

# EMPIRE STATE FAMILY NEWS WATCH



A Publication of Marriage and Family Savers Institute - - - - - School of Public Policy -

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## FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Rev. Bill Banuchi

If I didn't know there was a God in Heaven who governs over the affairs of men and of nations I would really have something to worry about. But thank Heavens that no matter who is in the Governor's mansion or in the White House there is a King whose throne is in the Heavens, and whose rule will have no end! By the time you read this I hope the health care bill will be history. If not, we'll have to double down on our prayer time. Remember, the key word for 2010 is **"PURGE!"** We want to vote out all politicians who are complicit in this national takeover of American liberties, and vote in a new crop of legislators who believe the Constitution is to have authority over politicians, not the politicians having authority over the Constitution. That is the basic difference between liberalism and conservatism. Conservatives believe there is a higher authority one must be held accountable to; liberals believe they are the higher authority and everything and everyone must be accountable to them! Lord, have mercy!

Please remember to support us faithfully with your prayers and finances. Use the enclosed response card or log on to our web site, [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org). We need your support to stay in the fight!

### SENATE COMMITTEE DILUTES DEFINITION OF FAMILY

On March 2, 2010, the Senate Children and Families Committee passed **S1523 (Duane)** that would enable any two individuals to adopt children. NYCF opposes this bill on many different levels.

NYCF believes this bill only further dilutes the meaning of the word "family" by downplaying the importance of the marital relationship as the best model in which to rear children. Additionally, by allowing two same-sex partners to adopt children, New York State will be creating "family" structures that intentionally deny children either a mother or a father figure. The bill has advanced to 3rd Reading, which means the Senate could vote on the bill anytime.

To contact your state senator about this (or any other) issue, please call the Senate switchboard at (518) 455-2800 or contact them through **NYCF's Legislative Action Center** at [www.nycf.org](http://www.nycf.org). —New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms

### INSANE BATHROOM BILL PASSED

On March 2, 2010, the State Assembly voted to approve a bill known as the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA or the "Bathroom Bill")**. This legislation would provide special rights and privileges to individuals who choose to dress or identify themselves as members of the opposite sex.

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms' (NYCF) Executive Director, Rev. Jason J. McGuire, made the following comments: "As a pro-life, Christian organization, NYCF upholds the inherent value and worth of all people – including persons who identify as transgendered. However, there simply is no need to provide special rights and protections to individuals who choose to dress or identify themselves as members of the opposite sex."

The Bathroom Bill would open all public accommodations, including restrooms and high school locker rooms, to both biological genders, if an individual chooses to identify his or herself as the opposite sex (i.e. cross-dressers or transvestites).

It's time to call your state Senator and let them know that you expect them to defeat this bill when it comes to the Senate. This is another symptom of the insanity we're witnessing in our State government. There must be a purging on Election Day to stop it from going further.

## "NO-FAULT" DESERVES A DO-OVER?

There was some high-drama in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. If you were present at the meeting, you would have thought that the committee defeated the no-fault divorce legislation (S3890 Hassell-Thompson), but later that day the committee reportedly indicated that the bill had passed.

Senator Ruben Diaz (D-Bronx) voted "no" and forced a slow count of the committee vote. Diaz was joined by many, but not all, Republicans. Normally, the committee votes are recorded, but the voting record on this bill is not being released.

On Thursday, NYCF was told that the bill will be brought up again in the same committee on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Apparently, there is something fishy going on. -NYCF

**(Call your state senator.** Tell them to defeat no-fault divorce for the sake of the children.)

## MUTUAL CONSENT LAWS

In contrast to what's going on in our state, other states like Oklahoma and Utah are working to reverse the divorce trend by passing "Mutual Consent" laws.

This would require both parties to mutually agree to divorce before the divorce can be finalized, and there can be no children involved. If there are children involved and one party objects, then the other party must show cause before the divorce can be granted, except in some rare cases like abuse, incarceration, etc. This would, in effect bring our laws back to where they were before no-fault divorce became the fad. Divorces skyrocketed and our children are now suffering the consequences of anti-biblical legislation. 80% of divorces that go on today involve one spouse who doesn't want the divorce. Something is fundamentally wrong in an institution that requires two willing participants to create, but only one willing participant to dissolve. It's easier to get out of marriage than it is to get out of a car finance agreement. Something is fundamentally wrong with this picture, and some states are now working to fix it. New York is still going in the other –the wrong– direction.

**James A. Garfield, 20 th President, expressed this thought quite clearly:**

The people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities.

## DIOGUARDI CHALLENGES GILLIBRAND!

The father of "American Idol" judge Kara DioGuardi and former Republican congressman Joe DioGuardi, is set to announce he is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Kirsten Gillibrand. DioGuardi represented the suburbs north of New York City for two terms before he was defeated by Democrat Nita Lowey in 1988. He is a certified public accountant who lives with his wife in Ossining, N.Y.

DioGuardi has a reputation as a kinetic politician and a fiscal conservative. He would join a Republican field that already includes former Long Island lawmaker Bruce Blakeman. A number of other Republicans are considering a run.

Before he formally declared the tea party community was told he would be running. The former two-term Congressman revealed his intentions to a crowd of nearly 300 people in Nanuet at the Regency Hotel. — ***Let the Purge Begin!***

## MORE CORRUPTION AND DYSFUNCTION AT GOVERNOR'S SUITE

March 17 (Bloomberg) -- New York Governor David Paterson's press secretary, Marissa Shorenstein, resigned today, saying that her "unwitting involvement" in what became part of a probe into the governor's conduct made her unable to continue.

The resignation was at least the third since an investigation began by the state attorney general into allegations that Paterson interfered in the domestic-abuse case of an aide and violated an ethics ban on accepting gifts.

Paterson, 55, leader of the third-biggest U.S. state by population, withdrew as a candidate for this year's governor's election Feb. 26 after the New York Times reported his involvement in the case against aide David Johnson, 38. A judge dismissed the case when the alleged victim failed to appear in court a day after Paterson telephoned her, the Times said.

Shorenstein, 30, had told reporters the governor asked her to call the woman as part of the administration's effort to contain the public relations damage from the reports.

"Due to the circumstances that have led to my unwitting involvement in recent news stories, I can no longer do my job effectively," Shorenstein said in an e-mail today. She based her actions, she said, "on what I believed to be true at the time."

Paterson's communications director, Peter Kauffman, quit March 4, saying he couldn't continue "in good conscience."