

CITIZEN

STANDING FOR FAMILIES & THE BIBLICAL VALUES THAT STRENGTHEN THEM

Vol. XXXII No. 1

First Quarter 2023

LEGISLATIVE EDITION: Parents or Government? The Battle for Kentucky's Kids Takes Center Stage

The Kentucky General Assembly has an opportunity to protect parents' rights and their children from harm this session.

With Kentucky's 2023 Legislative Session underway in Frankfort, the time is ripe for the General Assembly to protect parental rights and protect Kentucky's children from harm.

Most Kentuckians know that parents, not the Government, have the right and responsibility to direct the upbringing of their children. Yet attacks on the fundamental rights of parents are seemingly growing daily.

From President Biden indicating children don't belong to parents when "they're in the classroom," to a national education group openly calling on teachers to disregard parents on LGBT issues, to a leading publication recently asking "Is Defying Parents the Only Ethical Alternative?" — there can be no doubt that the classroom is a battleground for the hearts and minds of our children.

But what about here in the Bluegrass state? You may be surprised to know that Kentucky is one of only a handful of states that does not recognize parental rights as a

fundamental right. In fact, an experienced Christian attorney recently told me that Kentucky's existing statutory language impacting parental rights "might be as bad as California."

Just since the last session here in Kentucky: The KY Dept. of Education issued an LGBTQI "toolkit" for all Kentucky public schools with pronoun "guidance" that trampled on parental rights; multiple school districts are actively violating students' privacy by allowing boys who "identify" as girls to access girls' facilities; and reports have even surfaced of LGBT indoctrination in classrooms as early as third grade.

Kentucky must regain ground for families with leg-



Executive Director David Walls

islation like the "Parental Rights Protection Act," which recognizes parental rights as fundamental and promotes transparency and parental involvement in schools, and the "Help Not Harm Act," protecting children from harmful "sex-change" experiments that can leave minors mutilated and harmed for life. Kentucky's families — parents and their children — need the Body of Christ to engage this session!

As I like to remind, government belongs to those who show up. We can all "show up" by phone, email, and in-person to encourage our legislators to act. Thank you for standing with The Family Foundation as we educate and advocate for God-honoring policy for the good of our Commonwealth!

IN THIS ISSUE: Priority Pro-Family Bills & Invite to Upcoming Event

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Contact your Kentucky Senator and Representative on each priority pro-family bill: three times by phone and three times by email on our new online action center.
(see page 4-5 for priority pro-family bills)

KY is Way Behind in Protecting Parents' Rights, the Parental Rights Protection Act Fixes That

Rep. Shane Baker's Parental Rights Protection Act (HB 177) ensures that parents are able to seek their kids' best interests.

The Problem

Parental rights are under attack in numerous areas, but most noticeably in public education. Parents are too often left out, dismissed, and left feeling helpless in their pursuit of what they believe to be in the best interests of their children.

Gov. Beshear's Kentucky Department of Education even issued guidance to every school in the Commonwealth urging them to indoctrinate students with LGBT propaganda and to keep parents in the dark about their child's "gender identity" at school.

Why Isn't This Already Settled?

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the long-held presumption that "a fit parent will act in the best interest of his or her child" and spoke of the parents having a "fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control" of their children.

However, the Court caused some confusion and created a gray area by failing to explicitly state that this fundamental right received the same legal protection that other fundamental rights, such as religious liberty and free speech, enjoy.

KY Way Behind in Protecting Parental Rights

Fifteen (15) states have laws explicitly defining and protecting parental rights; while thirty-two (32) states protect parental rights with "strict scrutiny," the highest level of legal protection, in the courts through state law or court decision. Kentucky has neither.

HB 177 TALKING POINTS

1. Parents, not the state, should have authority

89.3% of Kentuckians agree; parents should have authority over their child's upbringing and education.

2. Most states give the highest legal protection to parental rights, but NOT Kentucky.

Courts apply strict scrutiny (the highest legal protection) to parental rights in 32 states, while 15 states explicitly affirm the fundamental rights of parents in law.

3. Allows schools and families to benefit from informed and active parental involvement.

Increased transparency, accountability, and parental rights protections in our schools equip our children to succeed.

Help Not Harm Act: Kids Deserve Help, Not the Harm That Gender "Transition" Causes Them

We must ensure children receive the help that gives them the greatest chance of success, not the false hope and harm of gender "transition."

TALKING POINTS

1. Bodily mutilation & hormone experimentation violate the first duty of medicine — Do No Harm.

- Genital mutilation violates KY and U.S. law, while also being deemed unethical by the World Health Organization & United Nations.
- Puberty blockers are being used off-label and cross-sex hormones can cause long-term, irreversible harm.

2. Historical evidence and studies confirm no clinically significant improvement in quality of life after "transition."

Alarming, a growing number of children struggling to embrace their God-given sex are being pressured to "transition" to the opposite biological sex at a very young age.

According to the best studies, 80-95 percent of children with gender dysphoria will come to identify with and embrace their biological sex if they receive help and support. But transgender activists and politicized medical organizations have instead pushed referring children for invasive, harmful forms of "treatment," including off-label use of puberty blockers, administering cross-sex hormones, and even surgeries.

These "treatments" can lead to long-term damage, irreversible harms, and additional risks. They also distract from necessary treatment — a study found that of patients diagnosed with gender dysphoria, 62.7 percent had at least one co-occurring disorder and 33 percent had a major depressive disorder.

In addition to the risks, the "transition" fails to improve quality of life. In 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services concluded that the four best studies did not find any clinically significant changes or differences after reassignment surgery.

European countries, which fell down the rabbit hole before the United States, are recognizing their error and backtracking. The United Kingdom's former hub for transgender intervention is shutting down amid a class action lawsuit by 1,000 families.

Now is the time for Kentucky to protect its children from this evil practice.

Student Privacy Act Keeps Kids Safe in School's Distinctly Private Facilities, Such As Bathrooms

Rep. Bill Wesley's HB 30 is a common sense protection for the safety and privacy of our children at school.

The Problem

Multiple Kentucky school districts are actively violating the privacy of their students in restrooms, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations by allowing biological males to access the distinctly private facilities of female students. Compounding the wrong, this is often done while keeping parents in the dark about the school's policies.

Our Children Need to Feel Safe at School

Allowing biological males access to the girls' private facilities raises commonsense concerns about indecent exposure, and even sexual assault.

Additionally, these private facilities are where our children are most vulnerable to the two most common focuses of school bullying, looks (55%) and body shape (37%). In fact, 43 percent of students fear harassment in the bathroom at school. Add the opposite biological sex into the mix and it's a recipe for disaster.

11th Circuit Court Upholds Student Privacy & Safety

On December 30, 2022, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the policy of a Florida school district that maintained restrooms designated on the basis of biological sex. In the 7-4 ruling in *Adams v. St. Johns County Board of Education*, Judge Barbara Lagoa ruled that the policy did not violate the Equal Protection Clause or Title IX.

HB 30 TALKING POINTS

1. **Protecting Privacy & Safety is Common Sense**
2. **Many Students Already Fear Harassment in the School Bathroom**
3. **Keeping Boys Out of Girls' Restrooms and Locker Rooms is Not Discrimination**

- The 11th Circuit Court ruled 7-4 that it does not violate the Equal Protection Clause or Title IX, and is not discrimination.
- Kentucky nondiscrimination laws explicitly allow protections for distinctly private facilities.

"Medical" Marijuana Isn't the Answer for Kentucky

SB 47 ignores that "medical" marijuana is NOT proven safe & effective, CANNOT be accurately dosed, and could WORSEN opioid crisis.

What is "Medical" Marijuana?

So-called "medical" marijuana is the use of the entire marijuana plant or its crude extracts for supposed therapeutic purposes.

The Problem

Researchers generally consider medications which use purified chemicals derived from or based on those in the marijuana plant to be more promising therapeutically than use of the whole marijuana plant or its crude extracts.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved several marijuana-based medications using purified chemicals that have been proven safe and effective, while others undergo clinical trials. However, use of the whole marijuana plant or its crude extracts remains unproven.

Why Hasn't It Been Proven Safe & Effective?

The marijuana plant, when its crude extracts are used or it is smoked in its entirety, includes hundreds of unknown active chemicals. This also makes accurate, consistent dosages nearly impossible.

There are known adverse health effects of smoking and THC-induced cognitive impairment. Research is also lacking on long-term impacts for people with health and age vulnerabilities, or immune systems compromised from disease or treatment.

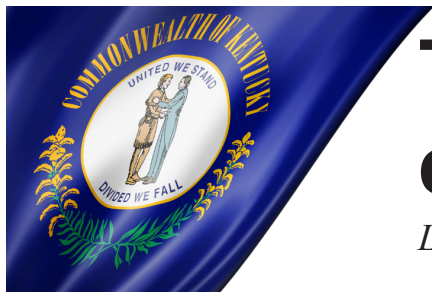
We Can't Count on Marijuana to End Our Opioid Crisis

First of all, the side effects and harms of "medical" marijuana have undergone less stringent study and review than opioids did. We've already seen the devastating harm that unintended consequences can have.

While an initial 2014 study suggested that "medical" marijuana may slow opioid overdose death rates, a 2019 analysis by the same research team found that the trend reversed with additional data. States with medical marijuana experienced an opioid overdose death rate 22.7 percent higher than expected. It's clear that medical marijuana isn't the silver bullet to Kentucky's opioid crisis and that more research is needed.

SB 47 TALKING POINTS

1. **"Medical" marijuana leads to full legalization**
37 states legalized "medical" marijuana; 21 have already expanded to recreational, with at least four more considering it.
2. **Nothing medical about "medical" marijuana**
 - The whole marijuana plant or its crude extracts have not been proven to be safe and effective as medicine.
 - Botanicals contain hundreds of unknown active chemicals and it's near impossible to get accurate and consistent dosage.
3. **Children will be negatively impacted**
Legalization can lead to increased access among children.



These priority pro-family bills seek to enact God-honoring policy!

Let's ensure our families thrive — parents, children, and families matter.

PARENTAL RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

HB 177 (REP. SHANE BAKER)

SUMMARY: The Parental Rights Protection Act enacts needed protections that have been lacking for Kentucky's parents, especially in the education context.

- Recognizes & protects the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, healthcare, and mental healthcare of their child.
- Provides much needed transparency in schools, empowering parents with the knowledge they need to seek what is in their child's best interest.
- No LGBT indoctrination K-12, and no sex-ed in elementary school.

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Mark off your 3 calls

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Mark off your 3 emails

STUDENT PRIVACY ACT

HB 30 (REP. BILL WESLEY)

SUMMARY: HB 30 restores the privacy and safety of Kentucky's school children within distinctly private facilities, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations by prohibiting use by the opposite biological sex.

- Children have had their right to safety and privacy within these distinctly private facilities disregarded at public schools throughout the Commonwealth.
- A recent 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision upheld a school's authority to designate bathrooms on the basis of biological sex and noted that Title IX specifically allows this.

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STUDENTS FIRST AMENDMENT

HB 174 (REP. JOSH CALLOWAY)

SUMMARY: The Kentucky Supreme Court recently blocked the General Assembly's school choice bill, and this Constitutional Amendment is the answer — It allows for the General Assembly to provide for the educational costs of students outside of the system of common schools.

- If passed, it would allow the General Assembly to support all Kentucky students, regardless of whether they attend a public or a non-public school.
- All Kentucky families deserve support & choice in educating their children.

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HELP NOT HARM ACT

BILL NUMBER FORTHCOMING

SUMMARY: The Help Not Harm Act protects Kentucky's children from the harms of "gender transitioning" so they can receive the help they need.

- Doctors should be held accountable when violating their first duty to do no harm, instead partaking in genital mutilation and hormone experimentation.
- "Transitioning" doesn't improve quality of life, but when kids instead receive help, 80-95 percent come to identify with and embrace their biological sex.

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MEDICAL ETHICS & DIVERSITY (MED) ACT

HB 58 (REP. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: HB 58 protects the diversity of beliefs and ethics within the medical profession so that doctors and others can provide the care that their conscience demands, upholding the integrity of the sacred doctor-patient relationship so that patients can be sure their best interest is being sought.

- Protects medical professionals from being mandated to perform a specific procedure that violates their ethical or religious beliefs while ensuring all patients receive care.
- Protects medical professionals from losing their jobs or facing criminal charges for exercising their conscience rights.
- Protects those who report violations of laws or medical ethics.

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RESTORING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ACT

HB 204 (REP. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: House Bill 204 strengthens Kentucky's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed in 2013, by "giving it teeth" allowing legal remedies for those who have their rights infringed.

- Prohibits government from constraining, inhibiting, curtailing, or denying the exercise of religion by any person or compelling any action contrary to a person's exercise of religion.
- Allows courts to stop wrongdoers from violating rights.

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Mark off your 3 calls

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Mark off your 3 emails

YOU can make the difference on each bill!

It's as easy as 1-2-3 — Simply make three calls and send three emails on each of these important bills.

MAKE A CALL!

Legislative Message Line
1-800-372-7181

Simply call the number and leave a message with a receptionist. Here's a sample message:

“Please vote FOR House Bill 177 — the Parental Rights Protection Act. And please vote AGAINST Senate Bill 47 — ‘medical’ marijuana.”

SEND AN EMAIL!

Visit Our Action Center
kentuckyfamily.org/takeaction

Simply enter your address to directly email your Kentucky legislators. Here's a sample message:

“Please vote FOR House Bill 177 — the Parental Rights Protection Act. And please vote AGAINST Senate Bill 47 — ‘medical’ marijuana.”

Bills hurting families and promoting social harms – Together, we can stop them!

MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION SB 47 (SEN. STEVE WEST)

SUMMARY: SB 47 legalizes so-called “medical” marijuana without proper scientific review & safeguards, paving the way to full legalization & social norms.

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WEAKENING KENTUCKY'S PRO-LIFE LAWS BILL NUMBER POSSIBLY FORTHCOMING

SUMMARY: Before the start of session, some lawmakers began discussing a bill to create rape and incest exceptions, thus weakening KY's current pro-life laws.

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SPORTS GAMBLING BILL NUMBERS FORTHCOMING

SUMMARY: Gambling advocates are at it again... trying to expand into sports betting.

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“GRAY” GAMBLING MACHINE LEGALIZATION

SUMMARY: Predatory and illegal gray machines should be banned, not regulated.

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Mark off your 3 calls



We're working to amplify your voice in Frankfort

Our team is promoting biblically sound public policy that points people back to God's good design for the wellbeing of our neighbors.

Each team member of The Family Foundation is working hard during the 2023 General Assembly to create a Kentucky where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.

During this legislative session, our team is working hard to keep you informed, persuade legislators, and encourage our fellow citizens to get engaged.

Together, we can promote and enact legislation consistent with Christian biblical values which, by honoring God, benefit and guide our civic life.

OUR CORE VALUES



Religious
Freedom



Family



Life



Human
Dignity



Human
Sexuality

The Family Foundation Team Serving Kentucky



David Walls



Martin Cothran



Michael Johnson



Baxter Boyd



John Raizor



John Wehrle



Jamie Bloyd

. . .But we need YOU to call your legislators!

We can help prepare the legislator's heart and mind in Frankfort, but it's your call that makes the difference — Please call today!

LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE LINE: 1-800-372-7181

DON'T WAIT

- Good bills won't move unless you call.

BE FULL OF FAITH

- You aren't alone, you are standing with people of faith on Biblical principles.

BE KIND

- Be polite, don't give them a reason to ignore you.

BE DIRECT

- Let them know which bill(s) you're calling about and how you want them to vote.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO CALL

- Multiply your impact by sharing with your Bible study, community group, household, and others.

Gov't Established by God with Holy Calling

We can help government fulfill its divine command.

There are many Christians who are filled with confusion surrounding the idea of how to Biblically view government. Thankfully, we do not have to live in a perpetual state of confusion because Scripture provides us with a precise picture of the purpose and task of the institution of government.

Paul, in chapter thirteen of his letter to the Romans, reveals three key truths about government which allows us to better understand this institution.

1) God Established Government

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Rom. 13:1)

It is important to note that government is not the product of human genius, thought, or invention. Nor did government arise organically as humanity collectively saw the need for it. The institution of government was created and established by God Himself. We may then ask, why is it that God established the institution of Government? Thankfully, Paul answers this in verse four.

2) Government is for Our Good

“For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good.” (Rom. 13:4a)

It is worth pointing out that Paul classifies government as God’s “servant.” Paul writes that government is to serve God for the good of its people. Government is not necessarily to strive to do good for the rulers and kings, but rather for the people who are under the authority of the government. Government was established by God so those under the government could flourish, prosper, be protected, and enjoy their lives.

3) Government is to Restrain and Punish Evil

“But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” (Rom. 13:4b)

From this verse, it is evident that God established government as His agent to bring punishment and wrath on those who act wrongly. Justice is to be primarily carried out by government as it was instituted by God for that specific purpose. Dr. Wayne Grudem puts it this way, “The civil government, in this life, is the means that God has established to carry out justice.”

In summary, God established government to “further good” and “restrain evil” in our society. Unfortunately, sin has corrupted government which has too often resulted in wicked acts, injustice, and evil of all kinds. For government to fulfill its divine command to promote righteousness and restrain wickedness, Christians must actively be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16).

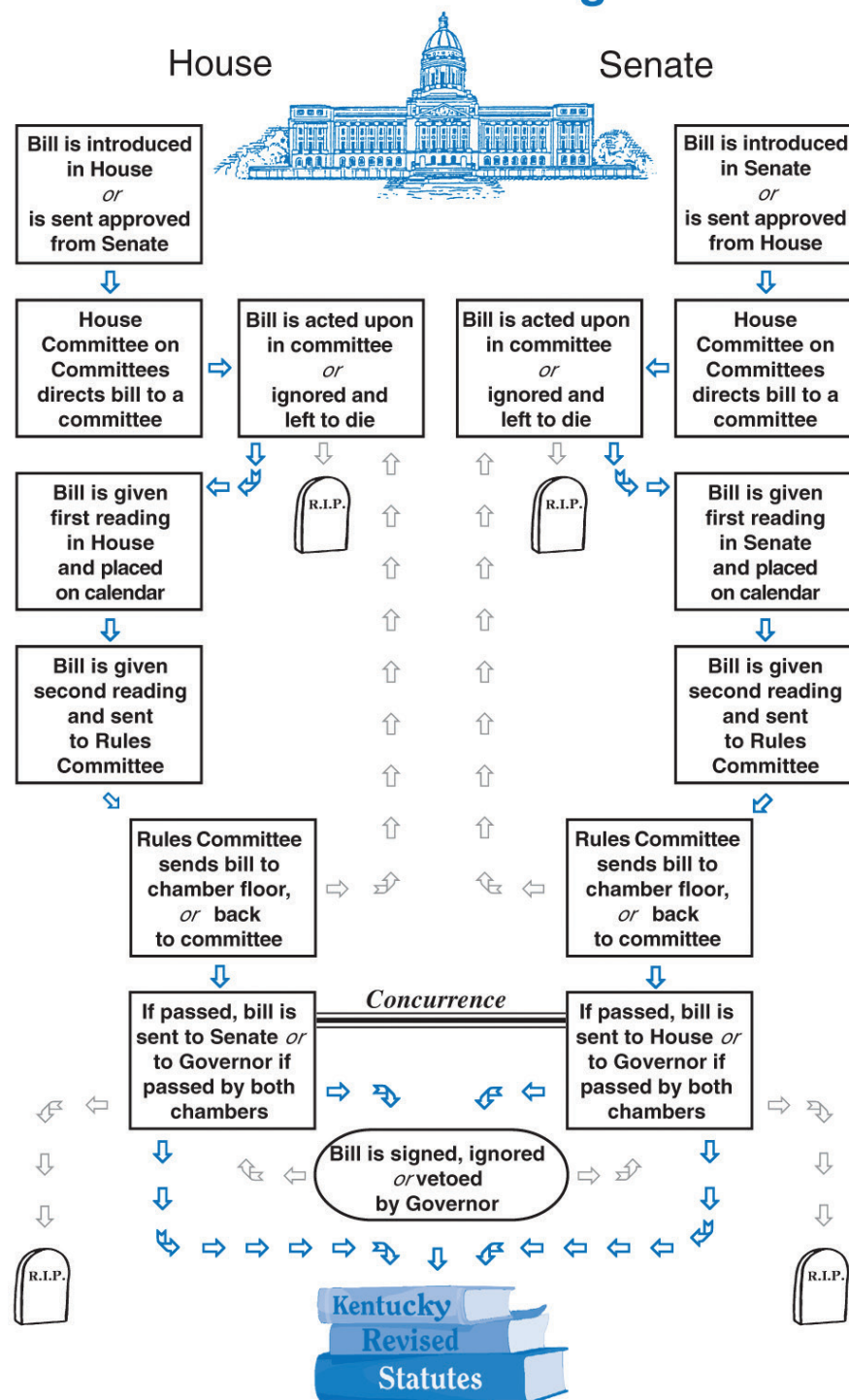
Thankfully, here in the United States, we are greatly blessed to play an integral role in our governmental process and have the freedom to advocate for God-honoring laws.

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GOOD BILLS WON'T MOVE UNLESS YOU CALL!

Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181

The Road to Passing a Bill



**The Kentucky Citizen
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*The leading Christian public policy
organization in Kentucky that stands
for Kentucky families and the Biblical
values that make them strong.*

The **FAMILY FOUNDATION**
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**The Family Foundation
P.O. Box 911111
Lexington, KY 40591**

FAITH & FAMILY DAY

**THURSDAY | FEB. 16, 2023
10AM @ KENTUCKY CAPITOL ROTUNDA**

Join us at the KY Capitol to make a difference for faith & family in the Commonwealth!

**With parental rights, marriage & family, and life issues set to be considered during the
2023 General Assembly, it's important to gather with like-minded Kentuckians from
across the Commonwealth and make our voices heard!**

**REGISTER AT
KENTUCKYFAMILY.ORG/EVENTS**

**Your Support is “Fundamental” to
Our Effort to Protect KY Families!**

We have a unique opportunity to protect our children this session, but we need your help!

The 2023 General Assembly is underway and our team at The Family Foundation is working hard to ensure we boldly educate and advocate for God-honoring policies that will help our Commonwealth lead as a pro-family state. We truly have a tremendous opportunity – *and responsibility* – to protect parental rights this short session.

Parents have every right to direct their children's education and to have accountability, choice, and transparency in doing so. The protection of parental rights and the health and well-being of children across Kentucky depend on the engagement RIGHT NOW of concerned citizens like you.

By partnering with The Family Foundation, you will help fund strategic efforts that can influence our laws, encourage the Body of Christ, and promote policies that protect parents and children.

Please give as generously as you are able during this “short” session so we can maximize our efforts!

I'm excited that we are expanding our Church outreach efforts this year to regularly bring Pastors and Legislators together for intentional and kingdom-building meetings. I believe when the shepherds of God's Church and God's Government are in relationship, God can open the door for good Government that honors Him.

We also urgently need to further grow our staff at The Family Foundation and are looking to hire a new full-time team member. As the attacks on our values continue to grow, the mission and work of The Family Foundation is vitally important and needs to further expand.

We truly need your financial support to accomplish everything that I believe the Lord has called us to this year. Will you make a gift to The Family Foundation to help us? Every gift makes an impact! Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help.

