

Revised marriage bill passes with The Family Foundation's support

LEXINGTON, KY —A new version of Senate Bill 48 with changes suggested by The Family Foundation passed out of a Senate committee this morning with the full support of the committee. The bill would raise the minimum marriage age in the state to 17 and would establish a judicial procedure that includes parents for 17 year-olds wanting to marry.

"The original version of the bill would have allowed a judge to consent to a marriage, not only without the consent of the parents," said Martin Cothran, spokesman for the group, "but potentially without even the knowledge of the parents. Several of the committee members had concerns about the original version of the bill, but the revised bill had the support of all members."

Cothran and The Family Foundation director, Kent Ostrander, testified in favor of the bill and thanked the chairman for coming up with a much better bill. The bill sponsor and supporters of SB 48 also thanked the chairman for his work and supported the new version.

Sen. Whitney Westerfield, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee which passed the bill, lamented the disinformation that was generated on social media and repeated by some in the traditional media. Several other members also spoke to the spread of false information on Twitter and Facebook.

Social media was filled with charges that conservative groups like The Family Foundation wanted to allow for 13 year-olds to marry. Westerfield made it clear that no one involved in discussing this bill was in favor of marriages involving teenagers under 17.

"The people who were spreading falsehoods, hating on religious people, and hating on poor people are going to have to live with themselves after this. We just did the right thing and it resulted in a good bill," said Cothran.

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Kent Ostrander
Executive Director

Martin Cothran
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