

# The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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## U of L's significant ties with abortion unmasked

*The school has taken a radical pro-abortion posture to the end that its professors currently do ALL of Kentucky's surgical abortions.*

What stunned many Kentuckians during the time period of the 2020 General Assembly was the revelation that the University of Louisville's School of Medicine was deeply involved with Kentucky's only operating abortion clinic.

The extent of that involvement is expected to be researched and investigated by Attorney General Daniel Cameron. (Note: With Gov. Beshear's blessing, Planned Parenthood began doing

abortions at their offices in Louisville in late March during the height of the Kentucky COVID-19 crisis.)

Uncovering U of L's abortion involvement began in 2015 when Joyce Ostrander, policy analyst for The Family Foundation, discovered that its School of Medicine had a "Ryan Residency program." Looking into the program more deeply, she was surprised to learn that

Ryan Residency programs are initiated by the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, whose home is the University of California in San Francisco.



The purpose of the entire effort is to provide abortions and train abortionists at universities located in states that do not allow public funding for abortion. In other words, they come alongside a university and provide a relationship that circumvents the spirit of the state law. (See related stories on pages 6 & 7)

U of L has had its Ryan Residency Program operating since at least 2011, according to documents secured from testimony in a trial dealing with Kentucky abortion law.

But there are other disturbing facts that have been uncovered. In a news conference held by The Family

Foundation staff on Feb. 26 asked Attorney General Daniel Cameron to investigate further. Policy analysts Martin Cothran and Joyce Ostrander, and Kent Ostrander, executive director, articulated these concerns, drawn from

open records requests and other court documents:

- EMW Women's Surgery Center has some kind of working relationship with two U of L School of Medicine

**EMW Women's Surgery Center has employed two U of L School of Medicine professors. The two do ALL of the surgical abortions performed in Kentucky.**

professors. The two do ALL of the surgical abortions performed in Kentucky.

- Roughly 3,600 abortions are done at that clinic each year, with about 2/3s of them being surgical abortions, (Medical abortions – abortions generated by the patient taking medications – make up approximately 1/3 of the state's abortions.)

*For more, go to page 6*



(l to r) Martin Cothran, Joyce & Kent Ostrander at the Feb. 26 news conference on U of L

## 2020 Session: A "mixed bag" for the family

*All in all, we must remain grateful for what did pass and what was stopped!*

The 2020 Session began with a great deal of promise, but ended with somewhat of a "thud" because of the COVID-19 shutdown. Yes, several good bills for the family were passed. And, yes, several bad bills were killed. But the overwhelming takeaway is "So much more could have been

done, if COVID-19 had stayed away another few weeks."

To be clear, pro-family legislators worked *very hard* and were on course to have a *great* Session for the family.



But COVID-19 ended the paths forward for a number of very good bills, leaving them with not enough time to pass before the shortened Session came to an end.

Fortunately, on the last day, courageous legislators moved SB 9 and HB 451. See more about these, and other substantive

pro-family bills that were offered this year, but did not pass, on pages 2 and 3. Without doubt, legislators are hoping to renew their work on them in 2021.

**For a pro-family "Offensive Victories" and "Defensive Kills" listing, go to pages 2-3**

# Offensive Victories: Good Bills that passed

## Senate Bill 9: Born Alive Infant Protection Act

**Vetoed by Gov. Beshear!!!**



**By Sen. Whitney Westerfield:** This bill protects infants, who are born alive, from being denied nourishment and reasonable medical care. SB 9 applies to infants born alive after an attempted abortion and also to infants who may be born with medical complications or who are not wanted by their parents. (This bill passed the full Senate and its House Committee in 2019, but died in the House for lack of time.)

**Advocates said:** All human life must be protected. There are cases across the nation where infants born alive after abortion attempts have been allowed to starve to death and have been denied any care. **Status:** This bill, WITH HB 451 AMENDED INTO IT, passed the Senate on Jan. 27 with a 32 to 0 vote and the House on April 15 with a 70 to 16 vote. (See HB 451 below) **Gov. Beshear vetoed SB 9 on April 24.**

## House Concurrent Resolution 5: Expediting Responsible Marijuana Research



**By Rep. Danny Bentley:** This resolution (HCR 5) urges the Federal Government to re-schedule marijuana from a Schedule I drug and then expedite the study of the possible medical benefits of marijuana, using evidence-based science. The resolution addresses several issues that prevent potential medicines from being made safely available to Kentucky citizens.

**Advocates said:** The Kentucky legislature should not try to do the job of the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Even though marijuana has been around a long time, it has not been studied properly. Opioids were also around a long time, but were not properly researched before doctors began routinely prescribing. (And look what happened.) **Status:** HCR 5 passed the House 89 to 2 on Jan. 30 and the Senate 35 to 0 on March 3. Signed by Governor on March 9.

## House Bill 451: Expands the Attorney General's Authority to Enforce Abortion Laws



**By Rep. Stan Lee:** When fashioned, the Kentucky Constitution created a fairly weak Attorney General's office, but HB 451 bolsters the Attorney General's authority regarding the investigation of the state's abortion industry.

**Advocates said:** HB 451 is critical to what is going on in Kentucky . . . consider: 1) U of L's deep involvement with the abortion clinic in Louisville; 2) the Governor's abortion clinic favoritism during the COVID-19 crisis; and 3) the newly-opened abortion clinic in Louisville – Planned Parenthood – right in the midst of COVID-19. These things must be looked into! **Status:** This bill passed the House on March 10 with a 70 to 23 vote and passed the Senate on April 15 with a 31 to 2 vote. But it was never sent to the Governor because the essence of the bill had been amended into Senate Bill 9 (See above.)

## House Bill 2: Strengthening the Human Trafficking Laws



**By Rep. Suzanne Miles:** HB 2 adds offenses to what qualifies as a sex crime and it affirms that a human trafficking victim's cooperation during an offense shall not disqualify the state from having a criminal claim.

**Advocates said:** HB 2 is another step forward in the war to combat the plague of human trafficking that has beset the entire world and that has become a national transgression in America as well. **Status:** This bill passed the House on March 9 with a unanimous 87 to 0 vote and passed the Senate on March 26 with another unanimous 33 to 0 vote. Gov. Beshear signed HB 2 into law on April 2.

*Our thanks to so many courageous legislators who worked hard to accomplish many great things in this 2020 Session. It is true that much of their work did not come to fruition because of the virus cutting the Session short, but they deserve a round of applause and a pat on the back for their hard work for Kentucky families and the values that make families strong.*

### The Family Foundation's analysts who served legislators



(l to r) Baxter Boyd, Cole Cuzick, Joyce Ostrander and John Wehrle



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# Defensive Kills: ***Bad Bills that were stopped***

## House Bill 137: Gambling Expansion - (the so-called “Sports Wagering” Bill)



**By Rep. Adam Koenig:** This bill was called the “Sports Wagering” Bill because it would have expanded gambling in Kentucky beyond 1) horse racing, 2) charitable gambling, and 3) The Lottery, into the world of sports and “other” competition. Originally, the bill authorized wagering only on professional sports, but the bill’s language was expanded into college sports in Kentucky, Fantasy Sports and online Poker.

**Opponents said:** 1) To expand gambling you must change the Kentucky Constitution with an amendment; 2) HB 137 targets the poor and young people, setting up gambling on cell phones “24/7”; 3) The language is overbroad, giving the Racing Commission *H-U-G-E* control with no Executive Ethics Code; 4) The bill has been written *BY* gambling folks *FOR* gambling folks with no concern for the people; 5) No studies – *ZERO* – have been done to predict the impact on Kentucky families. **Status:** HB 137 passed its House Committee on Jan. 15. It died there primarily because of courageous work of many House Republicans who did not want to see their majority in the House bend to serve the gambling industry. There likely were enough Democrats and Republicans together that *could* have secured passage. Of course, what was missing is that HB 137 was not a constitutional amendment, which many believe was required by law.

## House Bill 136: Legalizing Medical Marijuana (in an arbitrary way)



**By Rep. Jason Nemes:** This bill is almost exactly the opposite of House Concurrent Resolution 5 (*see left on page 2*). It legalizes medical marijuana in Kentucky and sets up Kentucky’s own efforts to regulate and study the plant. The question is whether this law will do what the FDA can do.

**Opponents said:** Kentucky cannot do as thorough a job researching the plant as the FDA. **Status:** HB 136 passed its House Committee on Feb. 12 and the full House on Feb. 20 with a vote of 65 to 30. It died in the Senate with the Senate choosing, instead, to pass HCR 5 (*see page 2 on left*). HCR 5 calls for the FDA to expedite its research so that no one would be hurt by a premature authorization of marijuana. Every drug has bad interactions with other medications. Marijuana is no exception; it just hasn’t been researched to find its vulnerabilities.

# ***Good Bills that failed** (by COVID-19 pressure or opposition)*

**House Bill 67: The Human Life Amendment - By Rep. Joe Fischer:** This bill was a Constitutional Amendment that affirms that the Kentucky Constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion funding or to have abortion.

**House Bill 281: Educating on Pornography - By Rep. Nancy Tate:** This bill requires the KY Dept. of Education to develop informational materials on the public health risks and potential harms of sexually explicit internet content and to distribute the informational materials to parents and guardians of students.

**House Bill 321: Youth Health Protection Act - By Rep. Savannah Maddox:** This bill prohibits the attempts to surgically or hormonally change the biological sex of any child under the age of 18.

**House Bill 370: Dignified Disposal of Human (Fetal) Remains - By Rep. Nancy Tate:** This bill would ensure that the bodies of pre-viability babies, and babies whose lives are terminated by abortion or by natural causes, would be treated in a manner that respects the dignity of human life.

**House Bill 447: “Safe Haven Baby Boxes” Act - By Rep. Nancy Tate:** For mothers who are tempted to abandon their newborn child, specially designed, medically safe boxes are installed in participating fire stations or hospitals, which are manned 24/7.

**Senate Bill 90: The Medical Ethics and Diversity Act - By Sen. Stephen Meredith:** This bill provides religious liberty and conscience protections for medical professionals regarding controversial medical technologies and practices.

**Senate Bill 114: “Save Women’s Sports” Act - By Sen. Robby Mills:** This bill would prohibit biological males from competing in girls’ athletic events at the college and high school level in Kentucky schools.

**Senate Bill 116: Parents’ Rights Protection Act - By Sen. Stephen West:** This bill affirms the rights of parents as “fundamental rights,” directing the courts to honor them before they infringe on the upbringing of children.

# The Family Foundation focuses on lawmakers, but we also engage courts . . .

*We do “friend of the court” (amicus) briefs to protect Kentucky families. In some sense, as the Declaration of Independence foresaw, as long as we have life and First Amendment liberties, then every American can indeed choose the pursuit of happiness.*

Over the past four years, The Family Foundation has filed a number of *amicus* (or “friend of the court”) briefs in court cases that touched on our strong interest of protecting the sanctity of life and the First Amendment rights of all Kentucky families. This is one way, in addition to working with state legislators and keeping Kentuckians informed on legislative issues, that The Family Foundation fulfills its mission to protect the family and the values that make families strong. Though The Family Foundation is a party in the 9<sup>th</sup>-year court case that focuses on the expansion of gambling via slot-like horse racing machines, it more often engages critical court cases through *amicus* briefs, believing that policies should be made in the legislature by the peoples’ duly-elected senators and representatives; compliance to those policies should be judged by the court. Unfortunately, for decades judges have been asked by liberal individuals and groups to make policies from the bench. These cases are simply pushing back on those who would use the court to usurp the legislature.

## June Medical Services v. Russo (2019)

**Status of case:** *This case is currently pending at U.S. Supreme Court – Oral arguments were heard on March 4, 2020*

The State of Louisiana passed a law intended to promote maternal health and its underlying interest in protecting unborn life. While the law prohibits abortion providers from conducting abortions without admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, it is no broader than necessary to protect the mother from complications requiring emergency attention. In applying *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* to abortion cases, lower courts have adopted an essentially legislative role. The Family Foundation and other family policy councils urge the U.S. Supreme Court to establish an objective standard that ensures the rule of law is upheld, states have guidance, and public confidence in the courts is strengthened. Under an objective standard similar to that used in First Amendment cases, Louisiana’s regulations of abortion clinics would be upheld as constitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case on March 4, 2020 and a decision will likely be announced in June.

## LFUCG Human Rights Commission v. Hands On Originals (2016)

**Status of case:** *Kentucky Supreme Court ruled in favor of Hands On Originals on October 31, 2019*

In 2012, Blaine Adamson, the owner of Hands On Originals, refused to print t-shirts promoting the 2012 Lexington Pride Festival and, in 2014, Lexington’s Human Rights Commission found him guilty of discrimination. But the Circuit Court reversed, declaring that the Commission’s finding was “in violation of Constitutional and statutory provisions” and “without support of substantial evidence on the whole record.” The Commission insisted on continuing to persecute Adamson, appealing to the Court of Appeals. The Family Foundation filed an amicus brief on February 5, 2016, urging the Court of Appeals to uphold the constitutional free speech and religious liberty rights of Adamson. Two of the three judges on the Court of Appeals panel sided with Adamson and Hands On Originals, granting another victory. But the Commission insisted on appealing to the Kentucky Supreme Court. The Kentucky Supreme Court finally brought the 7-year legal battle to an end on October 31, 2019, when it decided in favor of Hands On Originals because those that were going after them for seven years did not have standing under the law to sue.

## NIFLA v. Becerra (2018)

**Status of case:** *U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of NIFLA on June 26, 2018*

In addition to Masterpiece Cakeshop (*see above right*), the U.S. Supreme Court had to hear a second 2018 case about a state government violating the First Amendment rights of its citizens. California chose to compel pro-life crisis pregnancy centers to advertise the availability of free or low-cost abortions. The belief that the unborn child is a separate human life, equal in value to any other living person, is the soul motivating the actions of pro-life pregnancy centers. But the State of California chose to directly interfere with their efforts by forcing them to advertise the availability of free or low-cost means of facilitating death. The Family Foundation argued that there are few state actions more repugnant to the consciences of sincere, pro-life citizens than demanding they advertise the very death-causing procedure they work so mightily to oppose. Compelled speech is not the answer to cultural conflict.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the pro-life pregnancy centers and the First Amendment. In fact, a concurring opinion by four of the justices (a fifth presumably agrees, but could not sign on because he wrote the majority opinion) declared: *“But it is not forward thinking to force individuals to be an instrument for fostering public adherence to an ideological point of view they find unacceptable. It is forward thinking to begin by reading the First Amendment as ratified in 1791; to understand the history of authoritarian government as the Founders then knew it; to confirm that history since then shows how relentless authoritarian regimes are in their attempts to stifle free speech; and to carry those lessons onward as we seek to preserve and teach the necessity of freedom of speech for the generations to come. Governments must not be allowed to force persons to express a message contrary to their deepest convictions. Freedom of speech secures freedom of thought and belief. This law imperils those liberties.”*

## Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission (2017)

**Status of case:** *U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop on June 4, 2018*

Colorado used its “fairness” law to punish a baker for his refusal to create a wedding cake for a same-sex wedding. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the case. The Family Foundation argued that if the state of Colorado prevails in this case, fundamental First Amendment rights have become fragile indeed. They survived world war and the pressure for national unification in the face of an existential threat; surely, they should survive the sexual revolution and the modern pressure for ideological uniformity. The U.S. Supreme Court, on June 4, 2018, decided in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop and made clear that the government cannot show hostility towards religion. While questions remained unanswered about bakers having to create a wedding cake, a strong message was sent that Colorado’s attacks on the religious faith of the baker were unacceptable.

## Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC (2019)

**Status of case:** *This case is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court – Oral arguments heard on October 8, 2019*

On October 8, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Harris Funeral Homes. The Court must decide whether a claim to be transgender makes an employer’s even-handed policies based on biological sex a form of sex discrimination and whether gender is a set of sexual stereotypes. The Family Foundation’s brief argues that parents have a fundamental right to teach and bring up their children, a decision to redefine sex discrimination to include transgender status and gender undermines those fundamental rights. It will limit and unsettle parental rights in dangerous ways – parents’ interests in having single-sex facilities and programs at schools; medical care of their children; and parental involvement in other ways, including the right to custody and parental notification.

## APF v. Becerra (2019)

**Status of case:** *U.S. Supreme Court is currently deciding whether to hear the case.*

In 2010, the California Attorney General’s Office began demanding that all charities fundraising in the state turn over a list of the names and addresses of their major donors. The Attorney General’s Office claimed they would be kept secret, but there have been repeated and widespread leaks. The trial court ruled in favor of the nonprofit organizations, saying that disclosure of major donors and their addresses was a violation of their First Amendment rights. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the disclosure could be required. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering whether to hear the case. In February, the Court requested that the U.S. Government submit its views on the matter. The Family Foundation argues that nonprofits, their donors, and the community they serve benefit from donor anonymity. Requiring disclosure of major donors opens them up to harassment, public shaming, and threats. It therefore chills protected speech and association, results in lost revenue, and causes communities to suffer.

## Chelsey Nelson Photography v. Louisville (2020)

**Status of case:** *The case is currently in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Louisville Division.*

The Family Foundation, along with the Center for Religious Expression, filed an *amicus* brief in federal court to support a Louisville wedding photographer and blogger who is challenging the city’s sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) ordinance for forcing her to promote same-sex weddings and prohibiting her from publicly explaining her beliefs about celebrating marriage. Chelsey Nelson is a young entrepreneur, photographer, and blogger who simply desires the freedom to continue telling stories that present marriage as something created by God, worthy of celebration and honor. The government cannot compel the selecting and composing of written messages or images, that is a universally recognized doctrine. It is time for the courts to bring the City of Louisville into compliance with the U.S. Constitution and Kentucky law.

### Icon Key:



Life Issue



Free Speech



Transgender



Religious Freedom



Privacy



Case Pending



Case Successful



# U of L's ties to abortion in Kentucky *continued from page 1*

- Since the Ryan Residency program started at U of L in 2011, as many as 25,000 to 30,000 abortions have been done at the clinic.

- Medical School OBGYN residents are required to go to the abortion clinic in order to learn the abortion procedures. (A student can opt out of actually performing an abortion, but they *must* go to the facility and read “family planning” materials.)

- At least one of the two U of L professors stated about doing abortions: “I consider it part of my — part of my job. That’s what the University of Louisville hired me to do. But, you know, EMW is just part of my job responsibilities.”

- The clinic likely brings in between \$2.5 to \$3 million each year through abortion procedures alone.

- The clinic does late-term abortions where the living, unborn child is simply torn apart, limb from limb in utero. Many of these late-term abortions are after the maturation point when an unborn child can feel pain. At this clinic, the professor testified, that there is no anesthesia administered.

- The clinic is used by the Ryan Residency program to “match trained clinicians with health centers and

clinics in need of abortion providers.” Apparently, U of L is a part of the supply chain for creating abortionists.

Ultimately at issue, is whether the University of Louisville is spending tax dollars on providing or

performing abortions. Kentucky law strictly forbids such. Here is KRS 311:715 (1): “Public agency funds shall not be used for the purpose of obtaining an

abortion or paying for the performance of an abortion.”

In one of the grant requests, the author wrote, “Once

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ reviewed and studied state regulations as well as hospital regulations, the hospital policy regarding therapeutic abortions was less stringent than initially expected. The

University of Louisville was not considered a state government facility. Therapeutic abortions could be performed for lethal and non-lethal fetal anomalies.”

Understand this! This doctor (deliberately unnamed above), IS the U of L Ryan Residency Program Director, “reviewed and studied” and then decided that U of L

“was not considered a state government facility” to the end that unborn children with “nonlethal fetal anomalies” could be aborted.

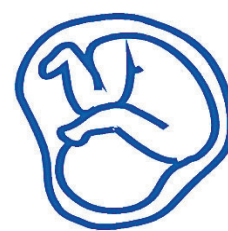
The charge of the Feb. 26 news conference was to ask Kentucky’s newly-elected Attorney General, Daniel Cameron, to investigate U of L’s connections with EMW Women’s Surgery Center.

If U of L has spent *any* money for abortion, then they have broken the law. If they have *not* spent any money but rather have received some form from the clinic, then they

are operating in part on “blood money.”

Whether or not U of L has violated the letter of Kentucky’s law banning the spending of public funds on abortion, they

have certainly violated the spirit of the law and the will of Kentucky citizenry.



**KRS 311:715 (1) Public agency funds shall not be used for the purpose of obtaining an abortion or paying for the performance of an abortion.**

**Learn more at: [kentuckyfamily.org](http://kentuckyfamily.org)**

*Editor’s Note: Though the names of the two U of L professors are public record, we’ve chosen not to print them in this article.*

## Kentucky Candidate Information Survey



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## Sad facts: COVID-19 & Abortion

*Gov. Beshear has a double standard: Abortion “Yes,” Medical clinics “No.”*

Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a serious circumstance for Kentucky, the United States and the world. It has been good that most civic/political leaders have given themselves to mitigate its severity.

Kentucky, generally, has had good leadership in regard to the crisis. But the Commonwealth’s primary problem has been the disparity *FOR* abortion and *AGAINST* all other elective medical treatments. (See page 7)

This favoritism has been particularly manifest as Gov. Beshear pleads each afternoon for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be donated for the use of medical individuals serving COVID-19 victims.

It is important to see “the Big Picture” – the “Years of life” perspective. It’s hard to believe, but true.

From the first of March through April 26 – just over eight weeks into the virus crisis – 208 Kentuckians have died from COVID-19. Most have been older citizens who lost their last, precious years of life.

During the same period of time, 698 unborn babies lost their lives in the Louisville abortion clinic.

To be clear: ALL lives are valuable and ALL lives should be protected.

But examine the magnitude of the “years of life” lost during this same period of time. Estimating (generously) that “everyone would live to be 90 years of age,” the COVID-19 victims who have died have lost a total of 2,840 years of life – over two millennia. [This is calculated using the Governor’s age-of-death chart: 30-39 one death, 40-49 four deaths, 50-59 fourteen deaths, 60-69 thirty-five deaths, 70-79 forty-seven deaths, and 80+ one hundred seven deaths.]

Examine the aborted children’s “years of life” lost: 90 years times 698 individuals equals 62,820 years – over 60 millennia! That’s 22 times more than lost via COVID-19. Sadly, this blatant injustice continues.

To re-state, from March 1 through April 26 in Kentucky – just over eight weeks into the virus crisis:

**There were 2,840 “years of life” lost to COVID-19.**

**There were 62,820 “years of life” lost to abortion.**

*Opinion: A cabal of abortion in a profoundly pro-life state! You cannot make these things up.*

# UofL, abortion & COVID-19 violations

In late February, The Family Foundation reported troubling information that one of the state's two largest universities was involved in the abortion business. In fact, the University of Louisville was for all practical purposes running the state's only remaining abortion clinic.

As it turns out, UofL provides the physicians to EMW Women's Surgical Center and uses it for its "Ryan Residency" Program. The two surgical abortionists at the clinic are UofL employees, operating under quasi-official status of the university. According to one legal deposition provided to The Family Foundation, at least one of the abortionists is paid directly by the taxpayer-funded university.

And not only was the university effectively running the abortion clinic, it was training its own OB/GYN residents to be abortionists. If you are accepted into UofL's Ryan Residency OB/GYN program, you are expected to go to the abortion clinic.

On Feb. 26, The Family Foundation and thirty-five state lawmakers signed a letter to Attorney General Daniel Cameron asking him to investigate the University of Louisville to see if it was violating laws that prevent the taxpayer use of money for abortion.

At a press conference later that day in the Capitol Rotunda, representatives of The Family Foundation laid out their case. One reporter, the *Louisville Courier-Journal's* Deborah Yetter, challenged the claim that UofL's involvement in abortion was anything remarkable or out of the ordinary. In fact, she was visibly angry that anyone would be pointing this out.

Several news outlets carried the story, and most were fair, but Yetter's story in the *C-J* poo-pooed it. Move along, nothing to see here.

Yetter, you will remember, was the reporter who published the fake news story two years ago that The Family Foundation was in favor of child marriage, a story they later had to rewrite after their biggest competition, the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, questioned the story's claims, which were based on a false tweet from an angry legislator.

But then it happened.

The coronavirus hit, and the UofL abortion story got buried among reports of a dangerous pandemic. The federal government began issuing warnings and recommendations, and governors began issuing executive orders mandating social-distancing measures designed to minimize mass infection and deaths.

In Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear began conducting daily coronavirus updates, along

with new daily directives. On March 23, Beshear's Cabinet for Health and Family Services issued a directive banning the performance of elective, non-emergency medical procedures.

No tonsillectomies. No knee or hip replacements. No prostate surgery. No cataract extractions.

But one good thing about no elective surgeries would, of course, be the cessation of abortions. Maybe the directive would unwittingly save a few lives. Think again.

It turned out that the UofL-run EMW Surgical Services is still performing abortions. They are answering their phone and still in full operation. Why is the clinic performing a kind of procedure prohibited by the administration? Unless the life of the mother is threatened, abortion is an elective surgical procedure.

The Family Foundation again called attention to the issue, and once again, the media picked it up. In fact, it became a national story. In a state where you couldn't get a hysterectomy, you could get an abortion. Removing something from the womb was somehow less medically invasive than removing the whole womb.

As a result, on March 27, AG Daniel Cameron issued a statement, saying, "I'm calling on [Cabinet for Health and Family Services] Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander to certify that Kentucky's abortion providers are violating his ban on elective medical procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to perform abortions."

This, of course, sent abortion proponents into paroxysms of irrationality. Abortion, claimed Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky and the ACLU, was an "essential" medical procedure.

*Essential?* What happened to abortion being a "choice"? And as Andrew Lindsey pointed out on Twitter, if abortion is "essential," wouldn't that mean that all pregnant women should have one?

This is the nonsense that we are all now called upon to witness.

EMW Women's Surgical Center should cease performing abortions, not just because it violates a governor's executive order, but because it's wrong—and the University of Louisville should cease its involvement in it for the same reason.



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

## ***This was a BAD choice!!!***

No Kentucky governor has ever met with "Drag Queens" at the Capitol and by so-doing, legitimized their conduct. Yes, all citizens of Kentucky have rights. And, yes, all citizens should be respected as citizens. But . . . to meet with a group of individuals in their "adult sexual entertainment attire" in the Capitol is at least one step beyond healthy, good and right.

This particular group calls themselves the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence," which is itself a derogatory statement against the Catholic Church.

How is this different than, say, a governor meeting with a group of men all dressed in white robes, with white, pointed hoods in the Capitol? Clearly, this governor has a few things to learn.



**Gov. Beshear cavorts with the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence" at the State Capitol on LGBTQ Day on Feb. 19. Though a mockery of the Catholic faith, the Governor sided with "inclusion."**



# The Beshear legacy

*Abortion on demand is a high priority of both father and son.*

It has been a long time in coming, but finally the Steve Beshear family is achieving what it has wanted for decades — the establishment of an abortion-providing Planned Parenthood in Kentucky. Late in March, during the COVID-19 crisis, the clinic opened.

Most people are not aware that Steve Beshear and his wife, Jane, were ardent supporters of Planned Parenthood in the 1980s . . . and perhaps much earlier. Their commitment became public when Steve was running for governor in 1987. He had just finished his stint as Lt. Governor under Gov. Martha Layne Collins and he was considered one of the leaders in the race for Kentucky's top executive position.



Then it happened . . . at a fundraiser in Lexington, pro-life demonstrators revealed, to the media, the Beshear family's commitment to Planned Parenthood. It was critical because that was back when Democrats in Kentucky were still allowed to be pro-life by their Party.

To make a long story short, Steve Beshear did not win the governor's race. But 20 years later he would re-emerge and run for the office again. In this, the 2007 race for governor, Steve Beshear did not mention Planned Parenthood and abortion, choosing rather to emphasize simply that he was "the son of a preacher from western Kentucky." Touting his spiritual lineage, he dodged the issue and pro-life Kentucky elected him.

For eight years he guided the Commonwealth with a quiet pro-choice philosophy, but was never blatantly forward about it. Then, Matt Bevin was elected governor and, in December of 2015, just days before he would leave the Governor's Mansion, Steve Beshear rushed hastily-produced papers to authorize the opening of a new Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Louisville.

That rush generated an incomplete process and the pro-life Bevin was quick to point out that the new Planned Parenthood had not settled its transfer agreement with any hospital, something that had been required by law since 1998. A protracted court case followed which is currently before the Federal 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Though the case has not yet been brought to a conclusion, Kentucky's new Governor, Gov. Andy Beshear has already authorized abortions at the Planned Parenthood center. As mentioned above, it opened for abortion in late March.

It's a long story. it's a family committed to abortion on demand. And it's a step back from having only one abortion clinic in Kentucky. But it is the Beshear legacy.

Those who care for unborn life are now concerned that young Beshear will have his sights set on Lexington and the Planned Parenthood office there. Currently, that office is not authorized to do abortions . . . but we must all wait to see what the future holds.

## UPDATE: Oral arguments still need to be set in the gambling case



Perhaps the Kentucky Supreme Court has been waiting for the 2020 General Assembly to conclude, hoping that lawmakers would do something to lift the burden of deciding one of Kentucky's most controversial issues: gambling expansion.

The case regarding the "horse-themed gambling machines" has gone on for more than 9° years. It was brought in 2010 by the Horse Racing Commission and Kentucky's eight horse racing tracks because *they claimed* that they didn't want to break the law. Yet, they went right ahead and introduced the machines even though the court case wasn't (*isn't*) finished . . . and they've taken millions from some of Kentucky's poorest citizens.

The next step is oral arguments, where Stan Cave, The Family Foundation's attorney will argue that the devices are not pari-mutuel as claimed. Cave awaits the date eagerly.

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