
377-Page Rule Put HUD¹ on Steroids

Q. Should a 41-year-old federal appointee¹ have power to decide who lives where?

"This new regulation is designed to give unelected, anonymous bureaucrats in Washington the power to pick and choose who your new next-door neighbor will be. If they don't believe your neighborhood is 'diverse' enough, they will seize control of local zoning decisions – choosing what should be built, where, and who should pay for it – in order to make your neighborhood look more like they want it to."

–U. S. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah)

U.S. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) offered an amendment to defund an unconstitutional power-grab that allows the Department of Housing and Urban Development to become a National Zoning Board with authority to rewrite local zoning laws and land-use regulations in every city and town, and transform demographics of state legislative and congressional districts. Senator Lee's amendment was tabled by a vote of 60 – 37. Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson was one of 16² Republican senators who voted NO. Those NO-votes kept the President's plan alive.

The new rule authorizes HUD to re-engineer the composition of neighborhoods by race, ethnicity, and class. That means HUD could move low-income families into single-family neighborhoods or disperse low-income housing developments into any community anywhere, regardless of local zoning ordinances, actions of elected local officials, or community desires. Unless the plan is stopped, HUD will re-zone all U.S. neighborhoods to comply with federal government specifications developed and enforced by the executive branch of government.

It can be stopped! Senator Lee says the Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH) plan can be easily thwarted, IF local governments, simply, refuse to take federal grants. Local officials who accept AFFH grants must agree to relinquish their power to control zoning policies. Meaning, the plan is contingent on successfully bribing local officials into compliance.

Senator Lee explained how AFFH works. Cities and towns must audit their local housing policies under close supervision of HUD regulators. Communities that fail to meet HUD's new definition of "fair housing" must submit a community reorganization plan to comply with HUD. Not only will HUD direct local governments and public housing authorities to make specific changes to zoning policies, HUD will require local officials to adopt HUD's preferred housing policies or lose their traditional Community Development Block Grant for community needs.

Current Status. The U.S. House passed Rep. Paul Gosar's (R-AZ) amendment to defund AFFH and attached it to the FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Now the Senate must do likewise and pass Senator Lee's amendment that was tabled in May. All senators in footnote 2 must be asked to vote YES.

ACTION – Call Senator Johnny Isakson, 1 877 762-8762 or 770 661-0999, and ask him to support Lee's amendment.

¹ The current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development secretary, who is 41 years old (born 9-16-74) was mayor of San Antonio, TX from 2009 until July 28, 2014, when President Obama appointed him to his Cabinet.

² Senators Lamar Alexander, Kelly Ayotte, Roy Blunt; Richard Burr, Dan Coats, Thad Cochran, Susan Collins, Lindsey Graham, Orrin Hatch, John Hoeven, **Johnny Isakson**, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Thom Tillis.

LGBT School to Open in Georgia

“Now accepting inquiries and applications for ages 5 – 18 for Fall 2016, as well as providing support, mentors and tutoring upon request. Need training for your school, organization or business? Looking to volunteer or join our staff?”

– Pride School Atlanta Website

The Pride School Atlanta home page pictures seven students of various ages and ethnicities with duct tape across their mouths to indicate their support for the LGBT day of silence. The message under the picture is, “Are you ready for change? Get ready for Pride School Atlanta!”

The “change” is the first-of-its-kind school in the Southeast, and the State of Georgia is said to be the first state in the South to have a school started solely for gay, lesbian and transsexual K – 12 children and teachers. A 45-year-old trans-gender male with almost 25 years’ experience teaching math is the school’s founder. He says his school will open by September and will operate out of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta church. Tuition will be about \$13,000, and financial aid is available.

Reportedly, Georgia Equality and other LGBT activists successfully lobbied the state legislature for such a school. And after the bill was signed into law in 2010, the group investigated district policies in Georgia to see which districts had LGBT-specific bullying-prevention policies, finding, reportedly, that fewer than 30 percent did.

On September 9, 2010, after passage of the anti-bullying bill, then-State School Superintendent John Barge issued the “Policy for Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation,” that was subsequently revised August 24, 2011. That policy lists 16 “Prohibited Behaviors,” beginning with teasing and ending with website gossip and rumors.

In 2015, the Georgia General Assembly amended the law and expanded the bullying definition with H.B. 131, “The End to Cyberbullying Act,” which prohibits bullying *via* electronic devices on school property or with school equipment. Punishment for bullying could result in expulsion or transfer to an alternative school.

Also in 2015, members of the Atlanta Board of Education and school district staff marched in the Atlanta Pride Parade and Walton High School recognized the first transgender student to the homecoming court during the homecoming football game.

Pride School will be a “Free Model school,” meaning it will be less-structured than traditional schools, and may adopt the Free Model Social Justice Program of Massachusetts’ Brookline High School that “works to combat rigorous individualism that erodes civic engagement ... and build a culture of service and activism ... open to Junior and Senior students.”

A note to parents. In 2002, eleven Georgia counties had Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs in high schools, but now Georgia has almost four dozen, and it’s important to know their focus. GSA clubs have mixed memberships – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual (LGBT) and straight students. The goal of GSA clubs is to mainstream homosexuality through club meetings, and socials, as well as school and community activities. Students do not need parental consent to join. But Georgia finally passed a bill requiring school handbooks to list and describe missions of school clubs and activities, so parents could know what students may join at school. But regardless of what’s on the list, parental consent is NOT required for participation in any school club or activity. Those handbooks are required by law and should be available to you.

Brexit: “Independence Day” for Great Britain

“The vote for Brexit (52 percent of Britons cast ballots to leave the EU) is a vote for sovereignty and self-determination. Britain will no longer be subject to European legislation, with Britain’s Parliament retaking control. British judges will no longer be overruled by the European Court of Justice, and British businesses will be liberated from mountains of EU regulations, which have undermined economic liberty.”

– “Why Americans Should Celebrate the Brexit Vote,” by Nile Gardiner, June 24, 2016

After 49 years in the European Union, June 23, 2016 became Great Britain’s “Independence Day.” By a four-point margin (52 – 48 percent of over 26 million votes), England and Wales voted to exit the EU; Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain. The vote revealed that residents of cities favored remaining in the EU, while rural voters supported leaving.

To leave the EU, Britain must invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty that gives Britain two years to negotiate withdrawal. Meanwhile, EU law still stands in Britain until the exit is final. Britain will continue to abide by EU treaties and laws, but not take part in decision-making. The exit of Britain leaves 27¹ EU member-states, some of which may be discussing leaving.

In his article, Nile Gardner lists three dramatic ways British sovereignty was diluted by the EU:

- Unelected **European Commission** officials have created laws the British Parliament can only rubberstamp.
- Unaccountable members of the **European Union Court of Justice (ECJ)** have jurisdiction over parliaments and law courts of member states and routinely interfere with citizen security. The EU Constitution, now called the 2007 Lisbon Treaty, requires signer-states to surrender their sovereignty and democracy to unelected bureaucrats in Brussels and judges in Strasbourg. It took away England’s right to pass its own laws, and gave the EU bureaucracy and tribunals total control over England’s immigration policy. Margaret Thatcher said England was ruled by “the paper pushers in Brussels.”
- The most costly **EU regulations** relate to employment or the environment, with renewable energy heading the list. The working time directive limits the work week to 48 hours, and the temporary agency worker directive gives temporary staff many rights a permanent staff has. In fact, the European Commission President warned that the EU had become involved in “too many domains where member states ... are better placed to take action.”

Is a North American Version of the “EU” Underway?

The Council on Foreign Relations report of May 17, 2005 explained that the three SPP amigos (President Bush, Mexico’s Vicente Fox, and Canada’s Paul Martin) met in Waco on March 23, 2005 and “committed their governments” to “Building a North American Community” by 2010 with a common “outer security perimeter,” “the extension of full labor mobility to Mexico,” allowing Mexican trucks “unlimited access,” “totalization” of illegal aliens into the U.S. Social Security system, and “a permanent tribunal for North American dispute resolution.”

The fourth annual meeting of the Security and Prosperity Partnership met April 21, 2008 in New Orleans to change its name to “North American Leaders Summit.” Describing their goals, members repeatedly used these key words: “labor mobility,” “free movement of goods, services and people across open borders,” “economic integration,” and “harmonization” of regulations.”

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

Georgia & Congress Urge Exit from North American Plan

A resolution "Urging the United States Congress to withdraw the United States from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America and from any other bilateral or multilateral activity that seeks the economic merger of the United States with any other country; and for other purposes."

– Senate Resolution 827, 2008

Congressional concerns. On May 17, 2005 the U.S. State Department Web site detailed the March 23, 2005 meeting of Bush, Fox and Martin in Waco, Texas, where they “committed their governments” to “Building a North American Community” by 2010, with all three countries having the same outer perimeter. Mexicans could freely cross into the U.S. and tap into Social Security. Mexican trucks would have unlimited access to and from the United States, and disputes that arise would be decided in a North American court, not in a U.S. court.

At their second meeting March 31, 2006 in Cancun, Mexico the “three amigos” developed the comprehensive immigration bill and worker permit plan Bush tried to push through Congress in 2007. Though outraged U.S. citizens killed it, it’s sure to come back or be enforced, anyway.

The third meeting in Quebec, Canada August 21, 2007 produced a 44-page comprehensive plan explaining how select decision-makers would use UN and NAFTA guidelines to decide how to handle community gatherings, isolation and quarantine. No doubt, Canadian troops will be called in to put down American protests when the North American Union is forced on us all. By the way, in case you haven’t heard. February 14, 2008 was the day our U.S. military and Canada’s military signed an agreement to bring in the other’s troops if citizens get out of hand.

Congressman Phil Gingrey was one of 22 members of the U.S. House of Representatives that signed their August 6, 2007 joint letter about the SPP to President George Bush. Their concerns are outlined as follows:

- SPP is being conducted in a secretive manner to “harmonize” U.S., Canadian and Mexican policies, regulations and practices in ways that may undermine our security and sovereignty.
- The secrecy seems not to be accidental. The Freedom of Information Act had to be used to get conference notes from “North American Forum”, attended by U.S. government and corporate officials. Conferees spoke of “evolution by stealth” to divert significant opposition.
- In July 2007 the House of Representatives had on a bipartisan basis overwhelmingly adopted an amendment barring Transportation Department officials from future SPP-related meetings.
- They asked President Bush NOT to pledge or agree to any further movement in connection with the SPP, but to bring to Congress agreements already adopted and those being pursued.

Georgia efforts. S.R. 827, introduced by Senator Nancy Schaefer on February 7, 2008, passed the Senate 29 – 19 April 2, 2008. S.R. 827 was a message to Congress, explaining Georgia’s opposition to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America and the plan for a North American community without borders between Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

The Secretary of the Senate was directed to forward S.R. 827 to Vice President Dick Cheney, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.

ACTION – Ask your congressman to oppose any effort to put the U.S. in any agreement to minimize national sovereignty. The local library can supply your congressman’s local office number or call 1 877 762-8762 and ask for his office in D.C.

Georgia Insight is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.