

April 2011

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Wombs For Rent and Other Weirdness

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness... --Romans 1:28, 29

Jamie Pedersen comes up with peculiar ideas from time-to-time. But unlike many of us with peculiar ideas, he is in a position to give form and motion to his peculiarities. Pedersen is a State Representative from the University District in Seattle and a leading homosexual activist in the Pacific Northwest.

One of Pedersen's latest creations, *Domestic partners/parentage—HB1267*, is based on the premise that a child's parents aren't necessarily a mother and father or even a man and a woman as is the case with the child that he and his same-sex partner are rearing. His measure, which strikes "mother and father" from family law and inserts "two adults," is chock full of weird concepts. One of them places "intent" of relationships on a par with biological considerations.

Another disturbing element contained in Pedersen's bill, authorizes gestational surrogacy-for-pay, turning a woman's womb into a commercial enterprise. Setting aside obvious spiritual and human tripwires, *wombs for rent* simply cries out for additional services from the Department of Licensing, the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, and state and local courts.

Remarkably, Rep. Pedersen was able to sell his new family plan to 57 fellow House members, including two Republicans, **Glenn Andersen** (Fall City) and **Maureen Walsh** (Walla Walla). But the part about *wombs for rent* didn't win much support across the Rotunda in the other chamber.

Although eventually approving Pedersen's bill 27-21, the Senate narrowed the scope, excising sections dealing with surrogates-for-hire. Even at that, the measure was still too discomfiting to win support from sensible leading Senate Democrats, including; Senators Jim Hargrove (Hoquim), Jim Kastama (Puyallup) Tim Sheldon (Potlach) and Paull Shin (Edmonds).

But, plainly, Pederson's unseemly measure would not have passed without the support of several King County Republicans, including newly-elected freshmen **Joe Fain** (Auburn), **Andy Hill** (Redmond), **Steve Litzow** (Mercer Island), and veteran **Cheryl Pflug** (Maple Valley).

Perhaps recognizing a window of opportunity, Rep. Laurie Jenkins (D-Tacoma), another homosexual activist that also is raising a child with her partner, followed up with *HB 1649—Concerning reciprocity and statutory construction with regard to domestic partnerships*. Her measure, which leads to "whatever" from "wherever" concerning adult relationships recognized in other states, breezed through both the House and Senate—again—picking up support in unexpected places.

Voting for HB 1649 with all House Democrats were two Republicans, **Glenn Anderson** and **Maureen Walsh**. Seeing no fault with the measure in the Senate, were Republicans **Cheryl Pflug**, **Dan Swecker** (Rochester), as well as freshmen **Joe Fain**, **Andy Hill**, and **Steve Litzow**. Democrat Senators Hargrove and Sheldon voted nay with the conservatives in the Republican caucus.

Another extreme measure, *SB 5073—Concerning the medical use of cannabis*, should never have been heard, much less passed, because it is in clear violation of federal controlled-substance statutes. Gov. Gregoire says she doesn't think she can put her name to the bill as it stands.

But, 50 Democrats and four Republicans in the House wanted to go for it anyway. The four Republicans are: Reps. **Glenn Anderson**, **Cary Condotta** (East Wenatchee), **Mike Hope** (Lake Stevens), and **Maureen Walsh**. In the Senate, five Republicans voted for *SB 5073*. They were **Michael Baumgartner** (Spokane), **Joe Fain**, **Andy Hill**, **Steve Litzow**, **Cheryl Pflug**, and **Joe Zarelli**.

Not just a few Democrats bucked their party leaders by voting no on *SB 5073*. In the House they were: Reps Zack Hudgins (Tukwila), Troy Kelley (University Place), Tim Probst (Vancouver), Larry Seaquist (Gig Harbor), and Mark Miloscia (Federal Way). Democrats voting no in the Senate included: Senators Margaret Haugen (Camano Island), Derek Kilmer (Gig Harbor) and Jim Hargrove, Jim Kastama, Tim Sheldon, and Paull Shin.

We were curious if the leanings of the 27 newest members of the legislator (Democrat and Republican) approximate those of the other 120 members of the House and Senate. We found that except for the *cannabis* issue, there appears to be no significant difference.:

Domestic Partners/Parentage—E2SHB 1267

Multi-term members: House and Senate YEA: 59% to 41%

Newest members: House and Senate YEA: 59% to 41%

Expanding Domestic Partnerships—HB 1649

Multi-term members: House and Senate YEA: 60% to 40%

Newest members: House and Senate YEA: 58% to 42%

Legalizing Cannabis for Medical Use—SB 5073

Multi-term members: House and Senate YEA: 54% to 46%

Newest members: House and Senate YEA: 63% to 37%

Nevertheless, we cannot mask our disappointment with the “gang of four” in the Republican Senate who are inclined to leave their first estate when it comes to important social issues. First estate, refers to a party platform which is a candidate's promissory note to voters and a compass for the elected. Ignoring key platform positions invites confusion and division among the brethren.

Certainly, the two major political parties have platforms containing many usual and customary platitudes. But both revere certain planks in their respective *holy grails* as non-negotiable and essential to their union. We note that no freshman Democrats breached their fiduciary commitments to Democrat “non-negotiables.” Not so with the “gang of four.”

Clearly, the sharpest differences between the two parties these days relate to issues of life, marriage, and the traditional family (see June 2010 newsletter—*Not a Dime's Worth of Difference?*). Make no mistake. Both parties consider their vastly different approach in these areas “non-negotiable.”

No, we don't view Republicans as the “Bible Party.” Rather, like most people, we are wearied by the incessant drumbeat for abortion, homosexual “marriage,” court-appointed families, and too many other social deconstructs that seem to make Democrats, Democrats. Inherent in such folly, is nothing less than a rebuke of the divine order, and ultimately, our heavenly Father.

If there is something more important to consider when reviewing roll call votes, please let us know.

Rick Forcier