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News From Around PA

A bill has been introduced in the **State Senate** that would legalize online poker making it legal to participate in interactive poker with other PA residents and those from other states where it is legal.

State Rep Mark Cohen has introduced a bill making it easier for Pennsylvanians to change their name - including transgenders who "change" their sex.

The **Pennsylvania Diversity Network** has announced plans to open the first ever LGBT community center in the Lehigh Valley.

United Methodist minister **Frank Schaefer** of Lebanon, who was defrocked for officiating over his son's same-sex "wedding," is appealing the decision saying it was illegal because it was

based on the assumption that he will break church law in the future regarding same-sex marriages. The fact he would not promise to never officiate at another same-sex "wedding" is what led to his defrocking in the first place!

Meadville City Council

(Crawford County) voted 3-2 to move forward with the study of an "anti-discrimination" ordinance with "sexual orientation and gender identity" language. This even though 650 names were gathered on a petition opposing it. Two weeks ago advocates for the ordinance gathered 75 names!

Judge John Jones has rejected **Schuylkill County Register of Wills Theresa Gaffney's** request to intervene in the Defense of Marriage case.

News from National Scene

Senator Edward Markey (D-MA), chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, has introduced legislation that would affirm LGBT human rights are a foreign policy priority for the United States.

A New York lawsuit has been filed on behalf of **transgenders** who want Medicaid to cover "life-saving" health treatments i.e. hormone treatment and sex "reassignment" surgery.

In a 5-4 decision the **US Supreme Court** (SCOTUS) concluded that one legal gun owner may not acquire a firearm on behalf of another — a practice known as "straw" purchasing - handing a huge win for supporters of stricter gun control.

SCOTUS unanimously upheld **1st Amendment** right to free speech as applied to pro-life political speech in *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*.

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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