

WAYS TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT



(1) Send letters to Governor Nathan Deal; Speaker of the House, Rep. David Ralston; Judiciary Chairman, Wendell Willard, and your own Georgia House Representative. Urge support for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), SB 129, so that it will be passed in the same language that it passed in the Georgia Senate last year. It should pass 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 RFRA language that mirrors the successful federal RFRA that was passed in 1993.

In your letter, further urge these elected leaders to also support the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA), SB 284. In addition, add your Georgia Senator to your contact list as well as Lt. Governor Casey Cagle (404-656-5030) and President Pro Tempore David Shafer (404-656-0048). The Georgia FADA, introduced for the first time this year in the Georgia Senate, would preserve the status quo regarding marriage as much as possible, preventing state and local governments from discriminating against individuals, businesses, and organizations based upon their religious beliefs or moral convictions that marriage is solely intended to be the union of one man and one woman or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage. The Act provides broad protections against adverse government actions directed toward individuals, businesses, and organizations that act and speak on such beliefs. In a pluralistic society, in which people hold more than one view of marriage, it is possible to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court decision without forcing religious groups or individuals to conform.

The Honorable Nathan Deal	The Honorable David Ralston	The Honorable Wendell Willard
Governor of Georgia	Speaker of the House	Chairman, Judiciary Committee
206 Washington Street	Georgia House of Representatives	Georgia House of Representatives
111 State Capitol	332 State Capitol	132 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334	Atlanta, GA 30334	Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-1776	(404) 656-5020	(404) 656-5125
Georgia.Governor@gov.state.ga.us	(706) 632-2221	Wendell.willard@house.ga.gov
	david.ralston@house.ga.gov	

(2) 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, and the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA), SB 284, during the 2016 Legislative Session as well as other religious liberty legislation.

(3) Actively oppose legislation that gives special status and special rights (such as affirmative action in employment) 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 your U.S. Representative and urge them to oppose this legislation, which is deceptively called the Federal Equality Act.

(4) Actively oppose HB 323, legislation in the Georgia House of Representatives, that 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 such as Rep. Wendell Willard, House Judiciary Chairman, to pull support from the bill. Rep. Willard can be reached by phone (404-656-5125), by fax (404-657-8277), and by email at wendell.willard@house.ga.gov. His address is 132 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334. Urge him to also support RFRA.

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

(6) Become informed about how you can help protect religious liberty. Sign-up for alerts from groups such as Citizen Impact (www.citizenimpactUSA.org), Concerned Women for America of Georgia (www.cwfa.org/states/georgia), Faith and Freedom Coalition (www.ffcoalition.com), the Georgia Baptist Mission Board (<https://gabaptist.org>), 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.