

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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The 2015 “short” Session moves forward with some hope, and with some concern

With two student rights bills and the two pro-life bills gathering attention, a significant showdown in the House is brewing.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION IMPACTING THE FAMILY: Two critical bills dealing with young people in public schools across the state have developed some momentum and could possibly be passed this Session. Two pro-life bills have cleared the Senate but have been placed in the House Health and Welfare Committee where similar bills have died since 2004. And, the Responsible Payday Lending Act, though finding new supporters, has apparently stalled in the Senate.

One surprise was the initiation of a gambling expansion bill – Senate Bill 74, not with casinos but through a joint Horse Racing Commission and Kentucky Lottery effort that will bring a horse-racing-lottery-type unskilled-game of chance to convenient stores around the state. This new concept is raising questions with some legislators about why the Lottery, which advertises itself as supporting education, is now sharing its proceeds with the horse racing industry.

Senate Bill 76 – The Student Privacy Act – [at press time] is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Thursday, Feb. 19. This is a key bill protecting the right to privacy of all students from decisions like those at Atherton High School in Louisville where a boy who believes he is transgendered can use the girls restroom and locker room. Care should be shown, but no student should have to give up

their right to privacy because another student wants to do his will.

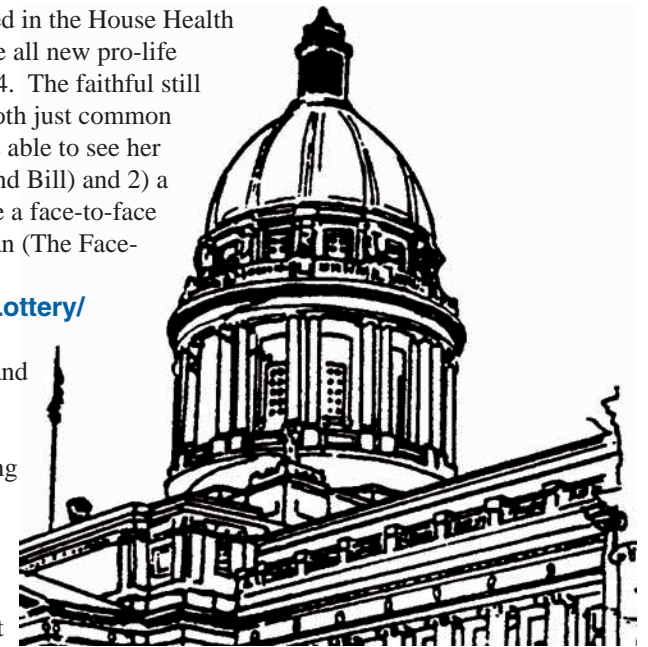
Senate Bill 71 – The Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Act – [at press time] had cleared the Senate and was on its way to a House Committee. Now only Representatives will need to hear your opinion on this bill. SB 71 is designed to secure the various free speech and religious liberty rights that have been decided by federal courts across the land and codify them so that teachers and administrators as well as parents and students can know what the law is.

Senate Bills 4 and 7 – The Face-to-Face Consultation Bill and The Ultrasound Bill – [at press time] had both cleared

the Senate and had been placed in the House Health and Welfare Committee where all new pro-life legislation has died since 2004. The faithful still have hope because they are both just common sense – 1) a woman should be able to see her tests and scans (The Ultrasound Bill) and 2) a woman should be able to have a face-to-face consultation with her physician (The Face-to-Face Consultation Bill).

Senate Bill 74 – The Lottery/Horse Race Bill – [at press time] had cleared the Senate and was on its way to a House Committee. This bill would expand a new kind of gambling across the state.

Senate Bill 32 – The Responsible Payday Lending Act – [at press time] looked as if it would not have a hearing in its Senate Committee and would likely die this Session.



For more clarity on key bills, turn to pages 4-5



Christians at the Capitol

February 20, 2015

For more, go to:
<http://www.godandcountryministry.com>

There has been some movement! Will you help by making the toll-free calls?



The Student Privacy Act - Senate Bill 76

Across the country, some school administrators have been focused on considering the needs of students who struggle with their sexual identity. Being kind and understanding, without doubt, is important. However, in Louisville a school has adopted a Los Angeles school district policy that allows students with gender confusion to select their gender and then use the bathroom or locker room facilities of their choice.

As a result, in Louisville a high school boy who identifies as a girl is now using the girls' restroom and locker room. Unfortunately, in the interest of being sensitive to the boy, the privacy rights of all the female students are being violated.

Similar situations are beginning to arise in other school districts in Kentucky. In Madisonville, a student with gender confusion was accommodated by using an individual handicap access bathroom. The student is not satisfied with that accommodation and is seeking to have a policy in place where the student can use the bathroom and locker room of the opposite biological sex.

SB 76 allows schools different options: They may do nothing or they may accommodate gender-conflicted students by providing a single-user restroom, providing a unisex restroom or allowing the student to use the faculty restroom (with the oversight and protection that it offers). But SB 76 clarifies that administrators MAY NOT have a policy allowing students of opposite biological genders to use the same bathrooms or locker rooms at the same time.

What about bullying? Actually, it's the school that is bullying female students, demanding that they share their restroom with a male. In fact, the student in question is actually safer with any of the other options.

Do students have rights? Yes. The right to privacy is so strong in America that the medical profession has been turned inside-out to uphold the patient's right of privacy – HIPPA. And, the U.S. Supreme Court used "the right of privacy" to decide *Roe vs. Wade*. How then can a school committee casually choose to violate a student's right of privacy?

Some opponents say SB 76 "targets" transgender students.

It shouldn't be controversial to say that boys should use the boys' room and girls should use the girls' room. This is just basic student privacy, decency and common sense. We should keep politics and political agendas in the legislature and out of our public school bathrooms.

SB 76 just prevents a school from choosing to allow biological boys and biological girls in restrooms and locker rooms together.

Parents point out that if SB 76 is not passed, field trip and overnight stays will be further complicated as biological males and females will be asked to share the same sleeping facilities, in the interest of being sensitive to transgendered athletes. In Minnesota, with a state law like the Louisville policy, the State High School Athletic League, is already making "gender identity" the plumb line for overnight team accommodations, thus biological males and biological females will very well be housed together.

And, SB 76 has a cause of action with a financial penalty added to make sure that school administrators take reasonable steps to protect students' privacy by not allowing boys and girls in the same restrooms, locker rooms and overnight accommodations.

The Louisville school wrongly imported its policy from California; now other Kentucky schools are being pressured to make similar policy decisions. Kentucky schools need Kentucky values.

The 2015 Session ends March 9 . . . in about two weeks.

Please Make Four Calls!

Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave the following messages for your **REPRESENTATIVE** because these bills are now in the House (or will be soon). It is very easy. You will not have to speak to your legislator – simply leave a message for them with a receptionist. If you do not know who your Representative is, the receptionist can tell you.

Double your impact by having your spouse call. Call four times (on different days) and ask the receptionist to convey these following messages. And, ask her to "copy" each message to "House Leadership" since there is concern that they may not give these bills a hearing.

#1 "Pass The Student Privacy Act - Senate Bill 76"

This bill would bar school administrators from violating a student's privacy rights by ordering that someone with a different biological gender share the same bathroom or locker room.

#2 "Pass The Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Act - Senate Bill 71"

This bill guarantees that students would be free to maintain their First Amendment free speech and religious liberty rights without being penalized by school officials.

#3 "Pass The Face-To-Face Consultation Bill - Senate Bill 4 & The Ultrasound Bill - Senate Bill 7"

These bills require the abortionist to make time for a face-to-face consult prior to an abortion, and require that he offer her the opportunity to see her ultrasound.

#4 "Stop SB 74 - The Lottery/Horse Race Bill"

This bill expands gambling, takes money from The Lottery (which would normally go to education) and does not offer sufficient ethical oversight.

You can call in the evening! The Message Line will be open from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm EST Monday through Thursday. It closes at 6:00 pm on Fridays.

Student Free Speech & Religious Liberty Act - Senate Bill 71



This bill prevents schools from infringing on the basic First Amendment rights of students in classroom assignments and speeches, and would require schools to grant access to public forums for religious student groups in the same way they grant it for other non-religious groups. Students of faith may not be discriminated against.

There is a recent and disturbing trend across America where school officials have denied students their First Amendment rights, and students have had to go to court to have their freedoms upheld. This bill simply instructs schools to have clear policies that do not allow students' free speech and religious liberty rights to be violated.

The bill does not grant any new rights or allow students to violate established conduct for schools, but it will give students protection from school officials who talk about diversity and tolerance, but who are actually intolerant of students' religious beliefs and expression.

Examples include allowing a valedictorian to "thank God" in their graduation address, allowing students to pray over their lunch or read a Bible if they have free reading time, and allowing student-led and student-initiated prayers before athletic contests. The bill would also clarify that school officials may not discriminate against a student group (like a Christian Student Fellowship) simply because the group elects Christian leaders and conducts its internal affairs in a manner consistent with its religious beliefs and stated mission.

The Ultrasound Bill - SB 7 & Face-To-Face Consultation Bill - SB 4



Two bills, one topic: Legislators and citizens alike know that The Ultrasound Bill, Senate Bill 7, is an effort to give women all the information they need to make an informed decision. Too often abortionists have kept facts from their patients – facts that when learned later have often led post-abortion women to deeply regret their abortion decision.

And similarly, Senate Bill 4 helps remedy yet another injustice of the abortion industry. In 1998 the Informed Consent Law was passed to assure that women received all the information available and had the opportunity to ask questions of their physician. Instead, the abortion lobby twisted the meaning of the law in the regulation process so that a taped phone message is regarded as a "consultation." SB 4 corrects that injustice – it requires a face-to-face consultation.

The Lottery/Horse Racing Bill - Senate Bill 74



This was a surprise because no one was expecting an expanded gambling bill to be pushed this year. Concerns for this bill include: 1) diverting money to the horse racing industry that normally would go to education; 2) the fact that the Horse Racing Commission does NOT have to abide by Executive Branch ethics rules; and 3) the broad expansion of gambling through this "new" concept.

The Family Foundation opposes Senate Bill 74. With this bill, a wagerer can purchase a Lottery tab for a live race somewhere in America, but he cannot choose the race or the horse. It is not really horse racing, but it uses horse races to sell the tickets.

We are moving forward

This is a very busy season. Can you help please?

We are celebrating our 25th anniversary all year. *Can you help us?*

We are looking for new people, new groups and new churches that would like to lock arms with us. *Can you help us?*

We will have all kinds of updates and materials to share during the 2015 General Assembly. *Can you help us?*

There are many people who need to get "connected" via email, Facebook and Twitter.

Can you help us?

We have a women's outreach that will encourage women's groups in the key role they can play.

Can you help us?

We can speak in your church on "Responsible Christian Citizenship."

Can you help us?

If we each do a little, a lot of good work will be done!

Please contact us!



Help us pass it on!

"Like" us on Facebook:

The Family Foundation



Follow us on Twitter:

@KentuckyFamily



Sign up for our email list by emailing to:

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

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The Family Foundation is celebrating 25 years

This year is our 25th Anniversary, and we will be celebrating all year! Please join us at a gathering near you. (More to come.)

Twenty-five years ago on Jan. 1, 1990, The Family Foundation opened its doors and began to engage the issues of our day. By the grace of God, we have had some remarkable victories and accomplishments over these years, . . . But it is painfully clear that there is so much more that needs to be done.

Even more important than that is this fact: *Kentucky could become the leading state among the 50 because of the unusually large portion of our population who calls on the Name of the Lord.*

So my bottom line is this: Will The Salt be the salt? And will The Light be the light?

At these celebrations across the state, we will look back to appreciate how the Lord



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

has blessed us. We will look at the present General Assembly to underscore the opportunities He has for us now. And, we will also look forward to see what we can do to lead the leaders.

Please help us make this time meaningful by personally inviting others who you believe would be interested to learn of our work. Clearly, we are not wanting to "bump heads" with folks . . . so those who support the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage and religious liberty are most naturally inclined to appreciate our efforts.

Each event will last just over an hour. It is my hope that each of us has a greater impact for the family and for the Lord as a result of our time together.

Thank you for all you have done *with us* and *for us* over the years.

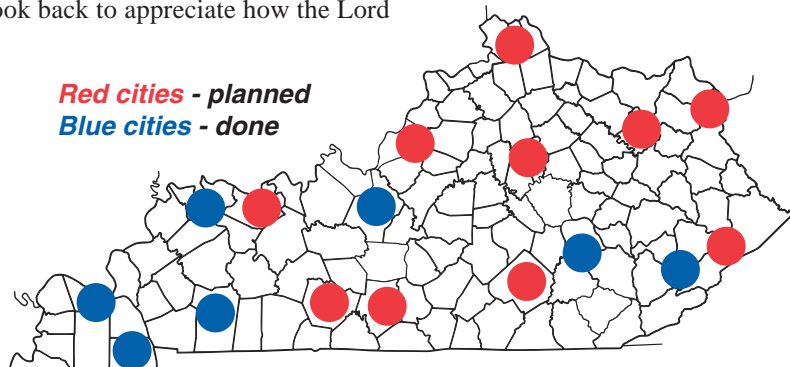
I look forward to all we will accomplish in the years to come and I certainly look forward seeing you again soon, face-to-face.

Glasgow: Immanuel Baptist Church
104 Western Hills Road Glasgow, Ky 42141
Monday, Feb. 16th at 6:30 PM

Somerset: Bronston First Baptist Church
401 Highway 790 Bronston, KY 42518
Tuesday, Feb. 17th at 7:00 PM

Ashland: Unity Baptist Church
2320 29th Street Ashland, Ky 41101
Thursday, Feb. 19th at 6:30 PM

Red cities - planned
Blue cities - done



Knott County: Camp Nathanael
480 Camp Nathanael Rd. Emmalena, Ky 41740
Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7:00 PM
(Refreshments served at 6:45 PM)

Ft. Mitchell: Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church
2323 Dixie Highway Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
Thursday, Feb. 26th at 7:00 PM