

### 2023 KY General Assembly Recap

kentuckyfamily.org

# **PRO-FAMILY BILLS THAT PASSED**

### Parental Rights Protection, Do No Harm, and Student Privacy Acts (SB 150 by Sen. Max Wise, amended to include multiple bills)

SB 150 protects the lives of Kentucky children by setting policy in alignment with the truth that every child is created as a male or female and deserves to be loved, treated with dignity, and accepted for who they really are – banning barbaric "gender transition" interventions on children; ensuring commonsense student privacy protections so that boys can't use girls' restrooms & locker rooms; and empowering parents to have a say in their child's education, including protecting kids from harmful LGBT indoctrination in K-12. **SB 150's Key Provisions:** 

- Protects minors from harmful and irreversible puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgery for the purpose of gender "transitioning." *(HB 470 by Rep. Jennifer Decker)*
- Protects school children from age-inappropriate LGBT indoctrination and discussions of human sexuality no LGBT indoctrination K-12; no sex-education classes in elementary school; and any school that chooses to offer sex-ed classes in grades 6-12, must first receive parental opt-in. *(HB 177 by Rep. Shane Baker)*
- Protects school children's privacy and safety by preventing students from using bathrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms of the opposite biological sex. *(HB 30 by Rep. Bill Wesley)*
- Upholds the First Amendment rights of teachers and students by preventing compelled use of pronouns that do not match an individual's biological sex. (*SB 150 by Sen. Max Wise / HB 177 by Rep. Shane Baker*)
- Requires parental consent prior to mental health surveys being administered to students. (*HB 173 by Rep. Josh Calloway / SB 102 by Sen. Lindsey Tichenor*)
- Recognizes a parent's right to access their child's educational and health records, make decisions regarding their upbringing, requires parental consent prior to the school's referral to an external health care provider, and prohibits the enactment of policies to withhold student information from parents. *(SB 150 by Sen. Max Wise)*

Gov. Andy Beshear (D) vetoed SB 150, but the KY General Assembly overwhelmingly overrode his veto.

### Religious Freedom For Teachers (HB 547 by Rep. Chris Fugate)

HB 547 simply provides Kentucky's school administrators and personnel clarity by enshrining key aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in the Coach Kennedy case last year, ensuring that the religious freedom rights of the Commonwealth's teachers and other school staff are protected. *HB 547 overwhelmingly passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by Gov. Andy Beshear (D)*.

### Protecting Students from Materials Harmful to Minors (SB 5 by Sen. Jason Howell)

SB 5 sets up a complaint and review process for the removal of school materials that are harmful to minors, while ensuring that a concerned parent's child is not exposed to the material regardless. *SB 5 overwhelmingly passed the General Assembly and became law despite Gov. Andy Beshear's (D) refusal to sign it.* 

# HARMFUL BILLS DEFEATED

### Anti-Life Exceptions to KY's Pro-Life Laws (HB 569 by Rep. Jason Nemes)

HB 569 would have weakened and undermined Kentucky's pro-life laws by allowing abortions to resume in multiple circumstances. HB 569 would have sent the message that a preborn child conceived in rape or incest, or who is thought to have an abnormality, has no value, worth, or dignity as a human being.

#### Radical Abortion Promotion Law (HB 518 by Rep. Lindsey Burke)

HB 518 would have created a "fundamental right" to abortion, which does not exist within the U.S. or Kentucky Constitutions. HB 518 would have also permitted financial aid for abortions, allowed schools to provide "abortion counseling" to students, and forced taxpayers to pay for abortions.

#### Biblical Counseling Ban (So-Called "Conversion Therapy" Ban) (HB 162 by Rep. Lisa Willner & Rep. Killian Timoney)

HB 162 would have prohibited mental health professionals from helping children accept their biological sex, instead forcing them to promote a radical sexual ideology of gender "transitioning" children or have their license revoked. HB 162 would have also mandated that the government produce and distribute LGBT propaganda discrediting the teaching of Christianity on this issue.

# MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

### Protecting Kids from Sexually Explicit "Adult Performances" (SB 115 by Sen. Lindsey Tichenor)

SB 115 would have protected children from live sexually explicit performances, including drag shows, by prohibiting them on publicly owned property or in a location where the person knows or should know that it could be viewed by a child.

## **School Choice Constitutional Amendment**

#### (HB 174 by Rep. Josh Calloway)

HB 174 would have put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot - if passed, it would undo the Kentucky Supreme Court's recent erroneous decision and allow for the General Assembly to provide for the educational costs of schools outside the public school system, thus providing Kentucky's students and parents with educational freedom.

### Religious Freedom Protections (HB 204 by Rep. Steve Rawlings)

HB 204 would have added further clarity to Kentucky's Religious Freedom Act by defining several terms, so that there can be no misunderstanding or misapplication by state courts or government actors. Unfortunately, religious freedom is no longer treated as the bipartisan commonsense issue it once was and we can no longer take the meaning of terms for granted.

# HARMFUL BILLS THAT PASSED

#### Sports Betting (HB 551 by Rep. Michael Meredith)

HB 551, in the largest expansion of gambling in the Commonwealth's history, legalized sports betting. HB 551 turned every smartphone into a mini casino, which will inevitably impact children and forever change how they view sports. *Gov. Andy Beshear (D) immediately signed HB 551 into law.* 

### "Medical" Marijuana (SB 47 by Sen. Steve West)

SB 47 legalized so-called "medical" marijuana, despite proponents acknowledging that it is a deeply flawed bill that needs to be fixed. Alarmingly, SB 47 even legalizes "medical" marijuana for children, prevents private schools from prohibiting its use, and mandates school nurses administer it to children on public elementary and secondary school campuses. An effort by Rep. Shane Baker to fix some of the acknowledged issues through a floor amendment was opposed and defeated, despite the widespread recognition of the problems. *Gov. Andy Beshear (D) immediately signed SB 47 into law.*