Georgia insight

www.GeorgiaInsight.org

"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a

H.B. 200 – Battleground for Morality

No Penalty for Prostitutes Under Age 18; They Get "Victim" Status Instead Courtesy of "Sex Worker" Programs

"U.S. Government Funds Youth 'Sex Work' Programs," article by Tyler Ament, February 10, 2011 reports that the U.S. Agency for International Development provides money for the development of "interventions to reduce health risks" of youth in "commercial sex work." Their goal: change societal norms and public policy, rather than behavior of "sex workers.'"

With seven days left this session, Georgia senators must make a serious decision – whether to preserve U.S.-style morality or conform to global morality. The Senate decision on H.B. 200 will either retain Georgia's legal standards of moral conduct for teenagers or remove all legal barriers to and penalties for illicit sexual conduct for individuals under age 18.

On March 2nd, representatives in the House voted to pass H.B. 200 with a vote of 168-1, five not voting and six excused. H.B. 200 is a more cleverly written version of last year's decriminalization of prostitution bill that did not pass. With the March 2nd vote, representatives abdicated their role as protectors of youth. The fact is, powerful politicians persuaded them that all underage persons that make money for illicit sex acts are victims of "sexual servitude" and not accountable for their actions. While *some youths <u>are</u> trafficked and forced* into various sexually explicit acts, *others <u>are not</u> trafficked or forced*, but choose that lifestyle. Obviously, Georgia legislators are yielding to the international agenda to redefine prostitution as respectable "sex work" – the current politically correct global label for prostitution.

If H.B. 200 passes without lowering the age of 18 to 13 on page 2, line 62, <u>teens that choose</u> to make money in prostitution, sodomy, solicitation of sodomy, masturbation for hire and/or pornography would, automatically, qualify as "victims." As victims, they would be eligible for victim compensation funds, in addition to money earned in prostitution or porn. As declared "victims," they would not be charged with crimes, but would be provided federal and state benefits and services. H.B. 200 is a giant leap toward normalizing illicit sexual activities as normal modes of employment, *i.e.*, respected commercial businesses that should be protected.

If H.B. 200 passes without lowering the age of 18 to 13 on page 2, line 62, teens could perform in strip clubs and pornography – videos, movies and photographs. They could provide masturbation for hire and sodomy/solicitation of sodomy without customary restraint from law enforcement … until age 18. Then, after innocence is lost, lives ruined and bodies riddled with disease, they could be charged and penalized for sexually explicit conduct … much too late!

If H.B. 200 passes without lowering the age of 18 to 13 on page 2, line 62, Georgia will be closer to defining prostitution as "sex work." Male and female prostitutes would be "sex workers," who simply choose sexually explicit conduct as an income-generating activity that would soon become an accepted form of employment, as the U.S. conforms to global morality.

U.S. Government Funds Youth "Sex Work" Programs

The above is the title of Tyler Ament's February 10, 2011 article form the Global Centurion, a non-governmental U.S. organization. The program is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and its stated focus is the development of "interventions to reduce health risks" faced by young people involved in "commercial sex work." It urges society and the public to change laws, regulations and policies to accommodate "sex worker" behavior.

H.B. 200 passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee March 21st and is now in Senator Balfour's Rules Committee. On Wednesday, as I talked with committee members Senator Unterman, Senator Balfour, Senator Carter and Senator Millar about the possibility of amending the bill in Rules Committee or on the Senate floor, one of them said, "It's not going to happen! They're not going to touch that bill!" So, unless their minds are changed, H.B. 200 will pass and Georgia will (a) remove penalties for prostitution and other illicit sex activity for anyone under 18. (b) Then, classify them as "victims," who are (c) eligible for victim compensation funds from both federal and state governments. Result: an open invitation for male and female teens under 18 to build a college fund by working the streets!

ACTION – (a) Call the governor's office at 404 656-1776 and request them to send a message to the governor's floor leaders to amend H.B. 200 as follows: On page 2, line 62, lower the age of 18 to age 13.
(b) Then, call the governor's floor leaders and ask them to lower age 18 to 13 in H.B. 200, on page 2, line 62.
(c) Call the following senators: Health & Human Services Ch. Unterman, 404 463-1368, fax 404 651-6767; Rules Ch., Balfour, 404 656-0095, fax 404 656-6581; Education & Youth Ch. Millar, 404 463-2260, fax 404 657-3217; Science & Technology Ch. Loudermilk, 404 656-0034; fax 404 651-9703; Majority Leader Rogers, 404 463-1378; fax 404 657-9887; Regulated Industries & Utilities Ch. Shafer, 404 656-0048, fax 404 651-6768; Reapportionment Ch. Seabaugh, 404 656-6446, fax 404 651-6768; President Pro Tem Williams, 404 656-0089, fax 404 463-5220; Judiciary Ch. Hamrick, 404 656-0036, fax 404 651-6767.

If Ten-Year-Olds Can Consent to Sex, Why Give Teen Prostitutes Victim Status?

Relevance to H.B. 200. Proponents of H.B. 200 argue that prostitutes under age 18 are minors and cannot legally contract (*i.e.,* consent) to anything. And, if they can't contract, they can't be liable for their actions, but are deemed victims, eligible for victim compensation. That rationale contradicts state laws, which imply that ten-year-olds can de facto consent to rape and sodomy. Those laws are as follows:

O.C.G.A. Code Sec. 16-6-1. Rape
(a) A person commits the offense of rape when he has carnal knowledge of:
  (1) A female forcibly and against her will; *or*
  (2) A *female who is less than ten years of age*.
[Note: (2) allows ten-year-olds to consent de facto to carnal knowledge, if there's no force.]

O.C.G.A. Code Sec. 16-6-2. Sodomy; aggravated sodomy; medical expenses
(a) (1) A person commits the offense of sodomy when he or she performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another.
  (2) A person commits the offense of aggravated sodomy when he or she commits sodomy with force and against the will of the other person *or* when he or she commits sodomy with a *person who is less than ten years of age*. The fact that the person allegedly sodomized is the spouse of a defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of aggravated sodomy.
[Note: (2) indicates ten-year-olds may consent de facto to sodomy, if no force is involved.]

Zero-Based Budget Bill Passes Senate

S.B. 33 was unanimously approved in the Senate on March 1, 2011, introduced by Senator David Shafer to move Georgia government into a system of zero-based budgeting. "This bill will give the General Assembly valuable tools to identify and eliminate wasteful spending. It will help us be better stewards of the budget," said Shafer.

Under Georgia's current system of budgeting, expenditures approved in prior years are routinely rolled over into the next year's budget under a single line item, identified only as "continuation." S.B. 33 would require "no more than one-third nor less than one-quarter" of the state budget to be rebuilt from scratch each year, so the entire budget is justified over the four-year term of a governor. The Office of Planning and Budget would determine which programs must submit zero-based budget recommendations in each year, except no program would use zero-based budgeting more often than once every four years.

S.B. 33, specifically, states that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is a budget unit subject to this bill and the programs of the board of regents would be periodically subject to zero-based budgeting as provided in this Code section.

The Senate has approved zero-based budgeting bills four times in the last eight years. Senate Bill 1, unanimously, passed the Senate and House last year before being vetoed by Governor Perdue. The Senate overrode Perdue's veto at the beginning of the 2011 session and Senator Shafer inroduced S.B. 33 after the House referred the veto override to committee.

ACTION – Support. Contact Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee Representatives C. Martin, Ch., 404 656-5064; Cheokas, V-Ch., 404 656-0325; Calvin Hill, Sec., 404 656-0129; Dobbs, 404 656-7859; Epps, 404 656-0126; Houston, 404 463-2247; Jacobs, 404 656-0152; Jordan, 404 656-0116; Shaw, 404 656-0213; Wilkerson, 404 656-0116; "Coach" Williams, 404 656-0202; Williamson, 404 656-7859.

Pro-Life: S.B. 210 Woman's Private Right of Action

S.B. 210, introduced by Senator Barry Loudermilk March 4, 2011, passed the Senate 36-16 on March 16th. It clarifies that a woman has legal standing in civil court to sue an abortion provider if requirements of the Women's Right to Know Act are not followed or if the provider violated existing abortion laws, including the following:

Parental Consent for Minors (O.C.G.A. 15-11-12)
Ultrasound (O.C.G.A. 31-9A-3)
24-Hour Advance Disclosure (O.C.G.A. 31-9A-3/5)
Medical Requirements by Trimester (O.C.G.A. 16-12-141)

S.B. 210 provides a woman access to financial recovery for illegal abortions, reasonable protection from counter claims, and civil action overlooked in S.B. 77 of 2006, that provided pregnant mothers and their unborn children additional protection from felony violence. S.B. 77 passed the House 155-0 and the Senate 41-6.

ACTION – Support. Contact House Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Jacobs, V-Ch., 404 656-0152; Allison, Sec., 404 656-0188; Golick, Ex-Officio, 404 656-5943; Bruce, 404 656-0314; Crawford, 404 656-0565; Dobbs, 404 656-7859; Evans, 404 656-6372; Hatfield, 404 656-0109; Lane, 404 656-5087; Lindsey, 404 656-5024; Maddox, 404 656-0152; McKillip, 404 656-0177; Nix, 404 656-0177; Oliver, 404 656-0265; O'Neal, 404 656-5052; Powell, 404 656-7856; Stephenson, 404 656-0126; Welch, 404 656-0109; and Weldon, 404 656-0152.

Traditional Light Bulbs vs. *Compact Fluorescent Bulbs*

S.B. 61 introduced by Senator Barry Loudermilk removes from federal regulation and federal law incandescent light bulbs manufactured in Georgia and not exported into another state. His bill cites the Tenth Amendment, Ninth Amendment and Article I, Section 8 of the *Constitution of the United States* as the State's authority for this issue. S.B. 61 passed the Senate on March 7th and has been in the House Science and Technology Committee since March 8th.

If S.B. 61 passes as introduced, Georgians may possess, use, manufacture, purchase, install, transport, sell, or internationally export incandescent light bulbs manufactured commercially or privately in Georgia, but they cannot be exported to another state. The bill requires Georgia-made incandescent light bulbs to be manufactured from basic materials, without significant parts imported from another state. The importation of generic or insignificant parts used in other manufacturing or consumer products does not subject the bulb to federal regulations.

Unless S.B. 61 passes, traditional incandescent bulbs invented by America's Thomas Alva Edison must be replaced by 2014 with dangerous compact fluorescent bulbs containing mercury and made only in China. They are so dangerous that the EPA issued strict and extensive guidelines for clean-up if they break and for recycling those that burn out.

If S.B. 61 does not pass, consumers must use the dimmer, strangely twisted fluorescent bulbs and nail down lamps so they won't fall, break the bulbs and release the mercury. If the bulbs *do* break, HAZMAT might be needed to neutralize the dangers of mercury and clean up the mess.

ACTION – Support. Contact Science and Technology Committee Representatives Amerson, Ch., 404 657-8443; Battles, V-Ch., 404 656-0152; Byrd, Sec., 404 656-0298; Dudgeon, 404 656-0298; Kidd, 404 656-0202; C. Martin, 404 656-5064; Reece-Massey, 404 656-7859; Oliver, 404 656-0265; S. Scott, 404 656-0314; and Watson, 404 656-0109.

H.B. 87 Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011

"Today several hundred supporters of illegal immigration descended on the Georgia State Capitol to rail against legislation aimed at enforcing the rule of law in Georgia. In contrast to these angry sign waving activists, there are millions of Georgia citizens working and raising their families, who no longer are willing to accept the loss of job opportunities to the nearly 500,000 illegal aliens in our state or to subsidize their presence with their hard earned tax dollars. We are the voice for these common sense Georgians and this kind of protest only bolsters our resolve to see House Bill 87 signed into law."

Source: Georgia House of Representatives Press Release, March 24, 2011, Atlanta
By State Representatives Matt Ramsey, Rich Golick, Alex Atwood,
Allen Peake, Christian Coomer and Ed Setzler

H.B. 87, introduced by Representative Matt Ramsey January 27th, passed the House 113-56 on March 3rd, requiring private employers to use an employment eligibility verification system. It authorizes an investigation of the status of illegal aliens and foreign nationals, establishes grant funding for local peace officer training, authorizes law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws and enacts the Secure and Verifiable ID Document Act.

ACTION – Support. Contact Judiciary Committee Senators Hamrick, Ch., 404 656-0036; Cowsert, V-Ch., 404 463-1383; Crosby, Sec., 404 463-5258; Bethel, 404 656-6436; McKoon, 404 463-3931; Stone, 404 463-1314; Ligon, 404 656-0045; Fort, 404 656-5091; Brown, 404 656-5035; Ramsey, 404 463-2598, and Jason Carter, 404 463-1376.
