

CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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January/February 2017

MAJOR Victories!

With surprising speed, two pro-life bills leaped forward.

Like the November 8 elections, the first week of the 2017 “short session” in the Kentucky General Assembly exceeded all expectations. General Assembly Leaders made history with an amazingly choreographed dance between members of the Senate and House working together to get seven somewhat controversial bills passed in five days – the absolute least amount of time needed to pass a bill. Most important to The Family Foundation were the two bills that address the abortion issue.

“I commend both Senate President Robert Stivers and Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover for their commitment and wisdom in moving forward expeditiously,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “After more than a decade of seeing all substantive new pro-life bills deliberately and systematically killed in House committees, it’s refreshing to see an honest and open debate on the House and Senate Floors.”



Meet the leaders: Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover (r) and Senate President Robert Stivers (l)

House Bill 2 – the Ultrasound Bill – passed the House 83-12 with more than half of the Democrat Caucus joining in, proving that it was Speaker Stumbo blocking the previous pro-life bills. Similarly, Senate Bill 5 – a Ban on Abortion after 20-Weeks Gestation – passed the House 79-15, again with almost half of the Democrat Caucus in agreement.

The Senate passed the two bills with overwhelming majorities: HB2 with a 32-5 margin and SB5 with a 30-6 margin.

“These bills just make sense: If a picture is worth a thousand words, an ultrasound with the unborn child’s heartbeat clearly visible must be worth ten thousand to the woman facing the abortion decision,” said Ostrander. “Similarly, if doctors anesthetize an unborn child at 20 weeks gestation to perform in utero surgery because of the pain felt, how can an abortionist tear the body apart without anesthesia and claim to be humane?”

By Mon., Jan. 9, following the passage of these bills on Sat., Jan. 7, the ACLU had already filed a lawsuit in federal court against the ultrasound law, claiming that it is unconstitutional.

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Yet MORE to do . . .

After tackling “yesterday’s issues,” it’s time to deal with today’s.

After two significant pro-life bills pass within one week, how can someone ask for more? The answer lies in the fact that these two pro-life bills – The Ultrasound Bill and The 20-Week Ban of Abortion – could have been passed and should have been passed 10 years ago. Kentucky is playing “catch-up” because of Speaker Stumbo’s antics.

These are the issues of the last decade; today’s issues are religious liberty and privacy for students in restrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms.

Martin Luther addressed this situation centuries ago. (See quotation right) Spiritual leaders, such as pastors, and government leaders, including senators and representatives, have a responsibility to engage the conflicts and difficulties of today on behalf of their people. Not to do so, to “flinch,” – is to keep someone, or many, in detrimental limbo. Yes, leaders may pay a cost to engage, but they will be doing the right thing.

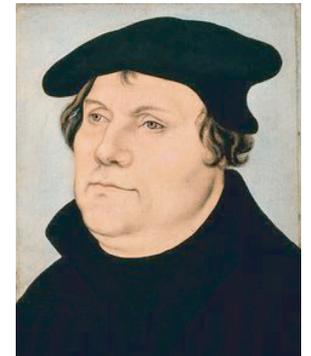
Citizens of Kentucky must recognize that though they sent their legislators to

Frankfort with new and huge majorities on Nov. 8, they still have a responsibility to stand with their legislators to encourage and guide them through the conflicts that always follow an election and is a part of every General Assembly session. This year is no different.

Inside are the facts about key bills so that anyone can engage the battle.

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefields besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

– attributed to Martin Luther



YOU can have Impact!

Included in this CITIZEN:

- I. Student Privacy Act (for ALL Kentucky students) p. 2-3**
- II. Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act p. 4-5**
- III. Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Act p. 6**

The Student Privacy Act (The Bathroom Bill)

The Problem: Schools in Kentucky are being confronted with students with gender dysphoria (biological males who think they are girls and vice versa). These students want to use the bathroom and locker rooms of the opposite biological sex. The Obama Administration has threatened to cut off funding to schools that don't comply. Ultimately, it will include shower, sports teams and overnight accommodations.

The Purpose: This bill authorizes accommodations for the student with gender identity issues **AND** at the same time will guarantee privacy rights for all the other students. It gives local authorities options for the transgender student but does not allow students of the opposite sex to be vulnerable in a state of undress (To be in the same bathroom, locker room or shower room at the same time).

This bill, as written, would try to settle the "friction" between transgender students and other students in Kentucky schools. The bill states that transgender students could be accommodated in any number of ways, but at the same time it guarantees that other students would not lose their privacy in bathrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms.

Currently the issue only extends to bathrooms and



locker rooms; but, if LGBT activists continue, transgender students will want access to shower rooms and sports teams like in other states.

In Kentucky schools,

parents are being confronted with the stark reality that transgender students may be allowed to be in a state of undress in intimate and vulnerable settings with their children without parental knowledge.

The problem is amplified when parents learn that a transgender student – a boy that believes he is a girl, still desires to have sex with a female (because he still has male genitalia). Forcing two students of opposite biological sexes into the same setting of vulnerability when both of those individuals have "natural sexual desires" toward the other's biology is at best awkward, and very possibly harmful.

LGBT leaders counter with the contemporary slogan that "Gender is between your ears; Sex is between your legs." That slogan gives little comfort to parents of school-age children.

The Obama Administration, through several Directives, has pressured schools around the country to allow students to decide what their "gender identity" is and which facilities they want to use. Some Kentucky schools have complied.

Despite the objections of many parents and students, at least one Kentucky public high school is allowing a biological male in the girls' facilities. An elementary school in Lexington is doing the same. There are reports of additional transgender student situations across the state.

Kentucky has entered the lawsuit against the Obama Administration's Directives; but even if that court case strikes the Obama Directives, Kentucky schools will still need guidance. That must be given by Kentucky lawmakers.

The Student Privacy Act would allow administrators to care for students with gender dysphoria while still respecting the privacy rights of all the other students.

Under this Act, administrators would determine how best to accommodate transgender students except they would not be allowed to place students of opposite biological sex in the same bathroom, locker room or shower room at the same time. This would then remove the "controversy" from the domain of the local school administrators.

While LGBT leaders generally feel that this solution is discriminatory against the transgender student, the goal of the bill is to protect the privacy, safety and dignity of *ALL* students in Kentucky schools.

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The Term "Transgender" Raises Many Serious Questions

- Should a biological male (who is a transgender female) be allowed to compete as a girl against girls?
- Should a biological female (who is a transgender male) in the boys' bathroom, now bunk with the boys on the Senior field trip?
- When other students recognize the transgender student is biologically different, won't this invite harassment and ridicule?
- Can students identify as the opposite biological gender one week and revert to their biological gender the next week?
What about students who identify as "bisexual"?
- Why does the LGBT community regard psychological gender more important than biological gender?
- If exposing one's private parts to another is a crime or sexual harassment, is it wrong to "be seen" in bathroom settings?
- Should a transgender adult (a male who believes he is a girl) be allowed in a girl's bathroom or locker room?

Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave ***YOUR*** message with the operator for ***“ALL the legislators from your county.”*** (Senators and Representatives) ***YOU*** choose . . .

***“Pass (or Defeat) -
The Student Privacy Act”****

This bill was written to protect the privacy, safety and dignity of ALL students. In addition, it allows local schools multiple options for accommodating transgender students.

The Legislative Message Line is open from 7 AM until 6 PM Mon-Fri thru Feb. 6. After Feb. 7, it will remain open until 9 PM Mon-Thu.

*Because a second Student Privacy Act may be offered, simply use the title when calling in. Rep. Rick Nelson (*D-Middlesboro*) is the current sponsor.

**Time to encourage
YOUR legislators
with *YOUR* view!**



Here are some pointers for your calls:

- Address only one bill on each phone call.
- Call as many times as you want on each bill, but wait 4 to 5 days before you call back on a particular bill.
- Husbands and wives should both call.
- Feel free to recruit others to call in order to multiply the impact of your view.
- Be brief and to the point since your legislators will receive only a summary of your call – just say “Pass ____.”

[For more information on leaving messages for your legislators, please read articles on the bottom of pages 7 and 8.]

THOSE AGAINST THE BILL SAY . . .

OPPONENTS SAY: The federal Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights has issued a statement to school districts across the country saying that under Title IX, schools must allow transgender students into any bathroom, facility or program they choose. The Obama Administration’s letter threatened schools who did not comply with being charged with sexual discrimination and losing their Title IX funding. Kentucky schools cannot afford that.

OPPONENTS SAY: This bill targets transgender individuals and makes them feel like they are less than equal. It is the worst kind of hate and intolerance. Students and parents don’t care about this. The only ones who care are right-wing religious extremists who are just intolerant bullies. Instead we need to learn to love and show tolerance for one another.

OPPONENTS SAY: The Supreme Court is probably going to rule on this sometime this year. We should wait to see what the Supreme Court decides. Passing a law now isn’t necessary. This is a solution in search of a problem and will just create trouble and ill will. Let’s just let each individual school district decide how they want to handle this. This should be a local issue. We don’t need the state to get involved.

OPPONENTS SAY: Are we really making such a big deal about bathrooms? Students still have privacy. They have individual stalls and you can’t see from one stall into the next. This bill is unnecessary. It is simple – just allow transgender students to go into a stall and no one will know the difference.

OPPONENTS SAY: Transgender students need special protections. It is their right to live according to their gender. These individuals are the most vulnerable of our citizens and should be granted access to whatever facilities make them feel the safest and most secure. These students have high suicide rates and need special consideration and protection because of that.

THOSE FOR THE BILL SAY . . .

SUPPORTERS SAY: Kentucky, along with 22 other states, has sued the Obama Administration for claiming Title IX means schools must allow transgender students use of facilities and programs of the opposite biological sex. Even though the Obama Administration threatened schools with cutting funding, no school has lost its Title IX funding from the federal government because they did not allow biological boys in girl’s bathrooms.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Not only those on the right but those on the left are finding serious problems with redefining gender. The Women’s Liberation Front, a left-wing feminist organization has sued the Obama Administration and is working with conservatives to stop this dangerous policy of redefining the legal status of what it means to be a woman.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Without this law, school districts in Kentucky who cooperated with the Obama Administration will still be allowing biological males and females to mix in bathrooms, showers, on sports teams, etc. In addition, if the US Supreme Court decides (likely this June) that it is a state issue, given the fact that Kentucky has no state law in place to guide and protect school districts, they will be vulnerable to an ACLU lawsuit, one by one, to force them to capitulate.

SUPPORTERS SAY: This is about much more than bathrooms. This is about redefining what it means to be a woman or a man under the law. It impacts all programs and facilities including those designed to protect women’s privacy and safety and their opportunity to participate in athletics and programs reserved and designed for women under the original Title IX intent.

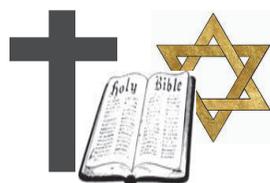
SUPPORTERS SAY: All students’ rights should be protected. In attempting to protect one student, government should not sacrifice the privacy and safety protections of all of the other students. Many young women have been victims of sexual assault and should not be forced by government to share facilities with biological males regardless of how the male is dressed.

The Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act

The Problem: Marriage has been redefined by the U.S. Supreme Court and same-sex couples now have the right to marry. However, some are trying to force others to participate in their same-sex marriage, even if they have sincerely held religious beliefs that dictates nonparticipating in something that violates their conscience.

The Purpose: This bill would require that businesses serve standard goods and services to all people regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. However, people who provide ministerial services or customized artistic creations could not be forced to create or speak a message or participate in something that is against their sincerely held beliefs.

Across America, Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience have been intensely attacked in recent years. To stop the onslaught, this bill emphasizes the underlying premise of the First Amendment, in particular, the “free exercise” of religion and its undergirding of the Rights of Conscience. By so



doing, it is an effort to properly apply Thomas Jefferson’s “wall of separation” which he proposed in order to *keep government out of a citizen’s free exercise of their faith.*

Kentucky Bill of Rights - (Section 5)

“No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.”

Especially since the 2015 *Obergefell* same-sex marriage decision, individuals and LGBT activist organizations have attempted to force others

– in violation of their consciences – to participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies. This is all contrary to both the Kentucky Constitution and to our First Amendment free exercise of religion.

Even when *Roe vs Wade* was decided in 1973, citizens were not forced to participate in an abortion against their sincerely held beliefs. Now, since *Obergefell*, LGBT activists are trying to use the U.S. Supreme Court decision to target and bring the force of law against people with deeply held and millenia-old spiritual convictions about marriage.

This bill requires service and support of *ALL* people with one exception – where one’s conscience is violated. In other words, a baker bakes for all customers, but does not *HAVE* to do a same-sex wedding cake.

This bill would protect individuals such as clergy, cake bakers, photographers and florists, “Protected Service Providers,” all who often serve in the wedding ceremony realm and who do not want to use their personal and specialized skills in creating a message or celebrating something their faith teaches is not in God’s will.

Citizens like these would have protections

Recent legal cases across America have highlighted the unprecedented targeting of citizens, simply because they believe participating in or promoting same-sex marriage violates the teachings of their faith.

Consider Elaine Huegenin, a young New Mexico photographer, who in 2006 declined to photograph a same-sex wedding celebration. She believed using her artistic talents in that setting would violate the teachings of her faith. Elaine took her appeal all the way to her state Supreme Court where she lost. The resulting fines, legal expenses and hostile climate forced her out of business.

Consider Baronelle Stutzman, a floral shop owner who has served her community members regardless of their “sexual orientation” for 35 years. For 10 years, Baronelle provided flowers for a gay gentleman she considered a friend. However, when she declined to create floral arrangements for his same-sex wedding, he sued her. Baronelle’s case is now before the Washington State Supreme Court. The Court has allowed her to be sued both as a business and personally. If she loses her appeal, she will owe over \$1 million and lose her business, her home and her retirement savings.

Consider *Sweet Cakes by Melissa*. The owners have served their community, both gay and straight, but were fined and ordered to pay \$135,000 in emotional damages to a lesbian couple for declining to create a wedding cake for them. Melissa and Aaron Klein’s business has been forced to close. Aaron is now working for a trash collection company trying to support their five children while they await their appeal. Perhaps more disturbing is that the regulatory agency initially hearing their case ordered the Kleins not to speak publicly about their reasons for declining to participate in same-sex weddings.

All these were prosecuted under the “Fairness Ordinance” statutes that exist in their states. Ask them if they believe they are being treated with “fairness.”

U.S. Bill of Rights - The First Amendment: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”* Religious liberty is the *first* part of the *First* Amendment. It is considered our “first freedom.”

The Freedom of Conscience - Uniquely American: Even during World War II, when the ongoing existence of America was in question, the United States government never forced a conscientious objector to pull a trigger and violate his conscience. Why are we now changing our standard over *same-sex marriage*?

Churches and Faith Based Organizations: People of faith, particularly Christians, have been motivated by their faith to provide for the most vulnerable — the sick, the poor, the oppressed, the homeless, victims of natural disasters, victims of abuse, orphans and foster children. Why should the same faith that motivates individuals to serve, now be used by the government as a reason to force them to violate that faith?

They Preach Tolerance But Are Themselves Intolerant: Those LGBT activists who for years have preached “tolerance” are now proving to be anything *BUT* tolerant of anyone whose understanding of marriage is different than theirs. Most people in the US (even some who support same-sex marriage) still believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Should all of these citizens be driven from the public square because their belief is marriage is one man and one woman? There is plenty of room in the public square for diverse opinions. One person’s right to marry should not eliminate another person’s right not to celebrate that marriage.

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***“Pass (or Defeat) -
The Religious Liberty /
Rights of Conscience Act”****

This bill protects citizens from the legal entanglements from choosing not to participate in a same-sex marriage or other event contrary to one’s sincerely held faith.

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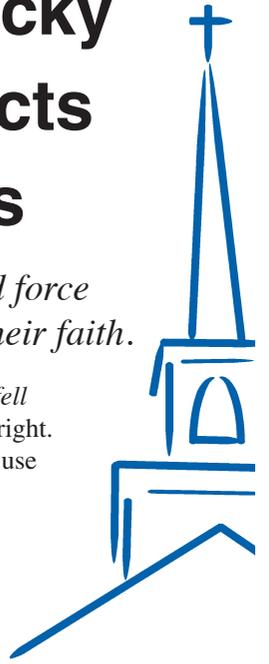
Currently Kentucky Law Only Protects County Clerks

At issue is whether government should force someone to act in some way against their faith.

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Obergefell* decision that same-sex marriage was a constitutional right. Ever since that decision, activists have been trying to use the force of law to coerce people into participating in same-sex weddings whether they wanted to or not — whether their deeply-held religious beliefs affirmed that participation or not.

Unfortunately, the Kentucky General Assembly has only acted to protect the state’s County Clerks from being forced to participate. It did so by removing the need for their authorizing signature. It is now 2017 and nothing has been done for ministers and churches. And nothing has been done to protect those who are in the “wedding industry” those who bake cakes, arrange flowers or take wedding photographs.

When will their right of dissent and their right to decline be protected?



THOSE AGAINST THE BILL SAY . . .

OPPONENTS SAY: Same-sex marriage is now the law. The Supreme Court has decided this. This bill is unconstitutional. If this bill passes it will be struck down in court. This bill is an attempt to undo the right of LGBT people to marry.

OPPONENTS SAY: If you want to do business in Kentucky you should have to follow the law. If you don’t want to serve LGBT people, then don’t open a business. Government needs to protect the rights of the LGBT Community to marry and to live their lifestyle freely. This is about trying to deny the rights of LGBT people.

OPPONENTS SAY: No one should be able to discriminate against someone because of who they love. LGBT people have been treated unfairly and have been victims of hate for too long. We need less hate and more tolerance. You shouldn’t be able to treat someone differently because they are gay. This is about haters just wanting to be able to hate members of the LGBT community.

OPPONENTS SAY: This is nothing more than a license to discriminate. If it passes, restaurants will be able to deny services to African Americans or to gay people. People will be denied a place to live. This will undo all the civil rights gains we have made over the last century.

OPPONENTS SAY: We have some of the strongest religious liberty laws in the nation. There is no reason for this law because there is no problem in Kentucky. Nothing has happened in Kentucky that would show there is a need for this bill. It will just have unintended consequences if it passed.

THOSE FOR THE BILL SAY . . .

SUPPORTERS SAY: This does not deny anyone the right to marry. This is about protecting the rights of individuals to choose how they use their ministerial and creative skills. People should not be forced by government to express an idea or celebrate an event that violates their beliefs.

SUPPORTERS SAY: All businesses should provide standard goods and services to all people whether gay or straight. This is not about denying something. This is about protecting something, everyone’s First Amendment rights and Rights of Conscience, and applies to all people regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Citizens, especially clergy and charitable religious organizations, who willingly serve everyone should be protected by the government. They should not be forced to promote messages and ideas or to participate in events that conflict with their beliefs and shouldn’t be forced to conform to a government-mandated code in order to avoid fines or jail or closure.

SUPPORTERS SAY: This is a license to live freely according to your personal beliefs. The government was formed to protect our freedoms not threaten them. Laws should respect the freedoms of all individuals to choose what they wish to participate in. This should unite us on common ground.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Since the Supreme Court redefined marriage, the First Amendment right to the Free Exercise of Religion has been on a collision course with the right for same-sex couples to marry. This bill will give guidance to that newly created intersection so the right of same-sex individuals to marry and the right of individuals to not participate will both be honored.

Senate Bill 17:

The Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Act

The Problem: Schools and students are oftentimes intimidated by national anti-Christian organizations and, in some cases, anti-Christian members on the school staff. Students should not have to live under that kind of bias. They are American citizens too.

The Purpose: SB17, offered by Sen. Albert Robinson (R- London) and sometimes called “The School Prayer Bill,” was written to protect the religious liberty and free speech rights of students. But, to be clear, SB17 does not allow “the teaching of a religion in school.”

This bill, as written, would prevent schools from infringing on the basic First Amendment rights of students in classroom assignments and speeches, and would require schools to grant religious student groups access to public forums in the same way they grant access to all other groups. This affirms rights already validated for all students – K thru college.

It would allow a valedictorian to “thank my parents and God” in their graduation address – no longer will the word “God” be censored. Students would no longer be intimidated by school officials just because they are people of faith. In addition, it would allow free artistic and literary expression when the school chooses to present plays that may have religious verbiage in them (i.e. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*).

It would also clarify that school officials may not discriminate against a student group (like a Christian Student Fellowship) simply because the group conducts its internal affairs and elects leaders in accordance with its stated mission.

Currently, many schools contend that a student only has free speech in designated “free speech zones.” That does not appear anywhere in the U.S. Constitution or the Kentucky Constitution and no American –



other than a student today – is told they cannot speak up and share their thoughts unless they stand in a special “zone.”

The bottom line is that this bill would list students’ rights, giving them protection from school officials or outside groups who talk about diversity, but who actually practice intolerance.

Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave *YOUR* message for or against for: “*all the Senators and Representatives from* (insert your county) ”.

***“Pass (or defeat) Senate Bill 17
– The Student Free Speech
and Religious Liberty Act”***

OPPONENTS SAY: To bring religion onto a school campus is a violation of the First Amendment – “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion . . .” The school is just an extension of government. In a learning environment students should also be able to experience “freedom from religion” as well as “freedom of religion.” If schools allow religious ideas from students isn’t that allowing tax dollars to be spent on promoting religion?

OPPONENTS SAY: We don’t need religion of any kind in the classroom or in our public schools. Similarly, we don’t want any wacko conservative ideas articulated. Schools should teach children reading, writing, arithmetic, while emphasizing diversity. Schools should not be a place for religion and discussions about religion – that should stay within the walls of the church.

OPPONENTS SAY: We don’t need a new law telling us what we can and cannot do in public schools. Religion is a personal thing so there is no reason to bring it into our public schools or to pass a law that protects a student’s religious comments in discussions on school grounds or assignments that have religious ideas within them.

OPPONENTS SAY: The law about what can be done with religious ideas at schools has already been made through many decisions in different courtrooms across the nation over time. Passing SB 17 is just duplicating what has already been decided. There is no need for Kentucky legislation regarding our schools and the religious freedom of students.

SUPPORTERS SAY: This bill doesn’t permit the state to *establish* a religion - it permits students to *express* their religion. Suppressing a student’s view-point is contrary to learning and the development of critical thinking skills. Furthermore, tolerating only ideas that are “politically correct” can be very dangerous – leading to indoctrination rather than real education. Students learn to make decisions and to think critically when there is an appropriate free exchange of ideas, not where there is censorship.

SUPPORTERS SAY: This bill protects not only diverse opinions on faith but also diverse political views. In many schools, students have been experiencing increasing pressure to be silent about their beliefs and opinions. Some students have felt their views are unwelcome in the classroom. This bill would clarify that students may not be discriminated against if their viewpoint differs from their teacher or the administrator.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Former Governor and current State Senator Julian Carroll (D-Frankfort) said last year in Committee, “People are so afraid of crossing the line (about religion) that they aren’t getting anywhere near it.” This bill would eliminate that fear by codifying in law regarding what courts have said students can do and say.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Yes, multiple court cases have established rights of students. But, because these rights are not clearly spelled out in statute form, students, parents and administrators are often uncertain. SB17 simply clarifies the existing court law so that schools are not intimidated by people who threaten to sue just because a student sings a Christmas carol or prays before an athletic contest.

Call the Legislative Message Line with YOUR perspective. If you do, you WILL BE the salt and the light you were created to be.

By calling, you are “prophesying” to government

You don’t have to be perfect to make a difference. And, you don’t need to be hesitant. When you consider Biblical heroes, many impacted “policy” or “politics” without any experience in governance – they were just people who stepped forward at the right time, enabling God’s will and enabling the deliverance of God’s people.

Joseph faithfully served a pagan pharaoh in a “policy role” and was a “savior” to Jacob (Israel) and his clan.

Daniel faithfully served a pagan government – several different pagan rulers – and was honored by all for his godly wisdom and demeanor.

Esther stepped forward at the right moment in history to deliver her people from an evil policy decree.

David served God and Israel as the king “after God’s own heart”, yet it was also very clear that he was not a perfect man.

Like David, Solomon served God as the wisest man; yet he too was not without personal failures.

Consider Paul’s explicit call. He was called to several different “people groups” by Jesus Himself. Acts 9:14-15 “*But the Lord said to him (Ananias), ‘Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the*



Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel . . .” Note that ONE of the groups he was called to serve was “kings” – the politicians of the day.

No one should be left out from hearing God’s truth. Everyone, perhaps especially governmental leaders, should have someone sharing God’s perspective with them.

If God’s people don’t do it, who will? Who can?

You have been “planted” in Kentucky for such a time as this. Kentucky can be a leader for the nation on many of these state-level policies because the Commonwealth is rich in faith among its people.

Make the Legislative Message Line calls

A one-minute call is powerful encouragement

Sign up to volunteer over the next three weeks

Just email us: kent@kentuckyfamily.org

OR call us 859-255-5400

Sign up for emailed updates

Again, just use the same email or phone number

Sign up for texted updates on your cell phone (NEW)

For cell phone updates, text “Kentucky” to number 31996

This is your chance . . . This is our chance

The issues described in this *CITIZEN* are critical for the future of our state and nation. It’s like a fork in the road – if we choose wrongly, there will be problems ahead. If we choose correctly, not only will our state move forward in the right direction, but we will be a leading state in the nation.

Can you make a difference? Without doubt!!! Consider this . . .

You, and others like you and me, made a *HUGE* difference last Nov. 8. There was a “revolution” at the ballot box! But think about it . . . you were only one of the 20,000 to 30,000 voters in your state legislator’s race.

Now consider what *THIS* publication is asking you to do. Simply call in on *EACH* of these bills and give your perspective. The “odds” are now in your favor! Normally, if a legislator gets just 10 phone messages he/she thinks there is “a riot” back home. Now consider if he received 100 or 250 messages with your help!

Understand that in government, **Nothing Moves Unless It’s Pushed**. Human nature will tell the politician *not* to move forward or take a risk – “keep the *status quo* and get re-elected.” We’ve seen that time and again. But if *YOU* act with encouragement, you fill his/her heart with courage and things get done!

As a Christian, you have the responsibility to **Speak Truth To Power**. Just because you helped your “good guy” get elected on Nov. 8

doesn’t mean that that same good guy doesn’t need your help now. No person is perfect – each needs guiding and encouraging words from “back home” to strengthen them when they stand before the opposition, the hostile media, and the spiritual forces of wickedness.

If you don’t speak truth to power . . . If you don’t step forward to “push” something . . . Who will?

If God’s people aren’t salt and light . . . If they don’t speak up with *His* values, *His* truth, and *His* perspective . . . Who will? Who else can?

It’s *WHY* we are here – to share *His* perspective and to impact the earth with *His* truth.

One last thing: Jesus’ only unanswered prayer was that we “would be one.” Let’s not try to change anyone else’s doctrine, anyone else’s denomination, anyone else’s interpretation of Scripture. But, let’s stand together *AS ONE* on the *VALUES* that our Father has encouraged us to walk in. We, in turn, can encourage our leaders to do the same and stand with us.

If we do, we will find ourselves living in a better state, living in a better nation; and, more importantly, “being one” as Jesus prayed.



Kent Ostrander
executive director



What can YOU do?

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Lift your voice to encourage!

God can use your faith and faithfulness to turn this state . . . and this state to turn the nation.

We all have an opportunity! With just a little work, we – together – can move a few legislative mountains. Legislators at all levels are not inclined to move legislation or make policy unless they know that their constituents are with them and behind them. And, in particular, they are not wanting to vote for a bill unless they know their people back home want that bill.

Members of the media (at least the major media) are generally liberal and they have a powerful megaphone to “tell” (or pressure) legislators what to do.

Which would you rather have your legislator follow your wishes and the wishes of your neighbors *OR* the wishes of the individuals in the liberal media? (That’s a no-brainer.)

Your call to the **Legislative Message Line** should only take about one minute. Think about it – *it takes less time and it is easier than ordering a pizza!*

Here are a few tips to making your Christian citizenship easy and effective:

Be Kind - You can be firm, but be polite. Your legislator wants to receive your message (he wants your vote next time), so don’t give him a reason to ignore your message.

Be Direct - You don’t have to have the bill number; just state clearly what you want. Your legislator will know what you want when he gets your message saying, “*Pass The Student Privacy Act*” or “*Pass the Religious Liberty / Rights of Conscience Act.*”

Be Full of Faith - You are speaking to the best of your ability the concerns that the Lord would have, so be confident, even bold with your encouragement.

Do Not Be Religious - Christian-speak and Bible-speak are not “known languages” in Frankfort. Share your message with the operator in the language of the listener – simply make common sense. The truth that you share will have its own impact if it is simply understood. The Holy Spirit will amplify it in His good time.

The Family Foundation is pleased to support:



Christians at the Capitol

Feb. 10, 2017

12:30PM to 3:30PM For details, go to:
<http://www.godandcountryministry.com>

Consider three steps of faith:

- 1) **Make one call on each of the bills described inside**
- 2) **Volunteer to help us distribute CITIZENs in your County**
- 3) **Sign up for our free legislative updates . . .**

For emailed updates, email kent@kentuckyfamily.org

For cell phone updates, text “Kentucky” to number 31996

For updates on Facebook - “The Family Foundation”