



## LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER

5845 CLARKSON DRIVE, EAST PETERSBURG, PA 17520-1402 PHONE: (717) 569-0148 FAX: (717) 653-9239

[www.lancastercountyaction.org](http://www.lancastercountyaction.org)

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## Fall 2015 ACTION Newsletter

### Message From The President:

*by Robert Kettering*

Due to the importance of the so-called "Fairness Act" that has recently been introduced in the PA legislature, we have devoted most of this newsletter to providing information about this legislation. Please share this information with as many of your friends as possible. We must do all we can to stop this horrendous legislation.

In practice, laws like HB1510/SB974 have been used to limit freedoms of speech, conscience, and religion. This public policy would create for the first time in Pennsylvania law special status for "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" with broad scope in application to employment, education, housing, and public accommodation. The popular examples of so-called "discrimination" actually involve conscientious objectors to the redefinition of marriage who are obligated to stand by their most deeply held convictions. Rather than punishing these individuals, business owners, and ministries, we should protect space for all Pennsylvanians to be true to themselves. It would undermine the diversity and tolerance that we already have to pass a law that treats those who believe marriage is uniquely between a man and a woman as if they are, as Justice Scalia put it in his *Windsor* dissent, "*hostes humani generis*," or "enemies of the human race," whose livelihoods should be confiscated.



*Barronelle Stutzman*

### The real impacts of HB1510/SB974 on People of Faith: Religious Liberty

**WASHINGTON STATE:** Barronelle Stutzman, owner of Arlene's Flowers and Gifts, was sued in April 2013 by Washington State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. The gentleman in question had been a **longtime client of Ms. Stutzman whom she knew was gay and whom she served for 9 years**. She only declined one event, a same-sex wedding, not because he was gay, but simply because of the event and the message conveyed by her participation. The court **not only fined her business, but found her personally liable for damages, which could wipe out her business and personal savings**.

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*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."*  
Edmund Burke

# Religious Liberty at Risk: The "Fairness Act" is Unfair

We are facing one of the most significant threats to religious liberty in the history of the Commonwealth. And we need all hands on deck.

Proposed state legislation would create a special status in Pennsylvania law based on a person's "sexual orientation" or "gender identity," SB974 and HB1510 would unfairly punish good people and ministries for holding to traditional beliefs on human sexuality and marriage.

**This is not a false alarm.** Laws like it in other states have severely restricted religious freedom and shut down Christian businesses and charities. And well-funded special interest groups - including those outside of PA - are making this unfair proposal their top priority, and Governor Wolf is pushing it, too.

**Such a law would** force Christian schools and ministries to hire employees that are opposed to church teaching on sexuality, marriage and gender. *That is unfair.*

**Such a law would** force religious adoption and foster care agencies to either violate their beliefs and place children in homes with same-sex couples or go out of business. That harms children, and *that is unfair.*

**Such a law would** bring **persecution to wedding** photographers, bakers and other business owners who only wish to participate in events that adhere to their beliefs on marriage. *That is unfair.*

**Such a law would** create confusion and concerns regarding privacy in public restrooms, dressing rooms and school locker rooms requiring access to people of the opposite sex who self-identify differently. *That is unfair.*

## 1) Contact your State Senator and State Representative.

"Please stand for true tolerance and oppose Senate Bill 974 & House Bill 1510."

## 2) Contact Committee Chairs Sen. Folmer and Rep. Metcalfe.

"Please do all you can to stop this bill from advancing."

SB 974 was introduced to the Senate State Government committee, headed by Senator Mike Folmer. HB 1510 was introduced to the House State Government committee, headed by Representative Daryl Metcalfe. We encourage you to contact both of these leaders and **ask that they do all they can to stop this bill from advancing.**

Sen. Mike Folmer      Phone: [717-787-5708](tel:717-787-5708)      Email: [mfolmer@pasen.gov](mailto:mfolmer@pasen.gov)  
Rep. Daryl Metcalfe      Phone: [717-783-1707](tel:717-783-1707)      Email: [Dmetcalf@pahousegop.com](mailto:Dmetcalf@pahousegop.com)

# JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

## Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, Oct 10, 2015 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Enck's Catering Facility (rear of Manheim Grille - former Kreider's Restaurant),  
1455 Lancaster Rd (Rt. 72), Manheim - use south entrance



### Guest Speaker: Randall Wenger Chief Counsel, PA Family Institute

Prior to joining PFI, his legal practice specialized in public policy law including the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, the definition of marriage, gambling, and whether special rights should be given on the basis of sexual orientation.

Mr. Wenger grew up in Lancaster County and attended Lancaster Mennonite High School. He studied international business at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania and graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Chicago in 1993. Mr. Wenger graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2000, where he served as president of the law school's Christian Legal Society. He is married to Tina H. Wenger and has five children.

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-569-0148) by Wednesday, Oct 7, 2015. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

## A Message from the Financial Officer - Is Your Membership Current?

Please take a moment to make certain that your membership is current, by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are up-to-date. Your renewal date should appear after your name on the label. If it does not or has expired, please fill out the form below and mail to:

ACTION of PA - Lancaster Chapter, Financial Officer, 310 Silverwood Dr, Lititz, PA 17543

*clip and send*

- I would like to begin/renew (\$20.00 per household) my membership in Lancaster County ACTION.
- I would like to begin/renew my membership in LCA's Governors Club (\$250.00).
- I would like to begin/renew my membership in LCA's Presidents Club (\$500.00).

(Please make check payable to ACTION of PA - Lancaster Chapter.)

I'd like to volunteer for the following ACTION Committee(s):

- |                                                |                                            |                                             |                                              |                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Contact/Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter          | <input type="checkbox"/> School District Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth/Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Library            | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Guides                |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Polling Place: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to ACTION of PA - Lancaster Chapter, 310 Silverwood Dr, Lititz, PA 17543.  
Thank you!

## The Real Impacts of HB1510 / SB974 on People of Faith: **Keep PA Fair**



Catholic Charities

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** In Illinois, Boston, DC and San Francisco were **forced out of the adoption and foster care ministry** because they adhered to church teaching that children should only be placed with married couples of one man and one woman. Catholic charitable ministries would no longer be able to make contributions to the common good of Pennsylvania without violating their religious beliefs.



Melissa Klein

**OREGON:** Sweet Cakes by Melissa, an Oregon bakery owned by Melissa & Aaron Klein, **closed its storefront** in August, 2013, after months of litigation and **threats to their family**. The Kleins chose not to participate in a lesbian couple's wedding by providing a cake. An Oregon court **charged the Kleins \$135,000 in damages**. An appeal has been filed.

## The Real Impacts of HB1510 / SB974 on Privacy: **PERSONAL FACILITIES**

SB974 and HB1510 add a provision clarifying that the law does not require the creation of new facilities for gender identity or expression. But that does not solve the privacy issue, it highlights the privacy issue. Courts in other states with gender identity laws have held that accommodating a biological male who identifies as female by providing a unisex or "family style" restroom option instead of permitting them to use the restroom of the opposite sex, is itself an act of discrimination. The result of this law then, **is that biological males and females will have the right to access restrooms, showers and locker rooms of the opposite biological sex** - in schools, places of employment, and at public accommodations.

WASHINGTON STATE: Evergreen State College must permit a **45-year-old transgender man** (who identifies as a woman) to use a women's locker room. A college spokeswoman said: "The College cannot discriminate based on the basis of gender identity. **Gender identity is one of the protected things in discrimination law in this state.**" This room is used by local youth swim teams including **girls as young as 6 years old**.

COLORADO: State courts ruled that a **6-year-old boy who identifies as a girl** must be permitted to use the girl's room at his elementary school due to the state's gender identity law.



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