

**ADDRESSED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

All school superintendents in Richland County, Ohio  
All members of the Ohio State Board of Education  
Governor John Kasich  
Attorney General Michael DeWine  
State Senator Larry Obhoff  
State Representative Mark Romanchuk

Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger  
Ohio Senate President Keith Faber  
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator Rob Portman  
U.S. Congressman Pat Tiberi  
U.S. Congressman Bob Gibbs

July 27, 2016

**RE: Richland County, Ohio Pastor Opposition to Federal Government Restroom Mandate**

Dear Distinguished Officials,

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the U.S. Department of Education sent correspondence to school districts and universities across the nation informing them that they may be subject to lawsuit and the withdrawal of federal funding in the event their institution does not include gender identity alongside biological sex as protected persons from discrimination in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. (1) After forty-four years this law has been in effect, the federal government now claims that the original framers of the law intended to allow transgendered persons to choose whichever restroom they prefer at any given time. (2)

In light of this development, our firm conviction is that since “there is no authority except from GOD,” (3) since governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever government becomes destructive of these ends; it is the right of the people to alter it. (4) Furthermore, we believe that religion, morality, and knowledge are essential to good government. (5) and therefore as pastors in Richland County, Ohio, we oppose this illegitimate reapplication of the law inside our education institutions.

**THE ISSUE**

This federal government guidance does not apply to just bathrooms, but also to locker rooms, showers, dormitory housing, and overnight hotels for field trips.(6) It bears worth mentioning that **no persons are presently being denied access to a restroom** since there is already equal access provided to all on the basis of biological sex.

According to the White House Press Secretary, the guidance letter sent to schools offered 'suggestions' and 'advice' in response to requests from school administrators from across the country. And that schools 'should not view it' as a threat to their federal funding, (7)

On the contrary, we believe this claim is erroneous since the U.S. Justice Department has already filed a lawsuit against the state of North Carolina over its bathroom law passed by the state legislature and ratified by the Governor assigning restroom access based on the gender listed on a person’s birth certificate. (8) Consequently, the Justice Department also publicly threatened to take away North Carolina’s Title IX federal funding. (9). Since this guidance already has the force of law, this “guidance” therefore has the same effect as the law.

As the following points out, safety and privacy in the restricted areas mentioned above already have a history of being undermined with this radical application of the law. The Bible is very clear: we as a nation would be wise not to move the ancient boundary stones set up by our ancestors (10).....

(Next page over)

## THE POINTS OF CONTENTION

- ✓ The Department of Education lacks the authority to unilaterally redefine sex and **encroaches on Congressional authority** by attaching gender identity to Title IX of U.S. law.(11) See Genesis 5:2
- ✓ The Department of Education’s dangerous directive **jeopardizes the privacy and safety** of vulnerable and innocent women and children by increasing their exposure to sexual predators. (12-21) See 1 Samuel 30:1-4
- ✓ The Department of Education’s arbitrary directive **defies objectivity and logic** by not classifying students as male or female on the basis of their biological sex at birth. (22) See Proverbs 11:1
- ✓ The Department of Education’s oppressive directive **exploits low income and disabled students** by aborting funds for school breakfast and lunch programs and eliminating funding for students with disabilities (23) See Matthew 18:2-6
- ✓ The Department of Education’s prejudiced directive **triggers intolerance and retribution with people of religious conviction and/or differing opinion**(24-28) See 1 Kings 18:4

## IN CONCLUSION

The federal government has demonstrated an open hostility to its citizens and more specifically our women and children by forcing its radical form of orthodoxy which undoubtedly will destabilize the school environment from learning. We cannot sacrifice the safety and privacy of women and children on the altar of political correctness. **As pastors and spiritual advisors representing over one hundred congregations in Richland County, Ohio, we officially call for civil disobedience to the unlawful restroom mandate issued by the Department of Education dated May 13, 2016.**

As Nehemiah 4:14 states, “Do not be afraid of them, remember the LORD, great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

### Examples of civil disobedience referenced in the Biblical Scriptures

- 1) **“But the midwives feared the LORD GOD and did not do as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male Hebrew children alive....and so it was, because the midwives feared GOD that He provided households for them.” Exodus 1:17, 21**
- 2) **“Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD GOD of Israel: let my people go! “ Exodus 5:1**
- 3) **“When Queen Jezebel was killing GOD’s prophets, Obadiah hid 100 prophets in caves giving them bread and water.” 1 Kings 18:4**
- 4) **“The king’s servants paid homage to Haman as commanded, but Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.” Esther 3:2**
- 5) **“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the King, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our GOD whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and He will deliver us from your hand. But if not, let it be known to you that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Daniel 3:16**
- 6) **“Now when Daniel knew that the decree was signed, he went home and in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his GOD, as was his custom since early days.” Daniel 6:10**
- 7) **“But Peter and the other Apostles answered and said “We ought to obey LORD GOD rather than man.” Acts 5:29**
- 8) **“When they had beaten the Apostles, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the Temple and in every house they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:40-42**

## REFERENCES

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- 2 There is no Congressional requirement. Based on five previous Federal Court of Appeals cases including a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, there is also no judicial precedent requiring access to opposite sex restroom under Title IX. The one case that does call for access to opposite sex restrooms is under appeal. Alliance Defending Freedom presentation at Ohio Pro Family Forum by Legal Counsel Matt Sharp, June 11, 2016
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- 4 Second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence
- 5 Ohio State Constitution I.07 Rights of conscience; education; the necessity of religion and knowledge (1851)
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- 7 “White House fires back at Texas official,” by Francesca Chambers, White House Correspondent, Daily Mail  
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(Next page over)

## **One hundred and two (102) Richland County, Ohio pastors calling school and state officials to civil disobedience to the unlawful restroom mandate issued by the Federal Government on May 13, 2016:**

Reverend El Akuchie, Richland Community Prayer Network  
Reverend Jerry Laudermilk, Ontario Abundant Life  
Reverend Bill Henderson, Bellville First Baptist  
Reverend Larry Hulver, New Liberty Baptist  
Reverend Mike Workman, Caeserea Baptist  
Reverend Walter Keib, Shelby First Baptist  
Reverend Patrick Bailey, North Bend Brethren  
Reverend Jody Odoni, Ambassadors of Christ  
Reverend George Lewis, Shelby Temple of God  
Reverend Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist  
Reverend Ted Howard, Apostolic Holiness  
Reverend Gary Lambert, Belmont Community  
Reverend Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren  
Reverend Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Ctr.  
Rabbi William Halbrook, Sar Shalom Messianic  
Reverend James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist  
Reverend Bill Howell, Messiah House of Prayer  
Reverend DeWayne Smith, Main St. United Methodist  
Reverend Jim Streib, Lexington Fusion Church  
Reverend Paul Staton, Bellville Freewill Baptist  
Reverend Bruce Copley, Hanna Rd. COG  
Reverend Richard Aites, Abundant Grace Fellowship  
Reverend Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist  
Reverend Steve Kistler, New Life Church of Christ  
Reverend Bill Fisher, Mansfield Grace Temple  
Reverend Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly  
Reverend Bill Lewis, Butler River of Life  
Reverend Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community  
Reverend Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple  
Reverend Ronnie Conn, Elm Street Freewill Baptist  
Reverend Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community  
Reverend Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship  
Reverend George Mays, Living Stone Community  
Reverend John Freeman, First Church of Open Bible  
Reverend Joe Smith, Westside Baptist  
Reverend Steve Baldrige, Rome Community  
Reverend Mark Barth, Real Life Community  
Reverend Henry Bradley, New Community COG  
Reverend Willie Mack, Phillipian Community  
Reverend Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church  
Reverend Les Farley, My Father's House  
Reverend Harrison Gapter, Mount Zion Lutheran  
Reverend Denny Nezrick, Grace Evangelical Free Church  
Reverend James Hill, Paradise Freewill Baptist  
Reverend Dan Ferrell, Mansfield Holiness Chapel  
Reverend Caesar Cony, Christ Temple COGIC  
Reverend Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist  
Reverend David Howell, Powerhouse Worship Ctr.  
Reverend Victor Hernandez, Ontario New Life  
Reverend William Jordan, Faith Temple COG  
Reverend Kevin Evans, Shiloh Liberty Baptist  
Reverend Jim Randas, Lexington Presbyterian  
Reverend Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist  
Reverend Glen Phillips, Hillside First COG  
Reverend Mark Bailey, Mansfield Free Will Baptist

Reverend Rich Hurler, Plymouth Lifepoint Community  
Reverend Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren  
Bishop Andy Keim, Amish Perry District 1  
Bishop Eli Miller, Amish Perry District 2  
Reverend Mike Rogers, Church of God  
Reverend Aaron Williams, Maddox Memorial COGIC  
Reverend Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road COG  
Reverend Chris Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist  
Reverend Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center  
Reverend Thomas Hunt, Providence Baptist  
Bishop Leroy Zimmerman, Woodlawn Mennonite  
Bishop Ammon Burkholder, Cass Mennonite District 2  
Reverend Sylvester Ginn Sr., Hased Agape Ministries  
Reverend Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare  
Reverend Jack Hackworth, Cook Road Baptist  
Reverend Robert O'Brien, Apostolic Faith Assembly  
Reverend Floyd Glick, First Church of the Nazarene  
Reverend Keith Carlisle, First Wesleyan  
Reverend Lester Champer, Shelby Church of the Nazarene  
Reverend Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist  
Reverend Dave Guild, Mansfield Foursquare  
Reverend Rick Lewis, Shelby COG  
Reverend Nate Meiers, Berean Baptist  
Reverend Darrin Thurber, Seventh Day Adventist  
Reverend Daniel Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly  
Reverend Michael Stine, Clear Fork Alliance  
Reverend David Davenport, Faith Baptist  
Reverend Brian Phillips, Stiving Road Freewill Baptist  
Reverend William Crank, Cornerstone Freewill Baptist  
Reverend John Campos, Bowman Street COG  
Pastor David Green, Sovereign Grace Baptist  
Reverend Louis Blevins, Latter Rain COGIC  
Reverend Mark Lee, Father's Garden Community  
Reverend Bryan Graham, Wesleyan Evangelical  
Reverend Ken Kimes, Eagles' Mount Christian Ctr.  
Reverend Clinton Hearn, Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist  
Reverend Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist  
Reverend Walt Jordan, Oasis of Love  
Reverend Ron Kosa, Living Word Church  
Reverend Mike Sweeney, Impact Worship Center  
Reverend Matthew Pond, First Freewill Baptist  
Reverend Marvin Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal  
Reverend Ben Gregg, Plymouth COG  
Reverend Paul Matthewson, Maranatha Bible Baptist  
Reverend Merle Stewart, Bethesda Fellowship  
Reverend Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ  
Reverend Jeff Gray, Ontario First COG