

*This article first appeared in the Catholic Anchor and is written by Bob Flint, a Board member with the Alaska Family Council.*

Two years ago, despite strong public opposition, the Anchorage Assembly passed an ordinance purporting to ban discrimination based upon sexual orientation. Mayor Dan Sullivan vetoed it. Two of the Assembly supporters were subsequently defeated at the polls. With the usual process closed to them, the homosexual community and their allies are now collecting initiative signatures putting a version of the failed ordinance on the ballot for next year's April municipal election.

For almost fifty years the country has been embroiled in a continual effort to, first change, and then eradicate the traditional moral social and cultural principles that have governed our society from the beginning. Marriage and family, sanctity of life, responsible sexual behavior are the major, though not the only core values, that have been under attack. The progression of the campaign is clear. First, tolerance and choice are the reason for the change. Then, traditional views are suppressed by public opprobrium, but, ultimately, by force of law. The same sex identity initiative belongs to this latter stage. The old values must be prohibited. No toleration here. In a classic Orwellian twist of reality, the initiative, purportedly against discrimination, would, in fact, enshrine massive discrimination in the law against ordinary people whose only crime will be to hold social and moral values that this campaign aims to suppress. Big Brother will be watching you.

Examples abound of outright persecution under similar statutes. A young woman photographer in New Mexico declined to photograph a homosexual “wedding” ceremony; (there is no gay marriage in New Mexico). For this, the “human rights” commission went after her at tremendous cost to her. One would expect courts to protect against such abuse, but the judiciary, especially in Alaska, has been one of the strongest advocates of fundamental change in traditional mores and, therefore, is foe, not friend. The New Mexico court ordered the young woman to pay damages to the same sex couple.

Catholic Charities in Boston was forced to cease adoption services, after over a century of service, because the state required it to place children with same sex couples. Illinois Catholic Charities lost state funding for the same reason. Note that, for its supporters, this campaign trumps even the welfare of children. In Anchorage, Catholic Social Services would suffer the same fate. I practiced adoption law in Anchorage for almost thirty years. If I politely declined to take an adoption, under this proposed law, for a homosexual couple, I would be in the dock like the New Mexico photographer. In a current case, a counselor who referred same sex couples to another counselor was threatened with dismissal and forced to go through sensitivity training sessions, i.e. brain washing.

Two years ago proponents of the failed ordinance were unable to come up with any instances of alleged harm. They will try mightily to conjure up some this time. The fact is that the vast majority of people, especially those with traditional values, do

not hate homosexuals and, contrary to this initiative and its supporters, are tolerant in the real meaning of tolerance. It is not their actions, but their views, that are under attack.

The initiative will undoubtedly gather enough signatures to get on the ballot. The campaign for it will be well funded. It is supported by prominent liberal clergy and politicians and, of course, the local media. Those who dare raise their voices against it will be called bigots and hate mongers. It takes courage to fight for your values when you and those values are vilified in the daily press, but the values are defended for a reason. They are the basis of family and society. The deconstruction that has happened over the last few decades in this country has only damaged society and the people in it. The battle is worth fighting. Be prepared.