TIMELY ACTION!

Pages 2, 3 & 5 have more on the Session, page 6 has
and to shed a little light, go to the yellow box on page 7.

"You are the salt of the earth."
"You are the light of the world."

Dr. Wayne Grudem will be speaking in four sites starting January 13.

You are invited to attend the Lexington area events. Dr. Grudem will be speaking on his new book, Politics According to the Bible.

The Lexington Human Rights Commission is also responsible for enforcing laws against religious discrimination. If the T-shirt company had been asked to print a T-Shirt that advocated a White supremacist event and refused, would the Human Rights Commission respond by finding that it had discriminated against what is a minority in this country? If it did, it would be acting on the same rationale as it did in response to the gay rights complaint.

That is the reason the free exercise of religion is explicitly protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. But the new diversity bureaucracy is clearly not going to let that get in the way. The irony is that the free exercise of religion is explicitly protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. But the new diversity bureaucracy is clearly not going to let that get in the way.

"Gay rights" means anti-religious discrimination.

Opinion: What they are saying is NOT what they mean . . . or do.
The 2013 General Assembly will be lively!

According to many observers, the two most important issues facing the 2013 Kentucky General Assembly are tax and pension reform, but there are political forces pulling this Session in another direction. According to many observers, the two most important issues facing the 2013 Kentucky General Assembly are tax and pension reform, but there are political forces pulling this Session in another direction. With the shift in the makeup of the House and the volatile issues pending, Kentucky citizens can be confident of serious debate.

But key controversy has already promised a re-vote in 2013.

"Fairness" ordinance brings discrimination

The bottom line is that they are using the force of law to impose their view of sexuality on everyone else.

For your information...

How Kentucky ranked in the Nov. 8 election

Probably because we are a pro-life state.

Probably because we are a religious freedom state.

And probably because, though we are a poor state, we pay our bills. Kentucky would swing left for the same reasons that President Obama and his Washington, D.C. policies.

Romney

Obama

1 Utah 72.8% 24.9%

2 Wyoming 69.3% 28.0%

3 Oklahoma 66.8% 33.2%

4 Idaho 64.5% 32.6%

5 West Virginia 62.3% 35.5%

6 Alabama 60.7% 38.4%

7 Arkansas 63.5% 35.5%

Kentucky 60.5% 37.8%

For your information...

How Kentucky ranked in the Nov. 8 election

Kentucky General Assembly are tax and pension reform, but there are political forces pulling this Session in another direction. With the shift in the makeup of the House and the volatile issues pending, Kentucky citizens can be confident of serious debate.

But key controversy has already promised a re-vote in 2013.

"Fairness" ordinance brings discrimination

The bottom line is that they are using the force of law to impose their view of sexuality on everyone else.
Gambling: Likely a “divide and conquer” effort

They have a number of different strategies they are considering, but the one thing we absolutely know is that they will push one!

If the legislature anti-gambling advocates have been packing cards since 1994 when horse-racing industry advocates approached The Family Foundation to assist them in their effort to protect the horse industry from being taken over by the casino industry. Because casinos do not pay any fees to the horse industry, The Foundations joined them and worked together with them until 2002, when the horse industry said to itself, “If we can’t beat them, perhaps…”

Since that time, they have used all kinds of different strategies, some very clear, to press certain gambling legislation. All of them, however, come down to the same conclusion: a small handful of people control the horse industry and end up with the big money, and Kentucky citizens will basically do anything to avoid paying taxes on it.

Here are the suggestions already being heard:

1) End the constitutional amendment in the House to change the state Constitution to allow casino gambling. (The Senate voted on last session and will likely vote to have the House take their turn on this constitutional issue.)

2) Expanding gambling as a part of Speaker Greg Stumbo’s effort to make University of Pike an issue of the state university network. “We need more money to educate eastern Kentucky and the west to get the best out of the people that are there,” this would likely be a statewide constitutional amendment.

3) Do a “divide and conquer” approach, giving each community the “option” of deciding whether it wants to use gambling, or not use a constitutional amendment. (Sounds nice, even “democratic,” but you only need a few key community spokesmen to say “No,” and the whole state will be drawn into the gambling net.)

Citizens can thwart these efforts by engaging legislators during the Jan. 8-11 organizational week. They are not expecting calls then, so they will be surprised!

Eight IS Enough!

It has been eight years since House Leadership has allowed a pro-life bill on the House floor. It has been way, way too long!

If you can, call 8 am - 5 pm EST between Jan. 8 thru 11. Any calls before Feb. 5 are important, but Jan. 8 thru 11 is optimal.

For bulletin inserts, publications and emails, see yellow box pg 7.

The 2013 General Assembly is upon us and you need to know...

Calendar

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<td>Road to Passing a Bill</td>
<td>Session re-opens for legislation</td>
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Make Two Calls - NOW!

Call the toll-free message line TWICE - Jan. 8-11 800-372-7181 Leave these messages with the receptionist for your State Representative – she will know who he/she is. Leave these two brief messages, but firm messages using two different calls...

#1 “Vote AGAINST ANY expansion of gambling.”

#2 “PASS pro-life legislation! Eight years is enough!”

As you call each, ask the receptionist to “copy” your message to both “House and Senate Leadership.” (Husbands and wives should BOTH call.)

The Road to Passing a Bill

1) House Committees sends bill to a committee

2) Rules Committee receives bill in committee

3) Rules Committee is sent a committee (left to die)

4) House of Representatives Rules Committee sends bill to a committee

5) Rules Committee acts on calendar

6) Rules Committee acts on calendar

7) Rules Committee acts on calendar

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99) Rules Committee acts on calendar

100) Rules Committee acts on calendar

The question ultimately is about whether the citizenry decides to get involved.

“PASS pro-life legislation! Eight years is enough!”

Eight IS Enough!
The Kentucky Marriage Movement

Various regional events listed below

Nicholasville, March 8-9
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Cathedral Christian Church
405 Park Central Avenue, Nicholasville, KY 40356

Lexington, March 15-16
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Woodford Community Church
420 Hope Lane, Versailles, KY 40383

Lexington, TBA
Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Lexington First Assembly of God
2780 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40502

Wilmore, April 19-20
Love and Marriage Retreat - Greg Williams
Shiloh Baptist Church held at Auburn Seminary
204 North Lexington Avenue, Wilmore, KY 40390

For more or to register, call (859)255-5400 or go to www.kentuckymarriage.org

The Kentucky Religious Freedom Amendment

Given the current anti-religious climate in the court system, clarifying this fundamental freedom is essential.

The Kentucky Religious Freedom Amendment, introduced in last year’s Session by Sen. Jemmy Higdon (R-Lebanon), was crafted to restore religious liberties lost to Kentuckians in the last few decades. The amendment passed the Senate overwhelmingly, 36-4. Religious groups, however, had an uphill battle gaining support to reintroduce the bill this year, effectively starting the process all over again.

Observers say the Religious Freedom Amendment is a reasonable response by Kentuckians to the significant loss of religious liberty protection across America. More importantly, it is well-timed to thwart the trend of disregarding many decades of legal precedent.

Before 1990, the courts used the “compelling interest test” when deciding religious liberty claims. Courts understood that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right to practice your religion. Governments could only limit religious liberty if it could prove it had a “compelling interest” to do so. A “compelling interest,” as defined by the courts, includes things such as the protection of life. For example, clearly the government has a compelling interest in protecting life so religious newborns could be justified human sacrifice trials. Life must be protected. In addition, if the government proved it did, in fact, have a “compelling interest” to protect, a citizen’s religious freedom can only be restricted as little as necessary to achieve that specific protection.

In 1990, the Supreme Court, in the controversial Employment Division of Oregon vs. Smith decision, Congress acted to correct the decision and reinstated the test in 1993 by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The RFRA was supported by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), was passed by a 94-3 vote in the Senate, 418-0 in the House, and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), was passed by a 94-3 vote in the Senate, 418-0 in the House, and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

In response, the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is only applied at the federal level and that Congress must use religious statutes to use the test. Therefore, it was up to Congress to pass a law for it to establish the “compelling interest test” for everything other than federal matters. Since then, more than half of the states have acted to establish the “compelling interest test” for their own local courts. The bill Kentucky legislators, however, has not yet acted. Unfortunately, the Kentucky Supreme Court has.

In October 2012 ruling in Gingerich, et al. v. Commonwealth—the Kentucky Supreme Court rejected the “compelling interest test.” Since Kentucky has no statistics like RFRA or a Religious Freedom Amendment, Kentucky citizens have less protection at the state and local level than they do at the federal level. The recent attempt by the federal government to force Catholics to violate their moral beliefs regarding contraception and abortion has resulted in multiple lawsuits filed in federal court. Catholics and other religious groups are pressing the federal government to use the “compelling interest test” to violate their conscientious objections.

The Family Foundation’s Martin Cothran echoes the need to clarify and strengthen this area of law in Kentucky. Most Kentuckians are aware that in recent years around graduation time there is always a story of a valedictorian who is told that in their commencement address they can thank their parents and teachers for their success but they cannot thank God. Clearly, this is a breach of the young student’s freedom of religious expression after his faithful scholarship he earned between graduation and commencement.

Similarly, in 2011 the Kentucky Department of Education urged the Bell County school board to discontinue the tradition of prayer before school. The ban was upheld in court. As long as prayer is allowed and not required by the local school authorities, students and schools should have the freedom to pray publicly.

Unfortunately, Kentucky does not have the “compelling interest test” that would have forced the government’s recognition of the student’s liberties.

“Calling all marriage counselors . . .”

The Kentucky Marriage Movement (KMM) is currently working to promote marriage counselors across the Commonwealth. “We regularly invite small and calls from those desiring marriage counseling, pre-marital guidance or remarriage intervention,” says Williams. Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation. “We know that all marriages need support, and having marriage counselors easily accessible makes sense.”

According to Williams, the purpose of KMM is to encourage and support marriage counselors and, 2) to partner with churches, ministries and couples who are passionate about marriage in order to reach out and help others in their marriages. “Marriage counselors are a vital and necessary component in this mission,” said Williams.

KMM seeks to gather information from any/all marriage counselors who desire to use marriage strengthened and encouraged across Kentucky. This info will be offered to the Kentuckians on our new website/kentuckymarriage.org, 2) to help others support that they can provide counseling for those desiring marriage counselors.

KMM does not set counseling guidelines, nor specifically endorse any particular counseling method. It simply is seeking to make available those counselors who desire to help strengthen marriage throughout Kentucky.

If you ARE a marriage counselor, or if you KNOW a marriage counselor, call us at (859)255-5400 so we can have / share the contact information.

Kentucky Senate passes Religious Freedom Amendment

State must act individually for state and local courts.

More than half of the states pass or sustain a “compelling interest test.” Since then, more than half of the states have acted to establish the “compelling interest test” for their own local courts. The bill Kentucky legislators, however, has not yet acted. Unfortunately, the Kentucky Supreme Court has.

March 15, 2012 - Kentucky Senate overwhelmingly passes Religious Freedom Amendment with “compelling interest test.”

March 15, 2012 - During hearings, Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Abramson points out need to clarify the use of the “compelling interest test” in Kentucky law.

April 12, 2012 - The 2012 Session ends with the KY House denying a bill for the Religious Freedom Amendment, thus killing it until the next Session.

October 25, 2012 - KY Supreme Court decides against the “compelling interest test,” thus settling legal precedent for state and local religious freedom cases in Kentucky.

“Love & Respect’s” Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
The Family Foundation
Lexington, March 22-23
Broadway Christian Church
167 North Broadway, Lexington, KY 40507

“Love & Respect’s” Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Lexington First Assembly of God
2780 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40502

Love & Respect’s” Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
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For more to or for more information, call (859)255-5400 or go to www.kentuckymarriage.org

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**The Kentucky Supreme Court decides the “compelling interest test,” thus against Religious Freedom Amendment, thus killing it until the next Session.**

If you need our legislators to act this year so that in November 2014 Kentuckians can vote to protect their First Amendment rights by ratifying a religious liberty amendment.

- Martin Cobb

**The Family Foundation**

**Calling all marriage counselors . . .**

The Kentucky Marriage Movement (KMM) is currently working to promote marriage counselors across the Commonwealth. "We regularly receive emails and calls from those desiring marriage counseling, pre-marital guidance or marriage intervention," said William. "The marriage counselors that we know are vital resources in Kentucky. Placed on KMM’s regional Kentucky map on www.kentuckymarriage.org, they will be easy access for individuals and couples seeking help, direction or encouragement in their marriage. KMM does not set counseling guidelines, we specifically endorse any particular counseling or counseling method. It simply is promoting to make available those counselors who desire to help strengthen marriage throughout Kentucky.

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**Kentucky Supreme Court unravels religious liberty protection**

The Court rejects “compelling interest test” for a weaker standard.

1990 - US Supreme Court vacates “compelling interest test” in religious freedom cases, disregarding many decades of legal precedent.

1993 - US Congress reinstates “compelling interest test.”

1997 - US Supreme Court rules Congress can only reinstate “compelling interest test” at the Federal level. States must act individually for state and local courts.

2011 - More than half of the states pass or sustain a “compelling interest test.”

March 15, 2012 - Kentucky Senate overwhelmingly passes Religious Freedom Amendment with “compelling interest test.”

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**KY Religious Freedom Amendment needed**

Given the current anti-religious climate in the court system, clarifying this fundamental freedom is essential.

The Kentucky Religious Freedom Amendment, introduced in last year’s Session by Sen. Judd Hghes (R-Labette), was killed to secure religious liberties lost to Kentuckians in the last few decades. The amendment passed the Senate overwhelmingly, 34-0. Religious freedom advocates felt betrayed by the bill, having supported it this bill the year before, thus failing to recognize the importance this year, effectively starting the process all over again.

Observes the Religious Freedom Amendment is a reasonable response by Kentuckians to the significant loss of religious liberty protection across America. More importantly, it will help guard against that fundamental freedom.

Before 1990, the courts used the “compelling interest test” when deciding religious liberty claims. Courts understood that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizens the right to practice their religion, free from government interference. The government could only limit religious liberty if it could prove it had a “compelling interest” to do so. A “compelling interest” is defined by the courts, includes things such as the protection of life. For example, clearly the government has a compelling interest in protecting life so that religious-freedom defense would justify human sacrifice in real life. Life must be protected. In addition, if the government proved it did, in fact, have a “compelling interest” to protect, a citizen’s religious freedom can only be restricted so little as not to encroach that specific protection.

However, in 1990 the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the “compelling interest test” in the controversial Employment Division of Oregon vs. Smith decision. Congress acted to correct the decision and reinstated the test in 1993 by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The RFRA was supported by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), was passed by a 94-3 vote in the Senate and a voice vote in the House, and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

In response, the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act only applied at the federal level and that Congress did not have authority to use the test. Therefore, it was left to each individual state to re-establish the “compelling interest test” for everything other than federal matters.

Since then, more than half of the states have acted to reinstate the “compelling interest test” for their own and local courts. The full Kentucky legislature, however, has not acted. Unfortunately, the Kentucky Supreme Court has.

In an October 2012 ruling — ‘Gingervich et al. v. Commonwealth’ — the Kentucky Supreme Court rejected the “compelling interest test.” Since Kentucky has no state like RFRA or Religious Freedom Amendment, Kentucky citizens have less protection as to the state and local level than they do at the federal level.

The recent attempt by the federal government to first Catholics to violate their moral beliefs regarding contraception and abortion has resulted in multiple lawsuits filed in federal court. Catholics and other religious groups who honor their faith have been “compelled to act” to violate their religious freedom.

This decision undermines the need to clarify and strengthen this area of law in Kentucky.

Most Kentuckians are aware that in recent years around graduation time there is always a story of a cafeteria worker who is told that in their commencement address they can thank their parents and teachers for their success, but they cannot thank God. Clearly, this is a breach of the young student’s freedom of religious expression after his faith-based scholarship he earned during the last four years.

Similarly, in 2011 the Kentucky Department of Education urged the Bull County school board to discontinue the tradition of prayer before the school’s football team is played on its home field. As long as it is student-led and not required by the local school authorities, athletic and student activities should have the freedom to pray publicly.

Unfortunately, Kentucky does not have the “compelling interest test” that would have forestalled the governor’s enforcement of the student’s liberty.

Last November Kentuckians ratified a Constitutional amendment that affirmed our Second Amendment right to bear arms. We need our legislators to act this year so that in November 2014 Kentuckians can vote to protect their First Amendment rights by ratifying a religious liberty amendment. "said Martin Cobb, policy analyst for The Family Foundation.

When passed and ratified, the Religious Freedom Amendment will restore, at the state and local level, the standard that has historically protected American religious freedom and will help turn the rising tide of infringement.
Gambling: Likely a “divide and conquer” effort

They have a number of different strategies they are considering, but the one thing we absolutely know is that they will push one!

Making gambling advances has been a driving cause since 1994 when horse racing advocates approached The Family Foundation to assist them in their efforts to protect the horse industry from being overrun by the casino industry. Because casinos do extend credit to gambling addicts, The Foundation joined them and worked together with them until 2000, when the horse industry said to itself, “If we can’t beat them, ($bleft) we’ll join them ($up)!”

Since that time, they have used all of these strategies, some very clear, to press casinos gambling legislation. All of them, however, and along with the same conclusion: a small handful of people contacted the horse industry and ended up with the big money, and Kentucky citizens were left without any legislation. Here are the suggestions already building:

1) Kentucky can create a constitutional amendment in the House to change the state Constitution to allow casino gambling. (The Senate voted earlier last session and will likely vote in the House to take their turn on this constitutional issue.)

2) Expired gambling as a part of Speaker Greg Stumbo’s effort to move University of Pikeville to the state university system. (We need more money to educate Kentuckians and we want to get the out of the people to the universities.) This would likely be a statewide constitutional amendment.

3) Do a “divide and conquer” approach, giving each community the “option” of deciding whether it wants

Eight IS Enough!

It has been eight years since House Leadership has allowed a pro-life bill on the House floor. It has been way, way too long!

Eight IS Enough!

The Family Foundation

“We laughed about this process, but, in truth, it is very significant. I can confirm the fact that “Once the legislators feel the heat, they see the light.”

The 2013 General Assembly is upon us and you need to know...

The Road to Passing a Bill

A bill goes on its journey toward enactment when it is introduced as a bill. It can be introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, but it must be approved by both chambers. If a bill is introduced in one of the chambers (either the House or the Senate), the Committee on Committees (with the House and the Senate may decide which chamber will handle the bill. If one chamber passes a bill and the other chamber changes it in any way, the bill must go back to the chamber in which it originated to approve the change. This is called “concurrence.”

Once it passes in both chambers, it goes to the Governor for his signature. Where the Governor receives the bill on his desk, he can do one of three things: he can sign the bill into law, veto any part of the bill, (if so named, it becomes law. If he does not sign it, it becomes law. If he signs a bill but his signature Got it off a way for the Governor to express disagreement without actually stopping the bill)

If the Governor vetoes the bill, the bill can only become law (the General Assembly overrides the veto. A veto can be overridden only by a constitutional majority of both the House and the Senate, a constitutional majority is 31 votes (one more than half of 106). In the Senate, it is 20 votes more than half (half of 38). If the veto is overridden in this way, the bill becomes law. If it is not overridden, it does not become law.

The Family Foundation

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Concurrence:

If one chamber passes a bill and the other chamber changes it in any way, the bill
The 2013 General Assembly will be lively!

According to many observers, the two most important issues facing the 2013 Kentucky General Assembly are an anti-abortion bill and a religious freedom bill. But there are other political developments that are occurring during the 2013 General Assembly. For instance, Governor Steve Beshear has said that he will sign a bill allowing the state to expand gambling once again.

Controversial UN treaty nixed

But one key senator has already promised a re-vote in 2013.

"Fairness" ordinance brings discrimination

The bottom line is that they are using the force of law to impose their view of sexuality on everyone else.

For your information . . .

How Kentucky ranked in the Nov. 8 election

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2 Wyoming 69.3% 28.0%
3 Oklahoma 66.8% 33.2%
4 Idaho 64.5% 32.6%
5 West Virginia 62.3% 35.5%
6 Alabama 60.7% 38.4%
7 Arkansas 60.5% 36.9%
Kentucky 60.5% 37.8%
Nebraska 60.5% 37.8%
Kansas 60.0% 37.8%
Missouri 59.5% 39.0%
North Dakota 58.7% 38.9%
“Gay rights” means anti-religious discrimination

When demonstrative groups were waving the so-called “gay pride” banners to indicate their moral domination, a popular slogan that was overemphasizing the cause. They said their motivations were only about making sure that gays would be morally treated, that’s all.

But now we see better.

When a T-shirt company in Lexington decided that it couldn’t print T-shirts that advertised a gay pride event because the message violated the owner’s religious beliefs, it found, not very quickly, too, for gay rights groups want to make these—and how far the new diversity bureaucracy was willing to let them be taken.

Soon after the company refused to print the T-shirts, the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO) filed a lawsuit against the owner. After six months (at least the diversity bureaucracy can’t be accused of being efficient), the Lexington Human Rights Commission, which was given control to oversee anti-gay discrimination, granted the company legal immunity.

Now the T-shirt company has the right to fight the government, a government that is now in the business of outing and prohibiting discrimination among gays, but it is itself the business of anti-religious discrimination.

But let’s be clear: the business wasn’t refused because it is a gay company, the kind of activity that the law said it was allowed. It refused to print the T-shirts because it didn’t want to contribute to a message that contradicted the owner’s religious beliefs. These are two entirely different things; although the Lexington Human Rights Commission apparently

The irony is that the free exercise of religion is explicitly protected by the First Amendment. But the new diversity bureaucracy is clearly not willing to let that get in the way.

Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation.

The Kentucky Citizen

Opinion: What they are saying is NOT what they mean . . . or do.

The Kentucky Citizen is published by The Family Foundation; a Kentucky nonprofit educational organization (tax-exempt under the IRS) that researches and publishes the values that make families strong.

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January/February 2013

Recognized for his seminary textbooks, Dr. Grudem’s most recent book, “Politics According to the Bible,” is creating quite a stir.

The Family Foundation is pleased to be hosting Dr. Wayne Grudem in a four-site speaking tour focused on his new book, “Politics According to the Bible.” Grudem will be speaking in four locations during his three-day, Jan. 14 through Jan. 16 visit to Lexington, Louisville, Princeton and Ashland.

Each of these events are a kind of “Pastors’ Appreciation Gathering,” bringing pastors together from all denominations and offering them a brief seminary-level seminar that is sure to enhance their understanding of your pastor’s mission has essentially become the Lexington Thought Police, enforcing laws they have now interpreted to mean that some businesses owned by Christians to violate their religious beliefs the way they have done in Lexington. See how just far they intend to push these laws.

Dr. Wayne Grudem

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Prior to Phoenix Seminary, he taught for twenty years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, where he was Associate Dean of the Department of Biblical and Systematic Theology. He received a B.A. from Harvard University, an M.A. from Westminster Seminary (Philadelphia), and a Ph.D. (in New Testament) from the University of Cambridge in England. He has published sixteen books, including his most recent, “Politics According to the Bible,” which is the topic of his presentation at each of the four locations in Kentucky.

With the rising interest in religious liberty following the presentation at each of the four locations in Kentucky.

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The irony is that the free exercise of religion is explicitly protected by the First Amendment. But the new diversity bureaucracy is clearly not going to let that get in the way.

Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation.

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