

2010 Public Policy Summary

During the 2010 legislative session, Protestants for the Common Good advocated for the passage of the following legislative bills in accordance with our **Common Good Agenda**.

Political Justice

HB 6200/SB 2532, Campaign Finance Reform—Closes the loophole on campaign finance reform bill passed in the 2009 Session of the General Assembly (SB1644) by ensuring there are limits on all transfers from political parties and caucuses to candidates in the general election cycle.

Sponsors: Rep. May, Franks, Mathias, Coulson; Sen. Steans, Frerichs, Delgado, Noland, Garret.

Action: House: Referred to Rules Committee. Senate: Referred to Assignments

HB2354, Reproductive Health and Access Act—Protects the right of a woman to choose to use birth control, choose not to use birth control, carry a pregnancy to term, or terminate a pregnancy prior to viability. Requires all Illinois schools to teach age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual health education (with a parental opt-out policy); and ensures that government-run health programs cover basic reproductive health care services like other health care services do. **Sponsors:** Rep. Currie, Mulligan, Jakobsson, Coulson, Feigenholtz.

Action: Re-Referred to Rules Committee.

Economic Justice

HB 174, Education and Fiscal Responsibility Act—Calls for an increase in personal income tax and extends sales tax to non-essential services, while ensuring property tax relief and tax credits for low-income families. Supported by the Responsible Budget Coalition as a framework for comprehensive tax reform.

Sponsors: Rep. Miller, Colvin, W. Davis, Riley, Golar; Sen. Cullerton, Meeks, Collins, Raoul, Lightford.

Action: Senate: Passed in 2009; House: Re-referred to Rules Committee.

HB 537, Consumer Installment and Payday Loan Reform Act—Sets interest rates from 36% to 99% for small dollar, longer-term consumer installment loans by proposing to cap interest rates on loans of up to \$4,000 at 99%, limit payments to 22.5% of a borrower's monthly income, require lenders to verify borrowers' ability to pay, and ban huge "balloon" payments at the end of the loan term. Closes the loophole in the 2005 Payday Loan Reform Act. Establishes the use of a consumer database to track borrower eligibility and to ensure compliance with the Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Lightford, Collins, Crotty, Schoenberg, Noland; Rep. Lang, Farnham, Crespo, Gordon, Davis

Action: Passed both Chambers; Signed into Law: Public Act [096-0936](#)

HB 5950, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Increase—Increases the TANF cash assistance grant by 15% (\$64 more per month for a family of 3) annually until the grants reach 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and then maintains them at that level.

Sponsors: Rep. Burns, Currie, Graham, Acevedo, Bradley.

Action: Re-referred to Rules Committee.

Criminal Justice

SB 1381/HB 2514, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act—Creates a pilot program that allows a person, once diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating medical condition, may be issued a registry identification card by the Department of Public Health that permits the person or the person's primary caregiver to legally possess no more than 7 dried cannabis plants and 2 ounces of dried usable cannabis.

Sponsors: Sen. Haine, Martinez, Schoenberg, Trotter, Raoul; Rep. Lang, Saviano, Fritchey, Yarbrough, Dunkin.

Action: Senate: Passed in 2009, House: Re-Referred to Rules Committee.

Criminal Justice

HB 5394, Sealing to Eliminate the Unintended Consequences of a Criminal Record—Expands current sealing statute to assist those with conviction records, who are later, wrongfully accused of committing a crime, and then exonerated through either a dismissal or acquittal to have those records sealed.

Sponsor: Rep. Howard.

Action: Bill called in the House, Vote Failed.

HB 6195, Soliciting Prostitution Act—Amends the Illinois Criminal Code by increasing by one class the penalties for solicitation of a sexual act, soliciting for a prostitute, soliciting for a juvenile prostitute, patronizing a prostitute, patronizing a juvenile prostitute, and pimping.

Sponsor: Rep. Charles Jefferson.

Action: Passed House; Substantive content of the bill was added to HB6462 when the bill moved to the Senate.

HB 6462, The Illinois Safe Children Act—Amends provisions of the Illinois criminal code to help safeguard children involved in prostitution and sex trafficking by providing that any minor (under the age of 18) arrested for prostitution will be transferred from the criminal system to the child protection system and by removing references to "juvenile prostitution" from criminal code.

Sponsors: Rep. Burns, Jefferson, Durkin, Bellock, Acevedo; Sen. Collins, Martinez, Althoff, Noland, Lightford

Action: Passed both Chambers, Sent to Governor 6/24/2010.

Environment

HB 6088/SB 3750, BPA-Free Kids Act—Protects Illinois children's health from toxic bisphenol-A by eliminating the chemical from 1) infant formula and baby food containers and 2) reusable plastic food containers such as baby bottles, water bottles, and sippy cups.

Sponsors: Rep. Nekritz, Davis, Farnham, Burns, Jakobsson; Sen. Kotowski, Collins, Hunter, Harmon, Schoenberg.

Action: House: Re-Referred to Rules Committee; Senate: Referred to Assignments

RENEW Illinois—In collaboration with other environmental organizations, PCG worked on a four-part legislative package on a range of environmental issues:

HB 6202, The Solar Ramp-Up Bill - Provides interim benchmarks for solar production in Illinois so the targets for the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard will be met by 2015. These targets give industry a green light to invest in solar power and create new jobs, revenue and clean energy in Illinois.

Sponsors: Rep. Burns; Sen. Noland, Harmon.

Action: Passed Both Chambers; Sent to Governor 6/24/2010.

HB 5429, Homeowners Rights Act—Ensures property owners' right to install renewable energy systems, such as solar panels and wind turbines, on their homes or condos.

Sponsors: Rep. Feigenholtz, Nekritz, Fortner, Sen. Noland, Holmes.

Action: Passed Both Chambers; Sent to Governor 6/24/10.

HB 6202/SB 3426, Net-Metering Bill – Raises the cap on the net-metering program in Illinois to allow more people and businesses to access the benefits of renewable energy generation.

Sponsors: Rep. Burns ; Sen. Bond, Koehler, Frerichs, Noland, Collins

Action: Passed House; Senate: Bill was gutted and replaced with language for the solar ramp-up bill.

SB 2505, PACE Financing Bill —Allows homeowners to access low interest loans through a voluntary tax assessment to finance the initial cost of installing renewable energy systems (like solar panels).

Sponsor: Sen. Frerichs, Holmes, Koehler, Shoenberg, Garrett.

Action: Passed Senate; Re-Referred to House Rules Committee.

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