

1/31/11

SB 196

The bill before Legislature this morning may have the appearance of redundancy. WHY? Because it is well known that Federal and state laws have been enacted to preserve, protect citizens from harassment, discrimination, physical and verbal abuse. These come only after the TEN COMMANDMENTS which lay the cornerstone for all laws. So, why is this bill again being proposed? The reasons are easily understood. Protection guaranteed by government is not afforded everyone. Why? Because power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, technology has not only made our way of life easier, it has also made it easier to violate our laws. Whether its parents to children, teachers to children, supervisors to employees or employees to supervisors, the beat goes on. Even elected officials, of whom Legislatures are one, encounter their share of false accusations, verbal abuse, and defamation of character

Representatives and Senators are elected by the people. They have faith that you will live up to your promises and trust you to be faithful to them.

Laws have been enacted, policies developed, complaint procedures identified. Due process requirements are guaranteed by US Constitution, why then is it necessary to approved yet another law. Reasons are not complicated but may be difficult to absorb by those who have not been affected by violations or non-compliance.

Victims are not necessarily aware of their rights or how to comply with regulations; they are often afraid to voice concerns because of fear of being labeled a trouble-maker, being believed, retribution, retaliation, loss of job or standing or any number of similar anxieties. Supervisors do not want to know what is going on because then they may have to do something about it-- unless, of course, they are the perpetrator. Then, of course, they have to answer for their behavior or worse, complaint may be filed with another staff member, leaving the supervisor total in the dark until, they are hit with a law suit.

DUI, fraud, theft assault complaints are dealt with by attorneys and judges and there are consequences. Consequences for bullying behavior, harassment, discrimination rarely are met with consequences. This law must fill that gap.

Even now anti-abortionists are fighting the battle to protect the life of a child. One person was killed yesterday. Life is deserving of protection. Imagine the loss of intelligence, talents, skills that are lost to us forever. Is the quality of life any less important? Or do we save an innocent only to lose them to mistreatment by society. Death from abortion is quick but quality of life is destroyed in pieces from years of exposure to treatment that also eliminates forever those who could increase the quality of life for the world perhaps even bring peace.

The choice is yours ladies and gentlemen, HB 196 is before you. As it is written so let it be done.

Shirley Isbell

Former Hill County Superintendent