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**News From Around PA**

**Allegheny County** extends domestic partner benefits to same-sex couples. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has signed an executive order allowing county workers to enroll their eligible "same-sex domestic partner" in benefits beginning March 5, for coverage beginning April 1. This is natural next step after passage of so-called 'anti-discrimination' ordinances. How much will this costs Allegheny County residents?

**Lackawanna County** Transit System is being challenged by the NEPA Free Thought Society because their proposed ad was rejected. The ad, which contained the names and websites of the society and the group American Atheists, was to be placed on the side of buses. The transit system says the ads run counter to the

agency's policy against allowing its property to become a forum for the debate of public issues.

**Harrisburg billboard** protests legislation designating 2012 as the "Year of the Bible" in Pennsylvania is being criticized by a legislator who calls it racist. State Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland objected to the image of a shackled black slave above a Bible verse that says, "Slaves, obey your masters." Kirkland, who supported the House resolution, says the billboard takes the Bible out of context and depicts racism and hatred. The billboard is co-sponsored by a group called American Atheists. The non-binding resolution passed unanimously -- have you thanked your State Rep?

**Erie** companies have recently announced they cannot find qualified workers, yet thousands are without work in the area. In 2002 homosexual activists used the argument that they had to pass a county-wide "anti-discrimination" ordinance in order to bring in "the best and the brightest." The ordinance was passed. Were their "facts" wrong?

**New from National Scene**

**State Health Exchange** standards are soon to be issued by the Dept. of Health and Human Services. These are the markets where consumers and small businesses will be able to buy coverage from competing private plans.

**Human Rights Campaign**, the nation's largest homosexual lobby group, has a new president - Chad Griffin. BEWARE! He is much more radical than outgoing President Joe Solmonese.

**Embryonic Stem Cells** from aborted fetuses are being used in flavor enhancer research. PepsiCo, Kraft and Nestle have contracted with Senomyx which uses a cell line from embryonic kidney tissue.

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AFA of PA encourages Christians, through education, to become involved in pro-family issues in their community, state and the nation. We are a non-profit organization that is totally dependent upon financial gifts from our supporters. You can give online here <http://afaofpa.org/donate/>  
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Publication of the AFA of PA, P.O. Box 1048, Franklin, PA 16323  
Phone: 814-271-9078  
Fax: 814-437-5432  
Website: <http://afaofpa.org>