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LIBERTY COUNSEL'S MONTHLY ACTION/ALERT NEWSLETTER
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

When Government and Religious Freedom Collide

The ObamaCare abortion mandate will force believers to either violate their religious convictions by directly funding abortion or face significant fines for refusing to do so. In a similar vein, a new California law called SB 1172 will force Christian counselors in that state to either violate their religious beliefs and affirm same-sex attractions as good, as the law demands, or face fines and potential loss of their licenses to practice.

Tragedically, these cases are the tip of the iceberg of what is coming in what is now being called "Post-Christian America." But when civil government collides with religious freedom, *we must resist tyranny!*

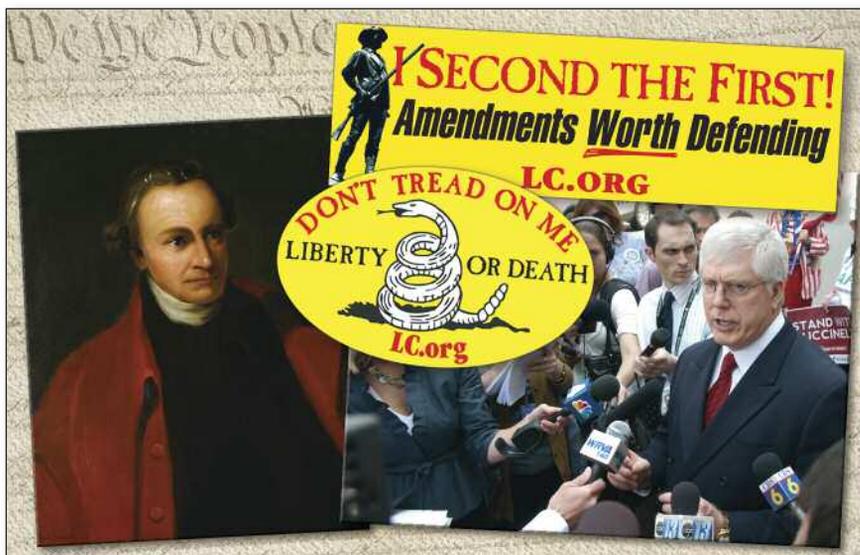
We now face unprecedented collisions between the government and religious freedom in our nation, the likes of which have not taken place since before the American Revolution. Jews, Christians, and all freedom-loving Americans must wake up before it is too late.

OBAMACARE ABORTION MANDATE

Hobby Lobby, a Christian-owned company with more than 500 stores in 41 states, is among the first high-visibility resisters of the ObamaCare abortion mandate. The company, founded in 1972 by David Green and

his family – exemplary employers and well-known Christian philanthropists – faced fines of 1.3 million dollars *per day* starting January 1, 2013, if it refused to provide abortion-inducing drugs to its employees.

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Liberty Counsel has long revered Patrick Henry (left) and his impassioned defense of liberty. His admonition delivered to the Virginia Ratifying Convention in 1788 seems to perfectly address our nation's current situation in which both Freedom of Conscience and the Right to Bear Arms are under intense attack: "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined." Please pray for Mat Staver (shown addressing the press after arguing against ObamaCare at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2011) and the Liberty Counsel litigation team as they advance our First and Second Amendment rights! You may order our very popular bumper stickers at the Online Store found at LC.org.

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Thankfully, Hobby Lobby's legal staff found a way to shift their healthcare "plan year," delaying the HHS mandate's impact on their company for a few more months. But it is only a temporary fix, so Hobby Lobby, and every other conscientious company in America, will eventually be forced to make a decision between its principles and paying huge fines for noncompliance.

We warned this was coming. When we filed the first private lawsuit against ObamaCare on March 23, 2010, we argued the law would force employers and individuals to fund abortion and

The ObamaCare mandate forces employers (and individuals, for that matter) to fund abortion, contraception, and sterilization.

compel Americans to violate their religious convictions and consciences. *That time has come.*

We represent Liberty University and two private individuals in our legal challenge to ObamaCare. I am sure you read that on November 26, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court revived our challenge and ordered a federal court of appeals to rehear *Liberty University v. Geithner*. Right now, our case represents the best hope to stop ObamaCare. It is the most comprehensive challenge to the law and is designed to stop this outrageous assault on religious freedom.

Liberty Counsel's brief is due at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 27th, and oral argument will take place the week of May 14–17. We could be back before the Supreme Court later this year. *No matter what happens, we will continue to resist ObamaCare's unlawful mandates.*

The ObamaCare mandate forces employers (and individuals, for that matter) to fund abortion, contraception, and sterilization. For most employers, the mandate begins in 2013 when their

annual insurance coverage is renewed. Hobby Lobby's date of inception was originally January 1, but Liberty University's is July 1 at the start of its Fiscal Year 2013-14.

To fund the killing of innocent children through abortion is a direct violation of core Christian doctrine that God is the Author of life and murder is therefore a sin. *This clash between the federal government and the free exercise of religion is unprecedented in the United States. It is a line we must not cross and are compelled to erase through getting the law declared unconstitutional.*

CALIFORNIA'S OUTRAGEOUS BAN ON HOMOSEXUAL "CHANGE THERAPY"

On December 21, 2012, we were elated to receive news from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that a three-judge panel had blocked California Law SB 1172 from going into effect on January 1, 2013. While this was great news that came in time for Christmas, the battle is not over. We filed a major brief in the case on January 2nd and will file our final brief this month. I will then argue the case during the week of April 15.

This law seeks to ban counselors from providing, or minor clients from receiving, any counsel to reduce or eliminate same-sex attractions, behavior, or identity. The law will force counselors and their clients to affirm homosexuality. If their religious beliefs conflict with those attractions or behavior, then they will be forced to modify their religious beliefs and affirm those attractions and behavior as "good"!

If a young boy was sexually molested by the likes of Jerry Sandusky and developed same-sex attractions or urges to molest another boy, the counselor will be forced to affirm those attractions and behavior. *If we are not ultimately successful in our challenge to the law, thousands of counselors, minors, and parents will suffer permanent damage.*

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THIS PIVOTAL NEW YEAR?

The ObamaCare abortion mandate and California Law SB 1172 have one thing in common – they both are an attack on religious freedom and ultimately



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on the God Who authored our liberty. The Founders believed that God and Judeo-Christian morality were essential for the American experiment to survive.

John Adams said, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. ... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, said, "The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the source from which they flow."

And another Founder, Elias Boundinot, wrote in 1801 that if America were to become an enemy "to the religion of the Gospel," that collision of the government with Christianity "would be the introduction of the dissolution of government and the bonds of civil society."

The glue that holds America together is clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence. The Founders based America's government structure on the belief in a Creator God. Without God, there is no basis for morality and without morality which restrains the free people of the Republic, there will be no America.

What is at stake is literally the survival of America. If the government becomes the enemy of Christianity and religious freedom, then tyranny will triumph and America will collapse. The shining city on a hill will go dark.

That is why we must resolve to resist encroachments on our liberties more than ever. I assure you, Liberty Counsel

is committed to fight for religious freedom in courtrooms and the court of public opinion. But we need *your* help to continue these battles!

We are also committed to fight for religious freedom in Congress and in local communities across the nation. We are intently working to educate and mobilize pastors and the masses of freedom-loving Americans to fight for freedom.

Liberty Counsel has declared 2013 a year for a "New Birth of Liberty." As Abraham Lincoln faced a civil war 150 years ago, so we face a civil war of values. Each of us must engage in this battle. We cannot be silent like the German church was during the rise of Adolph Hitler. *We must awake and we must engage!*

Please commit to pray for Liberty Counsel and our sister organization, Liberty Counsel Action. And we need you more than ever to stand with us with regular financial support!

I also encourage you to ask for our free high-quality vinyl *Don't Tread on Me* or *I Second the First* bumper stickers and hope you will proudly display them as a public statement that you will resist tyranny and that you have joined the fight for liberty in America! ✂



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization's Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.

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and others who would do us harm, the only "magazines" that should be banned are the pornographic kind!

Meantime, while the gun-control debate rages on, the violence will continue. So we must be able to defend ourselves, our families, and our neighborhoods from unwarranted attacks.

Responsible gun ownership fills a valid need to protect and preserve all of our other rights. Indeed, the right to self-protection is embodied in the unalienable right to life and guarantees our liberty!

Of course, the Second Amendment does not, in itself, give us the right to bear arms, for that right predated any of the Amendments making up the Bill of Rights. *The Second Amendment merely recognizes that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" already exists and states that this right "shall not be infringed."*

The Second Amendment operates as a warning to others that as Americans, each of us is guaranteed the right to defend our life and liberty – whether against a criminal, a terrorist, a foreign invader, or a tyrannical government.

Meantime, while the gun-control debate rages on, the violence will continue...

Our unalienable right to self-defense is a right worth fighting to keep! ✂

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel's President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.



PLAN NOW TO JOIN US IN ISRAEL, MAY 18-27, 2013

**HOSTED BY MAT & ANITA STAVER,
LIBERTY COUNSEL'S FOUNDERS**



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Saturday, April 20 • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

From Anita Staver, President

The Right to Self Defense: An Unalienable Gift from God



*Praise be to the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle. Psalm 144:1*

The recent school tragedies remind us that as long as there are people in America, there will be violence. While we can improve school security and try to watch out for mental illness, we might as well ban hammers as to ban guns.

Seriously! Any 5th-grader with access to YouTube can make a gun with less than \$10 worth of hardware store parts.

Even in places where rifles and handguns are banned, violence does not disappear. Violent crimes are rising in China, where criminals resort to home-made weapons. Among the most recent violent trends in their schools are bloody cutting rampages. A rash of such horrifying attacks has killed nearly 20 and wounded more than 50 in Chinese schools in recent years. And last September, a man in China killed three children and wounded 13 others with an axe.

In England – another gun control paradise – robbers carrying knives and hammers attacked a man at a convenience store in December. Restrictive gun laws make guns more deadly when only criminals own guns. In 1987, a killer with two rifles and a handgun roamed the streets for eight hours because neither

the British police nor the public were armed and capable of stopping him.

Clearly, we cannot stop public violence even if we pass rigid antigun laws. It is time to fast-forward past the rhetoric to find meaningful solutions! We need to be teaching our kids to love good and to hate evil.

The reality is that until God is respected in classrooms all across

***Regardless of whether
such laws work,
President Obama will
continue to aggressively
push gun control.***

*America, the violence will only
continue to increase.*

Even in relatively safe times, random shootings still happen. I was almost a victim of such random violence one morning in 1969.

The cab of our family truck was just big enough for all of us, so I sometimes leaned forward with my face near the dashboard. That morning, as we headed to church, I suddenly moved back. Incredibly, at the same instant, a passenger in the backseat of a car driving slowly by aimed his rifle at us and pulled the trigger. The bullet shattered our front windshield, opening a hole right where I was sitting.

My mother thought I had been shot in the forehead, because I immediately slumped onto her lap. Thankfully, I was unharmed but covered with broken glass. We went on to church, badly

shaken but praising God for His protection. *Clearly, no gun control law could have prevented such a cowardly and senseless act.*

Regardless of whether such laws work, President Obama will continue to aggressively push gun control. As a Senator, he favored banning *all* handguns. Most recently, he announced 23 “executive actions” that his office would take, which includes paying states to share your personal and healthcare data with the federal government, informing doctors that under ObamaCare they can ask you about your guns, and directing Attorney General Holder to consider what types of “dangerous people” should not be allowed to have guns.

His plan also calls for a mixture of intrusive laws requiring universal background checks, a ten-round limit on gun magazines, a ban on certain bullets, and expanding “mental health” care – especially for your children – who can then be questioned about guns in their home.

Let’s face it: Radicals with a non-negotiable antigun agenda are using the recent shooting tragedies as an excuse for disarming law-abiding citizens and meddling in parental rights. The average American, although sickened by the violence, knows instinctively that these radicals do not have the answers.

Unfortunately, many people will be swayed by those in the liberal media who echo the Obama administration’s talking points about the dangers of so-called “assault weapons” and “high capacity magazines.” But until they can *guarantee* to keep them from criminals

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***Restoring the Culture by Advancing
Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of
Human Life and the Family***

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