



Minnesota District Legislation Committee



Report to the MN District in Convention – June 2022

On the International Front

Positive Decision in Finland Case

As report in a recent issue of the *Together* e-newsletter, Paivi Rasanen, a member of Parliament and former Minister of the Interior, was charged with “hate speech” for sharing her faith-based views dealing with marriage and sexual ethics in her writings and media interviews. A Lutheran bishop, Juhana Pohjola, was also charged because he published some of Rasanen’s writings. The Finnish court upheld the right to free speech and all charges against Paivi Rasanen and Bishop Pohjola were dismissed. It’s another reminder that the freedom of Christians around the world to proclaim the teachings of Scripture is increasingly under attack and that we should never take such freedom for granted.

On the National Front

Supreme Court to Rule on Texas and Mississippi Abortion Bans

It is expected that the U.S. Supreme Court will soon rule on a pair of abortion bans: a Texas law that prohibits abortion after 6 weeks gestation and a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, except in instances of medical emergencies or fetal abnormalities. In the Mississippi case attorneys are explicitly asking the Court to overturn its rulings in *Roe v Wade*. The high court’s decisions will have a dramatic impact on abortion rights going forward and on the efforts of pro-life supporters to limit those rights in their states.

On the State Front

Here in Minnesota

The Page Amendment is a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would make quality education an individual right. At this point it is extremely unlikely to pass both houses this year, but it is something to keep an eye on going forward. Though well-intentioned, it could create a host of unintended problems for private schools and homeschoolers.

Of more concern this past legislative session was a proposed “conversion therapy ban,” which would prevent doctors, psychologists and counselors from counseling people who are struggling with gay/lesbian desires to bring their desires in line with their Biblical or straight beliefs. That bill did not come up for a vote this past session, but is something to keep an eye on in the future.

And in Missouri

The state House passed a bill (HB-1462), allowing concealed-carry in places of worship. That bill was considered by the state Senate, but did not pass. This is also something to keep an eye on in future legislative sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Bentz, Chairman

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