

WAYS TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

(1) Send letters to Governor Nathan Deal, Speaker of the House, Rep. David Ralston, and House Rules Chairman, John Meadows, urging support for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), SB 129, **without** any amendments that would add so-called anti-discrimination language. Adding such language would elevate all manner of perceived discrimination above religious liberty claims, thus nullifying even the right to have a religious claim heard in court in many instances. All states surrounding Georgia already have RFRA. It is time Georgia passed the successful RFRA language that mirrors the federal RFRA passed in 1993.

The Honorable Nathan Deal	The Honorable David Ralston	The Honorable John Meadows
Governor of Georgia	Speaker of the House	Chairman, House Rules Committee
206 Washington Street	Georgia House of Representatives	Georgia House of Representatives
111 State Capitol	332 State Capitol	HM-1 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334	Atlanta, GA 30334	Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-1776	(404) 656-5020	404) 656-5141
Georgia.Governor@gov.state.ga.us	(706) 632-2221	john.meadows@house.ga.gov
	david.ralston@house.ga.gov	

(2) Support efforts at the national level to pass the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA), S.1598 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 2802 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Thank U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (202-224-3543) and David Perdue (202-224-3521) and First District Congressman Buddy Carter (202-225-5831) for signing on as co-sponsors. This legislation would prohibit the federal government from penalizing persons for their personal moral or religious beliefs in natural marriage in areas such as federal employment, grants, contracts, tax treatment, and other programs. (States would also need to pass their state versions since FADA would only offer protection from adverse federal policies. Urge our state leaders, starting with those listed above, to pass a state FADA protecting probate judges, businesses, pastors, and all those who object to providing services involving same-sex ceremonies.)

(3) Travel to the Georgia Capitol and bring members of your congregation with you to urge passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), SB 129, during the 2016 Legislative Session as well as other religious liberty legislation.

(4) Actively oppose legislation that gives special status to those who participate in the homosexual lifestyle. At the federal level, oppose S. 1858 and H.R. 3185. This legislation would give elevated status to LGBT individuals with regard to employment, public facilities, public accommodations, public educational institutions, housing, credit, and jury selection. In addition, the legislation would limit religious objections and not allow people who believe in natural marriage to seek relief from the tyrannical provisions of this legislation. Contact U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (202-224-3543) and David Perdue (202-224-3521) and First District Congressman Buddy Carter (202-225-5831) and urge them to oppose this legislation, which is deceptively called the Federal Equality Act.

(5) Actively oppose HB 323, legislation in the Georgia House of Representatives which would add "sexual orientation" to Georgia's Fair Employment Practices Act. This would essentially implement LGBT affirmation action throughout state government. Call, write, and email key sponsors of the legislation such as Rep. Wendell Willard, House Judiciary Chairman, to pull support from the bill. Rep. Willard can be reached by phone at 404-656-5125, by fax at 404-657-8277, and by email at wendell.willard@house.ga.gov. His address is 132 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

(6) Write "letters-to-the-editor" in support of RFRA and other public policy issues as they relate to Christian values.

(7) Develop a Public Policy Committee in your church to keep members informed on legal and political issues affecting the Christian community and motivate members to action. Educate and motivate fellow pastors and be willing to help gather them across denominational lines for Legislative Briefings or calls to action.

(8) Become better informed about how you can help protect religious liberty. Sign-up for alerts from state-wide groups such as Citizen Impact (www.citizenimpactUSA.org), the Georgia Baptist Convention (<https://gabaptist.org>), Concerned Women for America of Georgia (www.cwfa.org/states/georgia), as well as national groups such as the Heritage Foundation (www.heritage.org and www.heritageaction.com) and Family Research Council (www.frc.org). Visit Georgia Religious Freedom (www.georgiareligiousfreedom.com) for more information on RFRA, FADA, and action tips.