



ACLU and the Kentucky Legislature

2016 Legislative Priorities

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky is one of the nation's foremost defenders of civil liberties and civil rights. Founded in 1955 as the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, we are a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization with 2,000 members, more than 10,000 e-activists, and thousands of supporters across the commonwealth and over 500,000 nationwide.

The ACLU of Kentucky is currently working with our allies and members to organize and lobby around the following core issues for the current 2016 session of the Kentucky General Assembly:

Reproductive Freedom: Stopping Anti-Choice Legislation, Pregnancy Protections

The right to body autonomy is a fundamental value. We oppose any new anti-choice restrictions that seek to shame, coerce, or interfere with any woman seeking an abortion. Regardless of how we feel about abortion, we can all agree that a woman's body shouldn't be the political playground of legislators.

We will also once again push to ensure pregnant and working moms have access to reasonable accommodations in the workplace. No woman should have to decide between having a family and having a career.

SAVE THE DATE! Rally for Youth and Reproductive Rights is Tuesday, March 8, 2016

LGBT Rights: Statewide Fairness Protections, Religious Refusals

Building on the grassroots movement for Fairness in Kentucky, we will again make a case for state civil rights protections for LGBT Kentuckians, barring discrimination in the workplace, in housing, and in public accommodations. 83% of Kentuckians believe that everyone should be able to provide for their families, put a roof over their heads, and participate in public activities with dignity and without fear of harassment. And in November a group of Kentucky employers launched the Kentucky Competitive Workforce Coalition, advocating for statewide non-discrimination protections. It's time to turn that support into reality by passing Fairness statewide.

We will also fight to ensure that all couples, regardless of gender or gender identity, have the right to access marriage licenses with dignity and free from discrimination.

SAVE THE DATE! Fairness Lobby & Rally Day is Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Criminal Justice Reform: Common Sense Sentencing

The ACLU-KY has joined a diverse spectrum of advocates calling for justice reform. The Kentucky Smart on Crime Coalition is working toward common sense justice reforms that enhance public safety, strengthen **(continued back)**

communities and promote cost effective sentencing alternatives.

Through modest adjustments to our criminal code we can re-invest valuable resources while maintaining public safety and holding offenders accountable. We urge the General Assembly to support alternatives to detention for low-level offenses at the front-end and to support re-integration efforts like expungement for Class D felonies, at the back end. Everyone deserves a second chance. Successful re-entry helps to reduce future crimes and keep families intact while saving the state money.

Immigrants' Rights: New Kentuckians Safe Roads Act

We are supporting a measure that would allow all Kentucky motorists an opportunity to take the vision, written, and practical driving exams in addition to making it easier to obtain insurance and register a vehicle in one's name, regardless of Federal immigration status.

Criminal Justice: Abolition of the Death Penalty

More people are learning that the death penalty they support in theory is far from the death penalty system we have in practice. 60% of those sentenced to die in the Commonwealth have had their sentences overturned because of problems at the trial court level. This fact alone illustrates our death penalty system is far too broken to fix. Repeal is the only permanent answer.

Get Involved and TAKE ACTION!

Sign Up to receive our action alerts at www.aclu-ky.org and click on the "Action Alert" icon or scan this QR code with



your smartphone

Reach Out to your legislators about the issues you care about on the legislative message line 1-800-372-7181.

Stay Informed by following legislative updates on our website www.aclu-ky.org, following us on Twitter @ACLUofKY, and liking us on Facebook www.Facebook.com/ACLUofKY.



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