

CITIZEN

STANDING FOR FAMILIES & THE BIBLICAL VALUES THAT STRENGTHEN THEM

Vol. XXXIII No. 1

First Quarter 2024

LEGISLATIVE EDITION: Kentucky must move forward in building a culture that values life & family.

The 2024 General Assembly must build upon the pro-family victories won in previous sessions, despite calls to move backwards.

Kentucky's 2024 General Assembly is underway, and our team is hard at work educating and advocating for pro-family policies that will honor the Lord and point people back to God's good design for our fellow Kentuckians.

This "long" 60-day session provides a tremendous opportunity for Kentucky to build upon the victories from the past several sessions by further protecting parental rights, strengthening our religious liberties, increasing educational opportunities for all students, and protecting every preborn baby – regardless of the circumstances of the child's conception.

But anti-family and anti-life forces are determined to undo Kentucky's pro-family gains. In fact, pro-LGBTQ legislators have already filed a bill to repeal SB 150 and its ban on child-mutilating "gender transitions." Pro-abortion legislators, championed by Gov. Andy Beshear, have also filed a bill to re-legalize abortion in certain cases.

We must all do our part to resist these calls to move



TFF Executive Director David Walls Addresses KY March for Life

backwards and encourage legislators to chart a path forward for Kentucky as a pro-life and pro-family leader!

Thankfully, a record crowd of pro-life Kentuckians already filled the Capitol this session during the KY March for Life, hosted by KY Right to Life. I praise the Lord for all those who attended and for the encouraging pro-life witness the event was for legislators. I was honored to

encourage all those in attendance to pray and engage to ensure that every preborn child remains protected.

We really need your engagement and prayers this legislative session – for life and for other important issues. With schools subverting last year's parental rights law and with the unethical actions of a school guidance counselor we shared in our last Citizen, parental rights must be further strengthened in our schools.

With 30+ states offering school choice, it is time to support educational freedom for every family by passing a school choice constitutional amendment. We must ensure parents can choose the education that is best for their child!

As I frequently say, government belongs to those who show up. Please "show up" by phone, email, and in-person to encourage your legislators. Thank you for being the salt and light you are called to be!

IN THIS ISSUE: Priority Pro-Family Bills

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Contact your Kentucky Senator and Representative on each priority, pro-family bill: 3 times by phone and 3 times by email through our online action center.
(see pages 4-5 for priority pro-family bills)

It's time for Kentucky to join the 30+ states that already have educational freedom.

Educational choice would benefit many students and families in both public and private schools — Let's give them freedom.

Why We Support School Choice

An educational choice constitutional amendment would open the opportunity to help all families with the cost of choosing the K-12 educational options that best fit their child's needs. Every child is unique, and all children learn differently. Some children might succeed at their assigned public school, while others might fit in better in a different environment. That's why educational choice is so important!

Education always works best when parents are empowered with educational choices for their children. No one is in a better position to make decisions for a child's educational needs than the child's parents.

Benefits Families in Both Public & Private Schools

"This Court does not dispute that many students and their families, both in public and private schools, could greatly benefit from the financial assistance provided in this legislation." - Franklin Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd

Every State Surrounding KY Has Educational Choice

30+ states have educational choice programs, and Kentucky is the only state in the region without an active school choice program. It's time for that to change.

How Kentuckians Can Obtain Educational Freedom

Due to a KY Supreme Court decision restricting educational options for families, a constitutional amendment is needed to ensure families have the freedom they need.

HB 2 / HB 208 TALKING POINTS

- 1. Anyone who knows kids, knows that a one-size-fits-all approach is a nonstarter.**
- 2. Education always works best when parents are empowered with choices for their kids.**
- 3. School choice benefits children and families in both public and private schools.**
- 4. Educational accountability will benefit students, parents, and teachers in both public and private schools.**
- 5. Every state surrounding KY has school choice.**

Refusal of schools to follow last year's parental rights law is alarming and must be addressed.

HB 304 adds an enforcement mechanism to last year's parental rights in education law & addresses recent issues in Anderson County.

HB 304 TALKING POINTS

- 1. Parental rights are fundamental and should be respected, including in the educational context.**
- 2. Schools must be held accountable for blatant disregard for the law and the rights of parents.**
- 3. Parental notification is an important part of ensuring parents have the info they need to seek their child's best interest.**
- 4. Students, schools, and communities benefit from parental involvement in education.**

Schools Resisting Parental Rights Law

Of the schools refusing to follow last year's SB 150 parental rights protections, Jefferson County (JCPS) is the most blatant. JCPS allowed student instruction in gender identity and sexual orientation; undermined student privacy and safety rights in restrooms and locker rooms; intimidated and threatened teachers and staff with disciplinary action if they exercised their First Amendment rights; and threatened teachers with disciplinary action if they didn't hide student information from parents.

Guidance Counselor in Anderson County

A guidance counselor who identified as the "cheerleader of the gays" recently faced allegations of misconduct after keeping parents in the dark, exchanging 200+ text messages and phone calls with the student, and conspiring to frame the parents for "emotional abuse."

Solutions in HB 304

Parents are given a cause of action, allowing them to hold schools responsible for their egregious disregard for the law and violations of fundamental parental rights.

Parental notification provisions will help address the situation in Anderson County and ensure parents have the information they need to care for their children.

We must create a compassionate pro-life culture that values the dignity of all & supports families.

Now that killing children in the womb is illegal, Kentucky can lead the way with this slate of pro-life, pro-woman, pro-family bills.

1. Supporting Moms, Kids, and Families

- No Sales Tax on Diapers, Bottles, Breast Pumps
- Tax Credits for Donations to Pregnancy Resource Centers & Adoption Services
- Grants to Assist Pregnancy Resource Centers with Startup & Expansion Costs
- Child Care Assistance Program
- Expansion of WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Medicaid: Breastfeeding Supplies & Lactation Consultation
- Child Support Begins After Conception
- Health Plan Coverage of Maternity Care
- KY Lifeline for Moms (*Hotline for Psychiatric Help*)
- Voluntary Paid Family Leave Private Insurance
- Freestanding Birthing Centers

2. Educating the Next Generations

- School Health Class to Include High-Definition Videos of Ultrasounds and a Preborn Child's Development in the Womb

3. Punishing Rapists & Helping Victims

- Increasing Penalties for Rapists
- Compassionate Assistance for Victims, Increased Access to Physical & Mental Care

BILLS CREATING A PRO-LIFE CULTURE OF COMPASSION

HB 10 (REP. KIM MOSER & REP. NANCY TATE)

HB 179 (REP. SAMARA HEAVRIN)

HB 199 (REP. JASON NEMES)

SB 103 (SEN. SHELLEY FUNKE FROMMEYER)

HB 243 (REP. AMY NEIGHBORS)

HB 346 (REP. NANCY TATE)

HB 380 (REP. NANCY TATE)

Attempts to re-legalize abortion & attack pro-life laws must be opposed to uphold human dignity.

SB 99 would extensively and thoroughly weaken many of KY's lifesaving laws, allow discrimination, and greatly expand abortion.

Threatens Numerous Pro-Life Laws

SB 99 attacks the foundation of all pro-life laws by promoting discrimination and treating some preborn children as unworthy of protection. KY's pro-life laws would be extensively weakened; including protections for preborn children who have a heartbeat, are capable of feeling pain, are late-term, and are viable. Lifesaving informed consent, ultrasound, parental consent, and spousal notification laws would also be weakened.

Makes It Difficult to Enforce Pro-Life Laws

SB 99 creates a rebuttable presumption that physicians performing abortions are doing so under a lawful exception, no matter how unlikely that is.

Sows Confusion & Doubt Through Deceptive Definitions

SB 99 deceitfully presents the removal of a "dead unborn fetus," ectopic pregnancy, or "incomplete miscarriage" as an abortion. But that is blatantly false.

WHY WE OPPOSE SB 99

1. Re-legalizes Abortion
2. Legalizes & Promotes Discrimination
3. Undermines the Premise of All Pro-Life Laws
4. Interferes w/ Enforcement of Pro-Life Protections
5. Allows Taxpayer-Funded Abortion & Referrals



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

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

PRO-LIFE ASSISTANCE FOR MOMS & FAMILIES

HB 380 (REP. NANCY TATE) / HB 10 (REP. KIM MOSER)

SUMMARY: Abortion is illegal. The next logical step is to reduce the perceived need for it by creating a pro-life culture that supports women, children, & families.

- No sales tax on baby supplies, such as diapers, wipes, bottles, & breast pumps
- Tax credits for donations to pregnancy resource centers & adoption services
- Grants for pro-life pregnancy resource center startup & expansion costs
- Childcare Assistance Program & Expansion of WIC Farmers Market Program

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Mark off your 3 calls

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Mark off your 3 emails

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

HB 304 (REP. SHANE BAKER)

SUMMARY: Active resistance to last year's parental rights law, along with an alarming situation with a guidance counselor in Anderson County, reveal the need for this bill's enforcement mechanism, clarifications, and additional provisions.

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EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM AMENDMENT

HB 2 (REP. SUZANNE MILES) / HB 208 (REP. JOSH CALLOWAY)

SUMMARY: KY needs a constitutional amendment allowing parents to choose the best educational option for their children by permitting the money to follow the child. An overwhelming number of states allow school choice, KY should too.

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Mark off your 3 emails

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT

HB 47 (REP. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: KY has the shortest Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of all 23 states that have one, and that makes us vulnerable to misinterpretations that undermine religious liberty. Let's update our RFRA with the strongest language from recent court cases and state legislation so that our first freedom is protected.

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PUNISHING RAPISTS & HELPING VICTIMS

AWAITING BILL NUMBERS

SUMMARY: We are working with legislators to increase penalties for rapists, and to also support victims with compassionate assistance.

- Punishment for rapists must match the seriousness of their egregious attack on the inherent dignity of another human being created in the Image of God.
- Victims deserve a culture which honors human dignity, provides compassionate assistance, and increases access to physical & mental care.

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Mark off your 3 emails

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR CHURCHES

HB 442 (REP. JAMES TIPTON)

SUMMARY: Churches with sports outreach ministries are being forced to register with the state and become tax collectors, which is a burden on the ministries serving our communities. This hurts our Commonwealth.

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CONSCIENCE RIGHTS FOR DOCTORS

HB 49 (REP. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: Doctors shouldn't be forced to perform harmful or unethical procedures that violate their oath and conscience. Likewise, patients need to know their doctors have full confidence in the treatments they recommend and perform.

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PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM

SB 147 & HB 402 / HB 191 / HB 241

(SEN. TICHENOR / REP. TATE, CALLOWAY, & BAKER)

SUMMARY: SB 147 & HB 402 protect children from sexually explicit performances. HB 191 requires schools remove materials too sexually explicit to be read publicly at a school board meeting. HB 241 requires age verification for porn websites. We are also working to require parental consent for social media.

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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 380 & HB 10 to assist women, children, and families. Also, vote against SB 99 and other attempts to re-legalize abortion.”

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 380 & HB 10 to assist women, children, and families. Also, vote against SB 99 and other attempts to re-legalize abortion.”

Bills hurting families – But, we can stop them!

RE-LEGALIZE ABORTION THROUGH EXCEPTIONS SB 99 (SEN. DAVID YATES) / MORE BILLS EXPECTED

SUMMARY: Re-legalizes abortion by adding exceptions to numerous pro-life laws and undermines the foundational premise of the pro-life position.

- Promotes abortion & makes remaining pro-life protections difficult to enforce.
- Legalizes discrimination based on unchangeable characteristics.
- Weakens informed consent, late-term abortion & live dismemberment bans.
- Requires abortion referrals and allows for taxpayer-funded abortions.

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Mark off your 3 emails

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY LAW SB 134 (SEN. NEAL) / HB 391 (REP. HERRON)

SUMMARY: Similar laws are being used to coerce and punish Christian business owners regarding their biblical beliefs on human sexuality.

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REPEAL OF SB 150'S PROTECTIONS FOR KIDS HB 376 (REP. SARAH STALKER & REP. ADRIELLE CAMUEL)

SUMMARY: HB 376 seeks to repeal the vital protections for kids, including the ban on child-mutilating “gender transitions,” enacted in last session’s SB 150.

- Elementary schools can teach sexuality, sexual orientation, & gender identity.
- Requires schools to allow boys and girls to use the same bathrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms, and overnight facilities.
- Forces teachers to use preferred pronouns.

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BIBLICAL COUNSELING BAN HB 330 (REP. WILLNER)

SUMMARY: Counseling by pastors & others must affirm child’s ‘gender identity’.

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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 2024 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 Policy & Church Ambassador Network Teams are working hard to keep you informed, minister to and persuade legislators, and encourage our fellow citizens to get engaged.

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

OUR CORE VALUES



Religious
Freedom



Family



Life

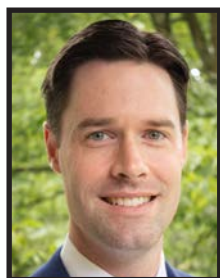


Human
Dignity



Human
Sexuality

The Family Foundation Team Serving Kentucky



David Walls



Michael Johnson



Baxter Boyd



John Raizor



John Wehrle



Martin Cothran

. . .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.

A mission far bigger than public policy.

Michael Johnson steps into role as TFF's Director of Policy.



Michael & Rachel

I accepted the Director of Policy position with great excitement and eagerness to cast the vision for The Family Foundation's policy work, establish our legislative priorities, and take on the responsibility of leading our policy team's efforts.

Having worked nine years for The Family Foundation, I understand the significance of the core issues we engage in, the importance of our advocacy, and the practical good we can accomplish for our neighbors and communities.

These policy issues took on more importance and urgency as I became a husband, and now a father of four. Yet, my conviction that our mission is much bigger than just public policy has also grown.

My Heart & Philosophy of Ministry

First and foremost, I'm an ambassador for Christ in a world that is not my own. As such, I make it a priority to be a culture maker who is focused on winning hearts, minds, and souls through discipleship, persuasion, and advocacy.

Recognizing that this world is not my permanent home and my mission is much bigger than specific policy proposals, my focus is on sincere, authentic relationships and interactions with legislators. After all, these are the ministers of government that God has tasked with promoting good and punishing evil.

The 2024 Session is already proving just how many opportunities exist to strengthen connections, build bridges that overcome differences, and invest in relationships. This can be done through encouragement, servanthood, and prayer.

I have full confidence in the faithfulness of our Lord, and I know that He will bless my efforts and The Family Foundation's work when we first seek His kingdom and His righteousness. We are dependent upon God for our success and must not rely upon our own strength or power, but rather devote ourselves to prayer as we seek to understand God's will and make the most of our time.

Would you please pray for me — that God's will be clear, and I have the ability to make the most of my time? Thank you!

Envisioning a Post-Roe Culture of Life

Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned and the Commonwealth's pro-life laws went into effect, I've been burdened with a vision of passing a slate of pro-life, pro-woman, and pro-family legislation to create a compassionate culture of life in Kentucky.

I'm already seeing God's faithfulness in laying the groundwork for better coming alongside women, children, and families in a way that communicates our care for them and eliminates the perceived need for abortion (*see page 3*).

Go With Hope & Courage

Let me conclude with something that I pray will encourage you as much as it does me — Kentucky has many faithful legislators who desire to boldly lead with God-honoring policy and who regularly gather twice a week for a time of prayer and praise.

Witnessing and participating in such a holy gathering at the Capitol is one of the most meaningful moments and greatest joys of my new role.

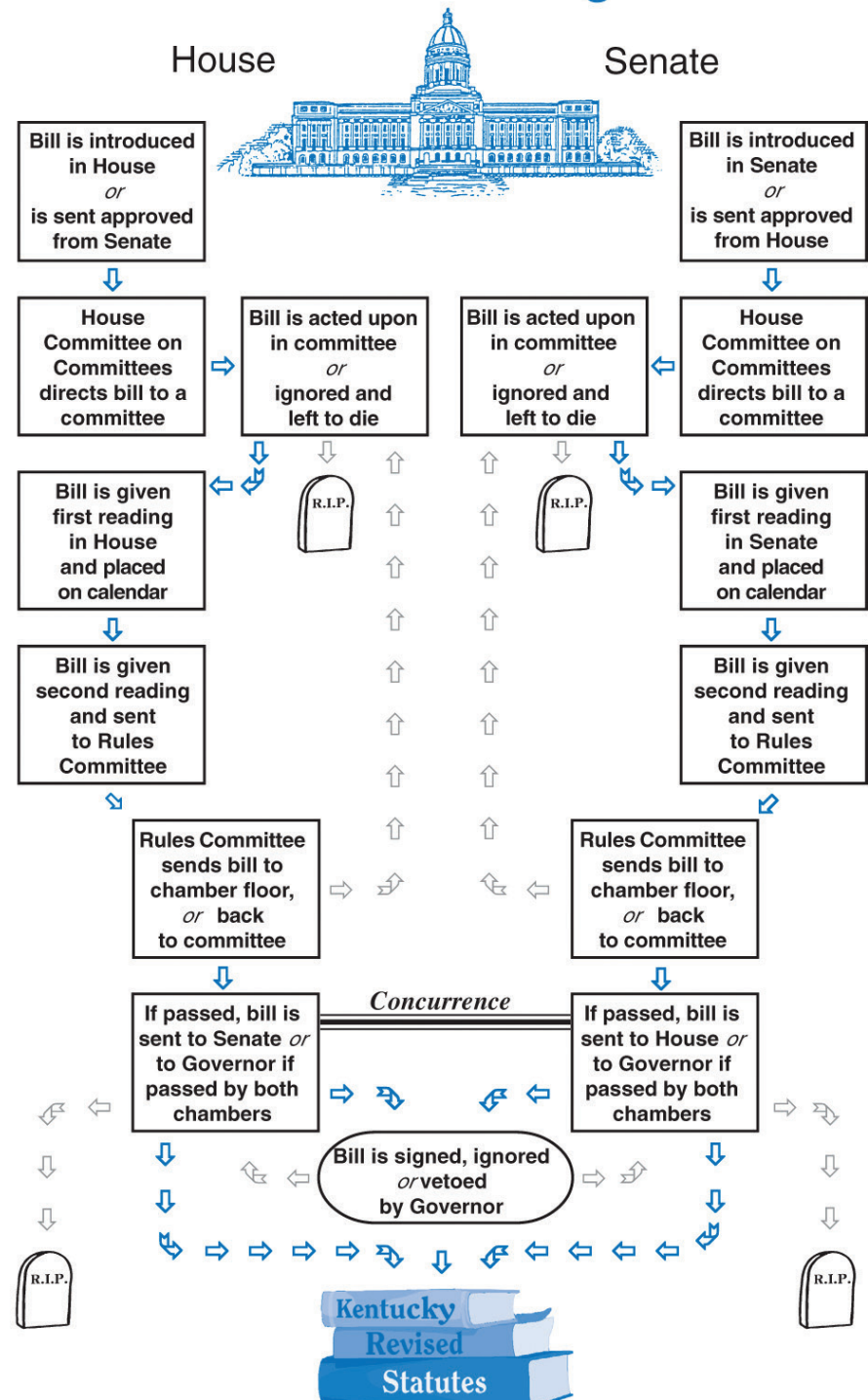
Now, go with hope and courage!

Michael

GOOD BILLS WON'T MOVE UNLESS YOU CALL!

Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181

The Road to Passing a Bill



Why school choice must be the path forward for Kentucky.

OPINION: Martin Cothran on the growing momentum for educational freedom in KY.



**Martin Cothran,
Sr. Policy Analyst**

The COVID pandemic had plenty of bad consequences. But one of the good consequences was a new appreciation of the need for changes in how we educate our children. Parents finally saw, first hand, the kind and quality of education their children were experiencing, and many didn't like it.

Education is one of the many things that doesn't seem to benefit from being converted into a government bureaucracy. Like so many otherwise worthwhile endeavors, the education of our children has suffered from the top down approach to governing schools that has isolated many public schools from the natural accountability mechanisms that govern most important things in our lives.

And it isn't only the quality and cost of local schools that have parents concerned, but the new and more toxic ideologies that have displaced traditional instruction in many classrooms. Education has now become the chief battlefield in political fights over race and gender. And because government bureaucracies inevitably lean left, Christian parents are forced to endure the indignity of not only being forced to endure the indoctrination of their children, but also having to pay for it.

Why is it that our public schools are so inefficient when it comes to academics, but so efficient when it comes to indoctrination?

While the issue of educational accountability has been an issue since the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, very little has been done to actually make schools more accountable to parents. And attempts to reform our schools have repeatedly been met by opposition from the state's politically powerful educational establishment.

There had seldom ever been a camera in our classrooms. But when education went virtual during the pandemic, suddenly there were thousands of eyes on what our children were being taught. Parents were able to witness firsthand the quality of education their children were receiving.

The new post-pandemic awareness of the need for greater accountability has created new opportunities to make fundamental changes to the way we do education. There is a new awareness that the only way to reform education is through providing greater competition and more options for parents.

We acknowledge in all other areas of life that this is the way to improvement and reform. School choice has made political gains in state after state around the country. But as in so many other things, Kentucky is pulling up the rear. Powerful teachers unions and well-funded establishment education organizations prowl the halls of Frankfort seeking good educational ideas to destroy. These groups have long histories and extravagant bank accounts. They have dictated education policy in Kentucky for longer than anyone can remember.

But that is slowly changing. A new and more conservative legislature is now considering bills that could allow educational freedom for Kentucky parents. And because of language in Kentucky's constitution, this will require a constitutional amendment that must not only be passed by the state's General Assembly, but ratified by the voters.

The vote to ratify is in the future, but the calls to your legislator need to be made now. Kentucky must move forward by providing families the freedom to choose the best education for their children.

Help unleash biblical citizenship!

The 2024 General Assembly is underway and our team is working around the clock for Kentucky families. We truly have a tremendous opportunity – and *responsibility* – to move Kentucky forward as a pro-life and pro-family leader this year.

By financially partnering with The Family Foundation, you help support strategic efforts upholding Christian citizenship that positively influence our culture and laws, minister to legislators, encourage the Body of Christ and Pastors, and promote policies that protect life, family, and religious liberty!

The cost of producing and mailing the Kentucky Citizen has increased significantly in the last 18 months. Please give as generously as you are able, so we can continue to expand our impact!

We need your financial support to accomplish everything the Lord has called us to in this "long" legislative session. Will you make a gift to The Family Foundation to help us unleash biblical citizenship across Kentucky? Every gift makes an impact! God Bless!



**The Kentucky Citizen
is a publication of
The Family Foundation**

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

The FAMILY FOUNDATION
kentuckyfamily.org

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church and community!**

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