

During the 2011 legislative session, Protestants for the Common Good advocated for the passage of the following legislative bills in accordance with our **Common Good Agenda**.

State Budget – Revenue

SB 2505, Tax Increase—Increases temporarily the personal income tax from 3 to 5 percent and the corporate tax from 4.8 to 7 percent to generate revenue for education, human services, health care, and public safety programs and to fund delinquent bill and pension payments. Sets state spending limits through FY 2015 that, if breached, would cause tax rates to revert to previous amounts. The bill lacks the fairness elements of previously supported tax-increase bills, but, regardless, represents the culmination of several years of work by PCG and other members of the Responsible Budget Coalition to raise additional revenues for Illinois-funded services and obligations.

Sponsors: *Sen. Cullerton, Trotter; Rep. Currie, W. Davis.*

Action: *Passed both chambers on 1/11/11, the final day of 2010 session. Signed by Governor: Public Act 96-1496.*

Economic Justice

Income Assistance Funding—Advocated with House and Senate Appropriation Committees, other members of the General Assembly, and staff of the IL Department of Human Services in an effort to prevent a reduction in funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, State Transitional Assistance (STA), and State Family and Child Assistance (SFCA) in the 2012 State Budget.

Action: *TANF funding was reduced substantially: \$2 M reduction in General Revenue Funds (GRF) and \$45 M transfer of federal funds to other activities. Despite Senate's last-minute attempt to restore funding, the STA and SFCA programs were eliminated due to \$0 funding recommended by the Governor and included in the House's budget, with the Senate ultimately accepting the House's version of the 2012 state budget.*

Criminal Justice

HB 298, Expansion of Sealing and Expungement—Amends the record-sealing law to give the courts the discretion to seal the records of felony cases that ended in either dismissal or acquittal of the charges or reversal or vacation of a conviction. Sealing allows eligible individuals to seek gainful employment without the stigma of a criminal record, while allowing access to the records to law enforcement agencies and certain governmental entities, such as schools.

Sponsors: *Rep. Howard, Flowers, Colvin, Gabel, Riley, Dugan, Verschoore, Lilly, Turner, Jr, Ford, Mayfield, Bellock, Smith; Sen. Lightford, J. Collins, Hunter, Johnson, Raoul, Martinez, Trotter, Hutchinson, Jones, III.*

Action: *House: Passed 68 to 34. Senate: Passed 56 to 0. Signed by Governor: Public Act 97-0443.*

SB 1037, Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Crimes—Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure by adding a provision in which individuals convicted of prostitution can file a petition for a "motion to vacate" their convictions. Petitioners must provide information to show that, at the time of the prostitution offense, they were victims of a sex trafficking crime as defined by existing federal or state criminal laws. The legislation requires that a motion seeking this relief must be made with due diligence, and only after the defendant has ceased to be a victim of the trafficking and has sought victim services.

Sponsors: *Sen. Hutchinson, J. Collins, Noland, Martinez, A. Collins, Kotowski, Raoul, Trotter, Althoff, Koehler, Lightford, Steams, Jones, Munoz, Delgado, Holmes, Hunter, McCarter; Rep. Yarbrough, Burns, Williams, Hernandez, Howard, Leitch, Golar, Berrios, M. Davis, Acevedo, Lang, Zalewski, Soto, Connelly, Coladipietro, Colvin, Gordan, Cunningham, Bellock, Smith.*

Action: *Senate: Passed 57 to 0. House: Passed 114 to 0. Signed by Governor: Public Act 97-0267.*

HB 2048, Drug Proceeds–Treatment—Amends the Cannabis Control Act, the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, and the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act. Provides that the State’s Attorneys, from their share of the monies and the sale proceeds of all other property forfeited and seized under the Acts, in addition to other authorized purposes, may make grants to local substance abuse treatment facilities and half-way houses – addressing the root problem of addiction and stopping the revolving jail and prison doors. Funding for treatment in Illinois is disappearing, so this is more important than ever.

Sponsors: *Rep. Brown, Howard, Sacia, Rose, Reboletti, Golar, Mayfield, Ford, Davis, Lilly; Sen. Hunter, J. Collins, Trotter.*

Action: House: *Passed 110 to 0.* Senate: *Passed 56 to 0.* *Signed by Governor: Public Act 97-0253.*

Health Care

HB 30, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act—Permits the use of cannabis by patients with serious medical conditions. Medical cannabis can be obtained through dispensaries, which would operate on a non-profit basis. A second opinion is required if cannabis is to be used in any instance other than treating patients with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn’s disease, or agitation due to Alzheimer’s disease. Landlords can prohibit smoking on the premises of leased property. The bill also stipulates that a quantitative blood and urine testing standard be added for use either by employers or police in driving stops.

Sponsors: *Rep. Lang, Saviano, Williams, Gabel, Dunkin, Feigenholtz, Cassidy.*

Action: House: *Held for postponed consideration after failing by a few votes. Re-referred to Rules Committee.*

HB 3027, Comprehensive Sex Education Bill—Requires any public school in Illinois that chooses to teach sex education to use curricula that are medically accurate, developmentally and age appropriate, and contain complete information. The bill applies only to 6th through 12th graders, allows parents to remove their children from sexual health education courses for any reason, and allows school districts to choose which acceptable curriculum they want to use.

Sponsors: *Sen. Steans, Sullivan, Holmes, Martinez, Noland, Schoenberg, Trotter, Jones III; Rep. Lilly, Yarbrough, Gabel, Feigenholtz, Currie, M. Davis, de Buclet, Hernandez, Howard, Berrios, Carli, Jakobsson, Colvin, May.*

Action: Senate: *Passed by 30 to 28 to 1.* House: *Passed the Human Services Committee, but has not yet been voted on in the full House.*

Environment

SB 2193, The Environment Justice Act—Seeks to ensure that no segment of the population – regardless of race, national origin, age, or income – should bear disproportionately high or adverse effects of environmental pollution. Creates an Environmental Justice Commission under the office of the Governor, which will bring together legislators, heads of multiple departments, e.g., the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the IL Departments of Aging, Public Health, Transportation, and Natural Resources, along with business and community groups to study and assess current laws and policies, develop and recommend options to the Governor and the General Assembly, and bring a new focus on these issues at a state level.

Sponsors: *Sen. Hutchinson, J. Collins, Martinez, Frerichs, Sandoval, Collins, Steans, Hunter, Kotowski, Raoul; Rep. Davis, Sente, Lilly, A. Collins, Soto, Howard, Gabel, Hernandez, May, du Buclet, Cassidy.*

Action: Senate: *Passed 50 to 7.* House: *Passed 111 to 0.* *Signed by Governor: Public Act 97-0391.*

SB 664, [Old Bill Number, Awaiting New Number] Fracturing Chemical Disclosure Act—Requires companies extracting natural gas from shale in Illinois to disclose the list of chemicals they use to the IL Department of Natural Resources and to the public. Prohibits the injection of volatile organic BTEX compounds into the groundwater. Outlines safeguards for storing and disposing of waste water.

Sponsors: *Sen. Frerichs, Koehler, Noland, Garrett, Jones, Sandoval, Forby, Mulrow, Brady, Silverstein, Jones, Kotowski, Murphy, Holmes, Lauzen; Rep. Jakobsson, Dunkin, Reitz, Rose, Nekritz, Colvin, LaVia, Biss, Brady, Feigenholtz, Mulligan, Howard, Verschoore, Burke, Nybo, Unes, Gabel, Franks, Farnham, Sente, Cavaletto, Hernandez.*

Action: Senate: *Passed 56 to 0.* House: *Not yet considered by the House.*