federal judges. HR 2389 amends the Federal judicial code to bar the jurisdiction to any Federal court, and appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance or its validity under the Constitution. This bill was drafted in response to the 2004 unsuccessful court challenge to strike the words “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress’s:**
 - 107th — “The Pledge Protection Act of 2002” HR 5064 (Akin, MO-02), Referred to House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution;
 - 108th – “The Pledge Protection Act of 2004” HR 2028 (Akin, MO-02), House passed by a vote of 247 - 173 (Roll no. 467), referred to the Senate.
- **Current Status:** 6/28/2006 — House Judiciary Committee failed to report measure by the Yeas and Nays: 15 - 15.

The Freedom to Display the American Flag Act HR 42— Sponsored by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (MD-06)

Intended to ensure an individual has the right to display the U.S. flag on residential property. HR 42 prohibits any condominium association, cooperative association, or residential real estate management associations from adapting or enforcing any policy, or enter into any agreement, restricting or banning an association member from displaying the U.S. flag on residential property within the association with respect to which such member has a separate ownership interest or a right to exclusive possession or use. This legislation was drafted in response to recent cases of associations, cooperative associations, and residential real estate management associations limiting residents from reasonable displays of the American flag.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress’s:**
 - 108th – “Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2004” HR 5031 (Bartlett, MD-06), Referred to House Financial Services Committee, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.
- **Current Status:** 6/27/2006 – House agreed to by voice vote

The Public Expression of Religion Act HR 2679 — Sponsored by Rep. John Hostettler (IN-08)

Aimed to protect local officials and communities from financial ruin when defending their rights to free speech under the Constitution. HR 2679 Amends the Revised Statutes of the United States to provide that when state or local officials are sued over public expressions of religion, no monetary damages, costs, or attorney's fees may be awarded. This legislation was drafted in response to large organizations that threaten to sue institutions such as schools for allowing prayers or religious acts at graduations and other ceremonies.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress's:**
 - 105th – “Public Expression of Religion Act of 1998” HR 3288 (Hostettler, IN-08), Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property.
 - 106th – “Public Expression of Religion Act of 1999” HR 2057 (Hostettler, IN-08), Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property.
 - 107th – “Public Expression of Religion Act of 2001” HR 1237 (Hostettler, IN-08), Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution
 - 108th – “Public Expression of Religion Act of 2003” HR 3609 (Hostettler, IN-08), Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution
- **Current Status:** 6/22/2006 – Referred to the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Subcommittee hearings held

The Marriage Protection Amendment HJRes 88 — Sponsored by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04)

Ensures that marriage is a union between a man and a woman and is protected under the Constitution. HJRes 88 is Constitutional amendment declaring marriage to be between a man and a woman. This legislation was drafted in response to states recognizing same sex marriages.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress's:**
 - 108th —”The Marriage Protection Act” HJRes 106 (Musgrave, CO-04), passage failed the 2/3 required majority, by a vote of 227 - 186 (Roll no. 484)
- **Current Status:** 7/18/2006 — Passage failed the 2/3 required majority, by a vote of 236-187, 1 Present (Roll no. 378)

The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act HR 356 — Sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-04)

Designed to protect unborn fetuses from feeling pain in late-term abortions. HR 356 mandates that those performing late-term abortions inform the woman seeking an abortion of the medical evidence that the unborn child feels pain and ensure that if she chooses to continue with the abortion procedure, she has the option of choosing anesthesia for the child so that the unborn child's pain is less severe. This legislation was drafted in response to scientific evidence that unborn children can feel pain at 20 weeks of gestation.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress's:**
 - 108th —”The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act of 2004” HR 4420 (Smith, NJ-04), Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's' Subcommittee on Health.
- **Current Status:** 2/25/2005 — Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's' Subcommittee on Health.

The Human Cloning Prohibition Act HR 1357 — Sponsored by Rep. Dave Weldon (FL-15)

Intended to prevent human cloning, as well, as the importation of products derived from a cloned human embryo (e.g. stem cells). HR 1357 amends the Federal criminal code to prohibit any person or entity from participating in performing or attempting to perform human cloning. Further, this act prohibits the shipping or receiving of an embryo produced by human cloning or any product derived from such embryo.

- **Legislation in Previous Congress's:**
 - 107th —” Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001” HR 2505 (Weldon, FL-15), Passed by the House, recorded vote: 265 - 162 (Roll no. 304)
 - 108th —”Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2003” HR 534 (Weldon, FL-15), Passed by the House, by a vote of 241 - 155 (Roll no. 39).
- **Current Status:** 4/4/2005 — Referred to House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

BATFE Reform HR 5092 — Sponsored by Rep. Howard Coble (NC-06) Ensures the protections of citizens' rights through reforms of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (BATFE). HR 5092 makes several reforms, such as amending the firearms provisions of the federal criminal code to revise the civil penalties for violations of firearms law and limiting the authority of federal agencies to disclose information on firearms purchasers. This legislation was drafted in response to the need for a cohesive federal law enforcement body dedicated to firearm law and it provides a framework that the BATFE must work within.

- ***Current Status:*** 5/3/2006 — House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Forwarded to Full Committee by Voice Vote

The Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act HR 4411 — Sponsored by Rep. James Leach (IA-02) and by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (VA-06)

Aimed to prevent illegal internet gambling by making gambling laws apply equally to the internet. H.R. 4411 amends the Wire Act of 1961 to extend the prohibition on gambling to include internet technologies and all types of gambling (not just sports betting) and increases the maximum prison terms from two to five years for violations. The Act directs the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve to work together to develop policies and regulations to prevent illegal gambling. Also, the bill authorizes State and Federal law enforcement to seek injunctions against those who facilitate illegal Internet gambling. This legislation was drafted in response to illegal gambling sites that offer fronts to criminals for money laundering, drug trafficking and terrorist financing

- ***Current Status:*** 7/11/2006 Passed/agreed to in House, 317 - 93 (Roll no. 363).

Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act HR 5013 — Sponsored by Rep. Bobby Jindal (LA-01)

Intended to protect citizen's rights during emergencies. HR 5013 amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit any U.S. officer or employee, or person operating on behalf of federal law, from confiscating guns from law-abiding citizens during emergencies. This legislation was drafted in response to cases of national emergency, such as Hurricane Katrina, to ensure that law-abiding citizens of areas affected by disasters will be able to protect themselves and their property.

- ***Current Status:*** 5/17/2006 — House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure consideration and mark-up session held, ordered to be reported by Voice Vote.

Permanent Tax Relief for Families

Designed to provide tax breaks for families, there will likely be a series of votes on the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, tax incentives for adoption, and other priorities for American citizens.