

EXHIBIT “20”

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA - NORTHEASTERN DIVISION

HISPANIC INTEREST COALITION
OF ALABAMA; *ET AL.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT BENTLEY, in his official capacity
as Governor of the State of Alabama; *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No.:5:11-cv-02484-SLB

RT. REV. HENRY N. PARSLEY, JR., in his
official capacity as Bishop of the Episcopal
Church in the Diocese of Alabama, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT BENTLEY, in his official capacity
as Governor of the State of Alabama; *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:11-cv-02736-SLB

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF ALABAMA;
GOVERNOR ROBERT J. BENTLEY,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:11-cv-02736-SLB

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COUNTY OF _____)

UNSWORN DECLARATION OF REV. DAVID SHOEMAKER
UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1746

COMES NOW Rev. David Shoemaker, and declares as follows:

1. My name is Rev. David Shoemaker. I am over the age of nineteen and competent to give this affidavit.

2. I am a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Mobile, and am currently pastor of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Eufala, Alabama, and St. Pius X Catholic Church in Union Springs, Alabama. I am making this affidavit to provide information to the Court on how the implementation of House Bill 56 will impact my ministry as a Catholic priest.

3. My parishes have a combined membership of approximately 450 persons. Our membership is made up of Hispanics, Vietnamese, African-Americans, Caucasians, and Indian. At Holy Redeemer, approximately 60% of these members are Caucasian, approximately 35% are Hispanic, and the remaining 5% is made up of the other ethnic groups, and at St. Pius X, our membership is approximately 90% Hispanic and 10% Caucasian. As part of our church's ministry, we do not inquire of the immigration status of an individual. Our faith requires that we provide help to anyone in need, regardless of age, sex, religion, or ethnicity. The documentation status of an individual is not relevant to our ministry, and we provide our ministry to all who come to the Church, regardless of whether they are citizens, documented immigrants, or undocumented immigrants.

4. If implemented, House Bill 56 will put me and members of my parishes at risk for criminal prosecution. It will be impossible for Catholics to freely practice our faith without breaking the law. House Bill 56 will affect every aspect of worship, Sunday School, ministry, and outreach to the community. Anyone without legal status will not feel free to attend or be a part of public worship without fear. It will make the people of the parish less likely to volunteer

out of fear of criminal charges that may result from helping or administering to others, especially within the Hispanic community.

5. House Bill 56 may be intended to deal with illegal immigration, but it will also make the practice of the Catholic faith illegal. Nearly every duty I have as a pastor will put me at risk of breaking the law. It is not possible to segregate services between legal and illegal immigrants because that would be against our faith and teachings. Also, to place the burden of identifying the status of everyone we service is unreasonable, as we are not trained or in a position to check documents and the authenticity of them. Placing this burden on the Church will put it in the position of policing for immigration status. I believe this violates the principle of separation between Church and State because it has the State dictating how the Church will perform its duties and to whom it can minister.

6. The very nature of the Catholic faith involves commitment and membership that welcomes all through baptism. Celebrating sacraments, such as confirmation and marriage, are also integral parts of our faith and practice. As the pastor, I would provide over these sacraments, which under House Bill 56 would be interpreted as contractual agreements. This would further deny me as pastor free practice of my faith and my duties as a priest. I do not know how I can practice my faith and my duties as a priest without breaking this law.

7. Even before the implementation of House Bill 56, we are already seeing adverse effects as signs of division, prejudice and fear are already evident. We have seen a missionary priest from Columbia pulled over without cause, handcuffed and told, "Welcome to America." We have already seen increased police drive-bys at the days and times of Spanish Masses, along with police sitting in the parking lot, intimidating those attending the Masses. Because of this law, our volunteers and clients have expressed great concern about being in violation of the law.

We also are observing that children are fearful about going to school or being in public venues. Many children, while born in the United States and are citizens, are living in fear of prejudice and possible loss of parents or other relatives because of this law.

8. In sum, I do not believe it is possible to freely exercise my faith or duties as a Catholic priest under House Bill 56. The law imposes practices counter to my faith, and also demands that the church be an agent of the state in identifying undocumented individuals before providing service. The Bible is clear that fair and charitable treatment of aliens is necessary. Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew declares that we will be judged on how we treat the needy. We are called to feed, clothe, shelter, and care for those most in need. The Bible does not require documentation for the implementation of charity, or for us ministering to the faithful.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 15 day of August, 2011.


DAVID SHOEMAKER