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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** ACLU-PA Board of Directors  
ACLU-PA Staff  
Interested Parties

**FROM:** Andy Hoover, Legislative Director

**DATE:** November 16, 2011

## **RE: QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The General Assembly has held several weeks of session this fall with a few more weeks remaining before the holidays. Many of our issues have been debated and have received votes.

### **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

#### **Senate Bill 1: Taxpayer-funded private school vouchers**

On October 26, the state Senate narrowly passed SB 1, which includes the creation of taxpayer-funded vouchers for low-income students to attend private school. The bill passed, 27-22. Its future in the House is not clear. There doesn't seem to be much of an appetite to take on vouchers in the House, but this issue seems to change from day to day. SB 1 is currently in the House Education Committee

### **IMMIGRATION**

#### **House Bill 439: Revoking licenses**

On November 15, the House passed HB 439, which requires the Department of State to revoke the license of any licensed business that intentionally hires unauthorized immigrants. We oppose this bill. The Senate has given no indication that it is interested in HB 439, but we're prepared for anything.

The House State Government Committee has passed multiple immigration-related bills. HB 439 is the first one that has had a vote on the floor of the House.

### **HIV-AIDS**

#### **House Bill 1794: Forced HIV testing**

On October 18, the House passed HB 1794, which allows a court to order a sexual assault defendant to be forcibly tested for HIV. We oppose all forms of mandatory HIV testing. The bill is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **PRIVACY**

#### **Senate Bill 354: Real ID opt-out**

On October 17, the Senate unanimously passed SB 354, which blocks the implementation of the federal Real ID Act. We oppose Real ID due to privacy concerns and support SB 354. If passed by the House and enacted by the governor, Pennsylvania would be the 16<sup>th</sup> state to opt out of Real ID via statute. The bill is now in the House State Government Committee.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **Senate Bill 1183: Implementing SORNA**

SB 1183 unanimously passed the Senate on November 15. This bill implements the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, which mandates states to alter their sex offender registration laws. We oppose SB 1183. This bill will be difficult to stop.

## **VOTING RIGHTS**

### **House Bill 934: Voter ID**

Despite predictions by one senator that it would be in the governor's hands in early November, HB 934 is still in the Senate State Government Committee, where it has been since the House passed it in June. We have reason to believe that there is a great deal of discomfort with the bill among senators. In an AP story in late October, committee chairman Senator Charles McIlhinney suggested that the Senate would make some changes to the bill, but Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, the primary sponsor of the bill, said that he opposes any changes. The Protect Our Vote coalition continues to work hard to stop this bill.

## **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

### **Senate Bill 732: Abortion clinic regulations**

Although SB 732 moved out of the House Health Committee in late June, in amended form, it has yet to receive a vote before the full House. We oppose this bill, as it places extreme burdens on abortion clinics that could put some clinics out of business. We have received mixed signals about the reason for the delay and about the future of the bill.

### **Senate Bill 3: Insurance coverage of abortion in insurance exchange**

SB 3, which we oppose, is close to becoming law. This bill prohibits insurance companies that participate in the new insurance exchanges created by healthcare reform from offering coverage of abortion care to customers in those exchanges. The bill passed out of the House Insurance Committee in late June but has yet to receive a floor vote in the House.