Passing the baton of leadership, The Family Foundation introduces its next executive director

As David Walls transitions into leadership, Kent will continue to serve as a volunteer through the 2022 General Session.

After a nationwide search, The Family Foundation is excited to announce that David Walls, who has more than a decade of experience in the pro-family policy arena, has been chosen as the next executive director of the organization to follow Kent Ostrander.

Since founding The Family Foundation in 1990, Kent Ostrander has faithfully guided the organization to become the leading pro-family policy organization in the Commonwealth. Under Kent’s leadership, The Family Foundation has been a driving force behind Kentucky’s Marriage Amendment, Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and every pro-life bill passed in Kentucky during the last 30 years.

“The Lord has clearly impressed upon me that it is time to pass the baton of leadership of The Family Foundation,” Kent Ostrander said. “I know that David has the passion and gifts to lead The Family Foundation to new heights. I am grateful to the Lord for David, and for the path forward He has prepared for The Family Foundation.”

As The Family Foundation’s next executive director, David is a passionate advocate for public policy that reflects the truth of God’s word.

Prior to joining The Family Foundation, David helped found and served as Vice President of Texas Values, one of the nation’s premier state family policy councils. During David’s leadership at Texas Values, the organization saw tremendous growth and helped pass a major pro-life and religious freedom bill in five-straight legislative sessions in Texas. (Learn more on page 8).

“The Family Foundation is a vital advocate for Kentucky families and the biblical values that make them strong. Kentucky has a special place in the Lord’s work, and building on the strong foundation laid by Kent, we will continue to boldly advocate for God-honoring public policy in Kentucky,” said David Walls.

Kent and the Board of The Family Foundation welcomed David, his wife Lindsey, and their three children to Kentucky earlier this spring. As David transitions into leadership, Kent will continue to serve The Family Foundation as a volunteer through the 2022 General Session.
Chamber of Commerce flies its flag with the LGBTQ movement, opposes religious freedom

Kentucky Chamber again prioritizes opposition to religious freedom in its newly-announced 2022 legislative agenda.

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce’s claim to be about “uniting business” and “advancing Kentucky” is proven false by its repeated opposition to religious freedom. Since 2017, the Chamber’s top legislative priorities have included opposition to religious freedom. The Chamber has repeatedly insulted religious Kentuckians by maligning their consciences and faith as a cover for discrimination. Again, the Chamber’s 2022 legislative agenda renews its opposition to religious freedom. The Chamber opposes any legislation that would protect a business owner’s right to operate according to their religious convictions or conscience.

Never mind that Kentucky business owners have been persecuted by Louisville and Lexington’s “sexual orientation and gender identity” ordinances. So much for “uniting business.”

Never mind that religious freedom is the first among the God-given human rights recognized in the U.S. Constitution.

Never mind that the Kentucky Constitution declares that “No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.”

Never mind that the U.S. Supreme Court justice who legalized homosexuality and same-sex marriage also emphasized that “the people lose when the government is the one deciding which ideas should prevail” and declared “it is not forward thinking to force individuals to ‘be an instrument for fostering public adherence to an ideological point of view [they] fin[d] unacceptable’” (NIFLA v. Becerra). So much for “advancing Kentucky.”

Could it be that the Kentucky General Assembly’s failure to contest the gross overreach of the LGBTQ agenda during the past five years is the direct result of the Kentucky Chamber’s advocacy against religious freedom and wholehearted embrace of the radical LGBTQ agenda?

After all, the Courier Journal reported that the Chamber has topped legislative lobbying spenders in Kentucky during four of the past five years, employing 13 lobbyists in 2021 alone and nearly doubling the spending of the runnerup.

It wouldn’t be the first time the Kentucky Chamber has exerted its influence to pressure the General Assembly into supporting policies harmful to our families—it has also spent years advocating for the expansion of gambling. The 2022 General Assembly will again have the chance to contest the gross overreach of the LGBTQ agenda by protecting our children from harm, stopping the spread of the LGBTQ ideology in our schools, upholding religious freedom, and enacting other common sense legislation.

Who do they work for?

OPINION: So, what happened? One gambling industry lawyer put it this way: We can do anything we want.

In 2021, the General Assembly attempted to unslot slot machines despite court rulings

Casinos are popping up all over Kentucky, some at race tracks and some not. Kentucky casinos host thousands of slot machines and billions of dollars in wagering. They openly prey on Kentucky families with no meaningful regulatory oversight and pay virtually no tax revenue to Kentucky, now in serious financial distress from inattention to public pensions.

Kentucky’s legislative leaders ushered in slot machines – the most predatory and addictive form of gambling – along with a colossal policy debacle after an 11-year court case in which The Family Foundation won not once, but twice, in the Kentucky Supreme Court with unanimous Opinions each time.

Without a vote of the people, the legislature rammed through a statutory definition of slot machines as pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. In other words, the legislature tried to unslot slot machines. President Lincoln once said that calling a dog’s tail a leg doesn’t make it a leg... no matter what Congress calls it.

Another lawsuit would be required to find SB 120 unconstitutional. The power of the gambling industry should never be underestimated. On a related note, the Governor let casinos remain open during the pandemic but sent police to close churches.

The gambling industry lawyer was probably right... They can do anything they want.
How much say parents should have over the education of their children was a decisive factor in contested elections across the nation in November.

In the most-watched political race, Democratic Virginia Governor McAuliffe, who had announced earlier this year “I don’t think parents should be telling schools what they should teach,” was defeated by pro-life and pro-family Republican Glenn Youngkin.

Virginia has been an epicenter of the battle over parental pushback on LGBTQ and CRT indoctrination efforts in public schools, including a local school board attempt to cover up that a female student was sexually assaulted by a “gender fluid” male student wearing a skirt in the school bathroom.

The election also came after the National School Boards Association labeled concerned parents as domestic terrorists and the Biden Administration tasked the FBI to begin investigating them.

Nearly one-quarter of voters indicated that the education issue most motivated their vote.

Polls revealed that a majority of voters think parents should have “a lot” of say in what their child’s school teaches, with 97 percent agreeing they should have some say.

Parents are ultimately responsible for their child’s education and parents do not surrender their rights over what is being taught at public schools. November’s election showed that parents are taking their responsibility seriously and standing up for the wellbeing of their children.

Here in Kentucky, the 2022 General Assembly will have the opportunity to take bold action to further protect parental rights, stop the spread of divisive LGBTQ and CRT ideologies in our schools, and protect our students with commonsense legislation like the Save Girls’ Sports Act.

KY Special Elections

The Family Foundation looks forward to working with the General Assembly, including these newly-elected lawmakers, as we advocate for God-honoring public policy that strengthens Kentucky’s families.

Donald Douglass (R) - 22nd Senate District
Michael “Sarge” Pollock (R) - 51st House District
Timmy Truett (R) - 89th House District

These newly-elected members were chosen by voters on Nov. 2, after vacancies opened up due to two deaths and a resignation.
Many legislative successes in the last 5 years!

2017

**20-Week Abortion Ban (Pain-Capable Ban) [SB 5]**
Prohibits an abortion on a woman who is 20-weeks or more into her pregnancy because medical assessments indicate that an unborn child feels pain by 20-weeks gestation.

**Defunding Planned Parenthood [SB 8]**
Sets up a tiered funding approach so that federal and regional healthcare clinics for women would receive federal monies first — before Planned Parenthood.

**The Ultrasound Bill [HB 2]**
Requires abortionists to do an ultrasound on every woman seeking an abortion, describe what the ultrasound shows, and make any detectable heartbeat audible for the woman.

**Student Free Speech & Religious Liberty [SB 17]**
Requires students' religious and political speech at school to be allowed on the same terms as nonreligious and nonpolitical speech.

**Civics Test for Graduation [SB 159]**
Requires public school students to pass a civics test, taken form the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, before graduation.

**No Sex Offenders at Playgrounds [HB 38]**
Sex offender registrants must receive advance written permission before being on the grounds of a publicly owned playground.

**Biblical Literacy Bill [HB 128]**
Allows the study of the Bible in public schools for its literary and cultural contribution to Western Civilization and American culture.

**Child Placement with Fictive Kin [HB 180]**
Allows placement of a child with fictive kin—someone not related by birth, adoption, or marriage but who has an emotionally significant relationship with the child.

**Charter Schools [HB 520]**
Allows the creation of public charter schools in Kentucky.

**Human Trafficking [HB 254]**
Makes the promotion of human trafficking a crime, if the victim is under the age of 18. Also requires the National Human Trafficking Hotline to be posted in public schools.

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2018

**Ban on Telehealth Chemical Abortions [SB 112]**
Prohibits doctors from dispensing an abortion pill with only a “computer visit” while expanding telehealth within the Commonwealth.

**Banning Dismemberment Abortion [HB 454]**
Prohibits abortions involving the dismemberment, bodily crushing, or human vivisection of a preborn child when post-fertilization age is 11+ weeks, except medical emergency.

**Honoring Pregnancy Help Centers [HCR 152]**
Commends pregnancy help centers for providing free services (at no cost to the taxpayer) to vulnerable women, men, and their families facing an unplanned pregnancy.

**Internet Trafficking [HCR 93]**
Urges Congress to close the loophole in the Federal Communications Decency Act (FCDA) that gave immunity to online sites, such as “Backpage.com,” that knowingly and recklessly advertised sex to connect their “customers” with trafficking victims.

**Adoption and Foster Care Reform [HB 1]**
Makes major changes to the current foster care and adoption system, adopting recommendations from a legislative task force that was formed after years of requests.

**Abstinence in Sex Education [SB 71]**
If a public school has a Sex Education program, “abstinence from sexual activity before marriage” must be included as the only guarantee against pregnancy and STDs.

**Defending Dignity [SR 170]**
Declares that porn presents a public health crisis and recognizes connections between pornography, objectification of women, and sex trafficking.

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2019

**Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Ban [SB 9]**
Prohibits an abortion after the detection of a heartbeat, except for medical emergencies.

**Abortion Prescription Reporting [SB 50]**
Clarifies that medications given by a physician for the intent of causing an abortion must be reported as an abortion and included by the Kentucky Bureau of Vital Statistics.

**Unborn Non-Discrimination Act [HB 5]**
Prohibits abortion based on the preborn child’s sex, race, or disability.

**Post Roe v. Wade Abortion Ban [HB 148]**
Prohibits abortion, except for the life or physical health of the mother, should either Roe v. Wade be overturned or constitutional amendment restore Kentucky’s authority.

**National Motto in Public Schools [HB 46]**
Public elementary and secondary schools must prominently display the national motto.

**Day of Prayer for Kentucky Students [HB 166]**
Designates the last Wednesday in September as “A Day of Prayer for KY’s Students.”

**College Free Speech Act [HB 254]**
KY colleges & universities must protect right of students & faculty to speak, write, and learn without threat of intimidation. Groups can invite speakers.

**Banning Sex with Animals [SB 67]**
Prohibits sexual acts or sexual contact with an animal for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, abuse, or financial gain.
**BUT, There’s Much More To Be Done...**

It’s time for us (you and I, as Kentucky citizens) and our legislators to address the other issues of our time.

During my 32 years at the helm of The Family Foundation, we have worked each Session to get a focused, handful of bills into law. In the last five years, a significant number have become law and we are pleased. ...but there is more to do!

Some years have been more fruitful than others. But let’s look from a longer-range perspective — comparing the political alignment across Kentucky:

**In 1990,** when we opened the doors of The Family Foundation... 
- The State House had 71 Democrats and 29 Republicans. Now that’s been reversed, 75 Republicans and 25 Democrats.
- The State Senate had 29 Democrats and 9 Republicans. Now that’s been reversed, 30 Republicans and 8 Democrats.
- And, ALL seven Constitutional officers were Democrats. Now ALL are Republican, except the Governor.

We’re not taking credit for these partisan changes, but our getting truth and perspective disseminated has helped educate ALL Kentuckians about what is going on in Frankfort. And we're still working. For example...

On Nov. 17 we hosted a dinner in Frankfort for more than 30 state legislators to hear Matt Sharp of Alliance Defending Freedom (our national legal partner). His briefing outlined laws passed in other states in 2021 that we hope our legislators will grab and pass in 2022. Clearly, Kentucky is already a leader on the sanctity of life issue, but we have much more we can do in the religious liberty, education and parental rights realms, as well as contesting the gross overreach of the LGBTQ agenda.

AND...we’re currently working on a large, Pro-Family Rally at the Capitol on Feb. 15, 2022. Please join us. (This will be my last rally while I’m at The Family Foundation.)

In order to save money, I will continue with The Family Foundation through the 2022 Session as a volunteer (like I’ve asked you to be for years). But, please take my following request to heart...

If you haven’t given in support of The Family Foundation recently, please do. We are behind where we want/need to be because we have spent money on:

1) the transition time of David Walls and I both being employed, and because of the money we will spend on: 2) Getting the word out on legislation in the 2022 Session (and our Feb. 15 Rally); and 3) the “YES For Life Amendment” slated for next November.

We truly need your support at this time. Please give before year’s end so we can enter 2022 from a place of strength.

**Make a Tax Deductible Gift**

- Online: kentuckyfamily.org
- Mail: P.O. Box 911111, Lexington, KY 40591-1111
- Phone: 859-255-5400

**Pro-Life Constitutional Amendment [HB 91]**

Affirms that there is no right to abortion or abortion funding in the Kentucky Constitution. If ratified, it will protect laws from activist judges. Voters ratify Nov. 2022.

**“Safe Haven Baby Boxes” Act [HB 155]**

Authorizes installation of hospital-grade containers at fire stations or hospitals, where women in need can anonymously and safely leave their baby; instead of abandonment.

**Conscience Protections for Vaccines [SB 8]**

“Conscientiously held beliefs” added to existing medical & religious exemptions for KY government vaccine mandates. A written sworn statement is required.

**The Online Enticement Statute [SB 64]**

Clarifies the crime and increases the penalties for adults who solicit, through an intermediary, a minor under the age of 12 for sexual acts. Also enhances some penalties.

**Public & Private School Tax Credits [HB 563]**

Requires abortionists to do an ultrasound on every woman seeking an abortion, describe what the ultrasound shows, and make any detectable heartbeat audible for the woman.

**Condemnation of Anti-Semitism [SR 67 & HR 41]**

Allows up to $25 million in tax credits to businesses who donate to grant and scholarship organizations that help under-privileged students have access to various schools and programs in other schools.
When politicians discuss education, their focus is almost always on issues like the funding of schools, or class sizes, bullying, or education technology. Parental rights are usually at the bottom of the list, if on the list at all. It would take something extraordinary to bring it to the full attention of policymakers.

But something extraordinary has happened. Because of a curious constellation of political circumstances, parental rights are now squarely at the center of public attention. As a result of Virginia’s recent gubernatorial election in which the candidate who took the side of concerned parents in local school debates won unexpectedly. Glenn Youngkin flipped numerous counties from Democrat to Republican in a largely blue state by taking the side of parents—and conversely, Terry MacAuliffe lost after famously denigrating parents in a candidate debate. (See page 3).

In terms of parents rights, it was the shot heard ‘round the world’. And the conditions were ripe for it. Because of COVID lockdowns, parents saw for the first time what their children were being taught, and for many (already upset by the lockdowns and mask requirements) the biggest issue was Critical Race Theory (CRT). CRT is an idea that officially applies a fashionable belief in colleges and universities, holding that institutions (rather than individuals) can be racist and that policies producing unequal outcomes are automatically racist, despite the fact that no participant in the policy is racist.

In the broader sense, of course, CRT refers to any of a number of policies and educational initiatives that teach that someone can be a racist simply because he or she is a member of a particular race and despite the fact that that person may not harbor any actual racist thoughts. Many of these programs teach that if you are White, you are automatically racist.

It’s hard to blame parents for being upset, since, while our schools are engaging in this kind of indoctrination, scores on reading and math tests continue to plummet.

At bottom, parents don’t require all that much from schools. They simply want them to be taught the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, the basic language and math skills outlined in the liberal arts, and the basic disciplines of history, literature, and the natural sciences. It’s really not all that complicated.

But instead of doing these fundamental things, we have many schools that are using valuable education time to teach the latest fashionable political ideologies, and parents don’t like it.

The irony of the debate over parental rights is that schools are constantly complaining that they don’t have enough parental involvement, but when parents actually show up at school board meetings, it’s suddenly considered a problem.

But Kentucky has its own history of problems with parental rights and involvement. Our current system of school governance was the result of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA). KERA weakened local school boards in favor of “site-based decision-making councils” at each school. In order to get teacher union support for the reforms, lawmakers gave teachers three seats on these councils and parents only two (the other seat was for the principal or administrator, giving the school a 4-2 majority over parents).

In other words, Kentucky parents are in a much weaker position than parents in other states who can simply go to their school boards to advocate for change.

Kentucky needs to reform its school governance model to allow for greater parental involvement. But, more importantly, it needs to allow for more parental choice in general. The Kentucky General Assembly already passed charter school legislation, but it did not provide funding for charters. Why not? Our legislature has conservative majorities in both chambers, so why can we not get this done? And why, unlike other states, do we not have broader school choice laws?

These are good questions for your state senator and representative. Education and parental rights in schools are now a national issue. It’s also a state issue.
U.S. Supreme Court may be poised to overturn Roe v. Wade, return abortion issue to the States

Members of The Family Foundation team attend oral arguments in Washington, D.C. as Kentucky prepares for after Roe.

On December 1, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the case which could overturn Roe. TFF Teammembers joined many pro-life supporters and leaders outside the Supreme Court.

After more than 62 million lives lost, it is past time for our nation’s High Court to overturn Roe and allow states to once again protect the right to life of their most vulnerable citizens.

That’s why The Family Foundation signed onto a legal brief arguing that the Court must overrule the clearly erroneous decisions in the Roe and Casey abortion cases — their holdings violate the fundamental right to life given by God, which has long been recognized in common law and is protected in the Ninth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Our brief came alongside Mississippi’s, which advocates for overruling Roe and Casey through persuasively arguing that the legal standards have proven unworkable, the decisions have inflicted significant damage, science and society have changed, and there is a lack of reliance on the cases.

The sanctity of life is one of The Family Foundation’s core issues and it has advocated for every pro-life law in the Commonwealth during the past 32 years.

All of those pro-life laws sent the same message: We will affirm life in every way we can while under Roe v. Wade and prepare for after Roe, protecting the wellbeing of both the preborn and mother.

Not only has Kentucky become a pro-life leader, but it is also well-positioned for Roe’s aftermath.

In 1994, The Family Foundation helped establish the Kentucky Association of Pregnancy Care Centers. Those centers, numbering about 50 throughout Kentucky, were honored by the General Assembly in 2018 for their free services to those facing an unplanned pregnancy.

In 2019, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted a trigger law that will automatically prohibit abortion, except for the life or physical health of the mother, upon Roe being overturned.

In 2021, the General Assembly proposed an amendment to make clear that the Kentucky Constitution contains no right to abortion or abortion funding. If ratified by voters in November 2022, this amendment will ensure that the injustice of Roe is not merely exchanged for that of activist justices closer to home.

Kentucky is ready for the Court’s decision, expected in June.

“Humanity in Healthcare Act” — Pro-life omnibus bill proposed for 2022 session

Given that Kentucky has recently seen a surge in abortions, we must step up and protect life as much as possible.

While we prepare for life after Roe, we must continue to press forward in our effort to do all that we can to protect human life today. Additionally, Kentucky has seen a surge in abortion procedures in recent years. We must step up and try to protect life as much as possible.

To combat this reality, Rep. Nancy Tate (R) is spearheading the effort to pass the “Humanity in Healthcare Act,” which is a pro-life omnibus bill that is expected to make an appearance in the upcoming 2022 legislative session. This new bill will expand the scope of the pro-life omnibus bill (HB 460) she introduced last legislative session. It was heard in the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection on October 20th.

This piece of legislation will contain provisions that will place many restrictions on abortion-related subjects. These subjects will include the following… 1) documentation of parental consent for minors; 2) criteria for the judicial bypass process for a minor who does not want to inform parents that they are pregnant and their intent to have an abortion; 3) expanding the reporting requirements for abortion to help gather appropriate statistical data; 4) requiring a report with findings from an annual audit and abortion facility inspections; 5) prohibiting abortion-inducing drugs from being mailed or shipped directly to a patient; 6) requiring dignified disposal of preborn human remains; and 7) prohibiting public agency funds from being paid to any entity, organization, or individual that performs or refers for abortion.

Protections for medical professionals who refuse or decline to participate in abortion procedures because of their religious convictions or conscience will also be included.

The Family Foundation will be actively involved in promoting and supporting the Humanity in Healthcare Act in the 2022 legislative session, as we seek to protect the right to life!
Meet TFF’s new executive director and family

David is a follower of Jesus and a passionate advocate for public policy that reflects the truth of God’s word, including religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and biblical family values.

Prior to accepting the role as Executive Director for The Family Foundation, David helped found and served as Vice-President of Texas Values, one of the nation’s premier state family policy councils and a state family policy ally of The Family Foundation.

He also previously worked for First Liberty Institute, the nation’s largest legal organization dedicated exclusively to protecting religious liberty, as grassroots coordinator, and as Campaign Manager for Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell.

During David’s leadership at Texas Values, the organization saw tremendous growth, more than tripling its staff and budget, and helped pass a major pro-life and religious freedom bill in each of the last 5 Texas Legislative Sessions; including the “Save Chick-fil-A” Religious Freedom Law, The Freedom to Serve Children Act, Texas’ Dismemberment Abortion Ban, The Freedom to Worship Act, and The Texas Heartbeat Law.

David also led the effort to launch Texas Values’ legislative action arm, Texas Values Action, as a partnered 501(c)(4) organization. In his role at Texas Values Action, he managed the organizations’ political activity and special projects, including its statewide voter guide and the creation of its Faith & Family Scorecard, the most comprehensive pro-family legislative scorecard in the state.

David received a Master’s Degree in Political Science & Legislative Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas where he was honored as an Archer Center Graduate Program in Public Policy Fellow. He also has received an MBA from the University of Texas in Arlington and received his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University.

David and his wife Lindsey have been blessed with three children and live in Lexington where they are members at Porter Memorial Baptist Church.