

PRO-FAMILY BILLS THAT PASSED

Protection of Children Act (HB 278 by Rep. Matt Lockett)

included protections for kids from online pornography with amendment by Sen. Gex Williams

HB 278, an important bill protecting kids from sexual abuse, was amended to include protections for children from online pornography by requiring age verification. Similar laws have led to pornographic websites shutting down in other states, and we hope that will happen here in Kentucky as well. ***The General Assembly unanimously passed HB 278, amended with online protections for pornography. Gov. Andy Beshear has signed the bill into law.***

Educational Choice Constitutional Amendment

(HB 2 by Rep. Suzanne Miles)

A proposed educational freedom amendment to the Kentucky Constitution passed the General Assembly with the needed constitutional majorities (60%). This means the proposed amendment allowing for more educational choices for students and families will be on the November ballot for voters in Kentucky to approve. ***HB 2 passed the House 66-31 and the Senate 27-11. As a proposed constitutional amendment, HB 2 did not require the Governor's signature.***

“Momnibus”/KY Lifeline for Moms Act (SB 74 Sen. Shelley Funke Frommeyer)

included amendment with HB 10 “Momnibus” bill by Rep. Kim Moser

SB 74 was amended on the final day to include HB 10, which provides protections for maternal health:

- Creates Kentucky Lifeline for Moms to help find health services for mothers with mental illness or intellectual disability
- Incentivizes mothers to get prenatal care by adding pregnancy to qualifying life events for insurance coverage
- Update to HANDS program with additional information for moms, including lactation and breastfeeding

The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed SB 74 with HB 10 added as an amendment. Gov. Andy Beshear has signed the bill into law.

Update to Safe Haven Baby Box Law

(HB 272 Rep. Nancy Tate)

HB 272 included needed updates to Kentucky's existing Save Haven Baby Box Law, including requiring information to be posted in public schools. ***The General Assembly unanimously passed HB 272, and Gov. Andy Beshear has signed the bill into law.***

Voluntary Paid Family Leave (Private) Insurance

(HB 179 Rep. Samara Heavrin)

HB 179 allows for the creation of a voluntary family leave private insurance market in Kentucky. ***The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed HB 179, and Gov. Andy Beshear has signed the bill into law.***

Updates to “Medical” Marijuana Program

(HB 829 Rep. Jason Nemes)

While we still oppose Kentucky's “medical” marijuana program, this bill provides some needed reforms to the program, including allowing for schools and local governments to opt-out. ***The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed HB 829, and Gov. Andy Beshear has signed the bill into law.***

HARMFUL BILLS DEFEATED

Anti-Life Exceptions to KY's Pro-Life Laws (SB 99 Sen. David Yates/HB 711 Rep. Ken Fleming, Rep. Jim Gooch Jr., Rep. Killian Timoney/HB 428 Lindsey Burke)

Every bill and/or attempt to weaken Kentucky's pro-life laws failed this session, including a last-minute attempt by Sen. Yates to force a vote on his abortion exceptions bill, SB 99, that failed in the Kentucky Senate on the final day.

"Conversion Therapy" Ban (HB 330 Rep. Lisa Willner)

HB 330 would ban the Gospel message that choice exists and change in lifestyle is possible, effectively purging Christian therapists. LGBTQ advocates have described this legislation as the "first step" towards silencing pastors and others.

LGBTQ "SOGI" Laws & Repeal of SB 150

(HB 391 Rep. Keturah Herron/SB 134 Sen. Gerald Neal & SB 238 Sen. Karen Berg/HB 376 Sarah Stalker)

HB 391/SB 134 would amend Kentucky's nondiscrimination law to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as special classes. SB 238/HB 376 would repeal last year's protections for children from gender transitions and parental rights.

MAJOR MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Religious Freedom Restoration Act Updates (HB 47 Rep. Steve Rawlings)

Important updates to Kentucky's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to ensure that RFRA continues to adequately protect the religious liberty rights of every Kentuckian. ***HB 47 passed House committee and was placed on the orders of the day but House Leadership did not allow a floor vote, effectively killing the bill.***

Baby Olivia Act (HB 346 by Rep. Nancy Tate)

HB 346 would ensure schools teach important facts about human development by adding a video to health curriculum that shows the beautiful process of human development in the womb. ***HB 346 passed House committee and was placed on the orders of the day but House Leadership did not allow a vote, effectively killing the bill.***

Protect Kids from Sexualized Drag Shows (SB 147 Sen. Lindsey Tichenor)

SB 147 would protect kids from sexually explicit businesses and performances, including drag shows. ***SB 147 passed the Senate 32-6 & passed House Committee, but House Leadership did not allow a floor vote, effectively killing the bill.***

Healthcare Heroes Recruitment & Retention Act (SB 239 Sen. Donald Douglas)

SB 239 would have protected conscience rights within the medical profession, ensuring that no medical professional is forced to violate their oath to "do no harm". ***SB 239 passed the Senate 30-7, but House Leadership never assigned the bill to a House committee, effectively killing the bill.***

Stop Harmful DEI Programs (HB 9 Rep. Jennifer Decker/SB 6 Sen. Mike Wilson)

The House amended SB 6 with language from HB 9 to ban & defund discriminatory DEI policies at public universities. ***The enhanced SB 6 passed the House 73-20, but the Senate didn't concur with changes, killing the bill.***

Exempt Churches from Sales & Use Tax (HB 442 by Rep. James Tipton)

HB 442 would exempt Churches from registering with the state to collect sales & use taxes that are a burden to their ministries. ***Despite having over 30 cosponsors, HB 442 was never assigned to a committee in the House, effectively killing the bill.***

Parental Rights in Schools (HB 304 Rep. Shane Baker)

HB 304 would strengthen parental rights protections in our schools and add needed enforcement provisions. ***HB 304 was referred to the Education Committee but was never given a hearing, effectively killing the bill.***