

1) Press Release issued on the day that the Faith and Family Services Amendment was pre-filed in the Georgia General Assembly:

*Press Release*

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Contact: Office of Communications 404-651-7774

## **Constitutional Amendment to Provide Greater Access to Family and Social Services**

### ***Governor Perdue, Floor Leaders Submit Faith and Family Services Amendment***

**Atlanta** - Joined by House and Senate Floor Leaders, social service providers, and community activists, Governor Perdue today announced the formal submission of the Faith and Family Services Amendment. This constitutional amendment to the Georgia Constitution will allow faith-based social service providers to compete for state funds without facing discrimination. Governor Perdue made the Faith and Family Services Amendment announcement during a noonrally on the steps of the State Capitol.

"The Faith and Family Services Amendment will remove a barrier that for too long has stood in the way of delivering critical family and social services to Georgia's citizens," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "Our state is rich with faith-based organizations standing ready to help their fellow citizens in need. I am calling on the legislature to quickly pass the Faith and Family Services Amendment to support the compassionate efforts of our faith-based organizations."

Georgia's Blaine Amendment provides that "[n]o money shall ever be taken from the public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious denomination or of any sectarian institution." This presents an even higher barrier to faith-based initiatives than the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Faith and Family Services Amendment will bring the Georgia Constitution in line with the United States Constitution.

Governor Perdue's proposal, submitted by his floor leaders in the form of a resolution, will add to the beginning of the Blaine Amendment the following: "except as permitted or required by the United State Constitution, as amended."

The resolution will require a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate for passage. Upon passage, the amendment will appear on the November 2004 ballot and require a majority vote.

### **Text of the Faith and Family Services Amendment**

#### **AN AMENDMENT**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to prevent discrimination in the public funding of health, educational, and social services by allowing religious or sectarian organizations to receive public aid, directly or indirectly, for the provision of such services in a manner consistent with the United States Constitution; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

#### **SECTION 1.**

Article I, Section II of the Constitution is amended by adding the following underlined language so that Paragraph VII reads as follows:

"Paragraph VII. Separation of church and state. Except as permitted or required by the United States Constitution, as amended , no money shall ever be taken from the public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious denomination or of any sectarian institution."

## SECTION 2.

The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

- "( ) YES        Shall the Constitution be amended in a manner consistent with the United States Constitution so as to prevent discrimination in the public funding of health, educational, and social services by allowing religious or sectarian organizations to receive a public aid, directly or indirectly, for the provision of such services.
- ( ) NO         health, educational, and social services by allowing religious or sectarian organizations to receive a public aid, directly or indirectly, for the provision of such services.

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## 2) From Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue's State of the State address on Wednesday, 1/14/04:

"I have another priority for children that deserves your bipartisan support -- the Faith and Family Services Amendment.

Faith based organizations provide critical services to children, seniors, battered women, the disabled, the homeless and other at-risk groups.

But our Georgia Constitution is out of step with the U.S Constitution in this area. It discriminates against faith-based providers.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution should be the standard for providing care in Georgia, not an outdated provision rooted in a dark period of religious bigotry.

The simple 12-word Faith and Family Services Amendment brings our Constitution in line with the US Constitution. It will ensure that our citizens can have access to the best providers of social services.

I'm asking you to pass the Faith and Family Services Amendment and put it on the ballot this November so the people can decide if faith-based services will continue to be there for children and others who need our help."

## 3) The following is Governor Perdue's Press Release commenting on the passage of the Faith and Family Services Amendment in the Georgia State Senate (by a vote of 40-14). (The Amendment must be passed by a 2/3rds vote in the Democrat-controlled Georgia House of Representatives).

*Press Release*

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Contact: Office of Communications 404-651-7774

## **Statement of Governor Sonny Perdue Regarding Senate Passage of the Faith and Family Services Amendment**

**Atlanta** - Governor Sonny Perdue issued the following statement today regarding passage of the Faith and Family Services Amendment by the Georgia State Senate:

"The Faith and Family Services Amendment presents our state with an opportunity to transform lives, communities, and the hopes and dreams of our fellow citizens. I want to thank the State Senate for taking a bold step toward providing greater access to critical services for children, the elderly, and other Georgians in need. The fact that more than two-thirds of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, voted in support of this Amendment demonstrates widespread support among Georgia citizens.

"Let's join together to embrace compassion by embracing faith groups in this state who stand ready and willing to serve their fellow man. I call upon the State House to follow the lead of the Senate. Bring our Constitution in line with the U.S. Constitution by passing the Faith and Family Services Amendment."