



CITIZEN

STANDING FOR FAMILIES & THE BIBLICAL VALUES THAT STRENGTHEN THEM

Vol. XXXVII No. 1

1st Quarter 2026

LEGISLATIVE EDITION: Recent victories must pave way for even bolder pro-family agenda.

Ten Commandments restoration, Save Women's Sports momentum should encourage Christians to move forward with courage.

Kentucky's 2026 General Assembly is underway, and our team is hard at work educating and advocating for God-honoring policies to advance faith, family, and freedom.

Recent legislative victories should encourage the General Assembly to push for an even bolder agenda during this 60-day budget session. Major pro-family issues that the legislature must address include strengthening religious liberty and conscience rights, protecting women and children from harm, stopping the illegal trafficking of the abortion death pill, and ending taxpayer-funded DEI programs in our K-12 schools.

The fruit of recent legislative victories was on full display when the historic Ten Commandments monument was recently restored to the Capitol grounds. It was an honor to witness this historic restoration made possible by Rep. Shane Baker's HJR 15 that passed last year. The Ten Commandments have had an immense impact on the legal and moral principles of our great nation and commonwealth.



The historic Ten Commandments monument was restored to the Kentucky Capitol grounds on December 15, 2025.

I pray that the Lord will use this monumental occasion to lead Kentuckians back to the Biblical principles that our society was built upon and that lead to human flourishing. I also pray it gives our legislators the courage to restore the Ten Commandments back into classrooms this session!

While at the U.S. Supreme Court for the recent Save Women's Sports case, I was also struck by the impact of recent state victories protecting women and girls (see page

7). Thanks to the work of Kentucky and 26 states, women and girls have been protected from some of the real harms caused by gender ideology.

In standing with thousands of advocates from across the nation, the profound impact of our state-level advocacy was clear as female athletes and detransitioners shared their powerful testimonies at the steps of the High Court.

Ultimately, as Christians, we must remember that we are in a battle for truth. And as we continue to pray that the Supreme Court upholds these laws, we must also remember the stakes are nothing less than Genesis 1—that we are created in the image of God as male or female.

I remain incredibly encouraged by the fruit that your engagement with The Family Foundation is having as we advocate for Kentucky families. Remember, government belongs to those who show up! Please “show up” by encouraging your legislators to be courageous this session!



IN THIS ISSUE: Priority Pro-Family Bills

The Family Foundation
P. O. Box 911111
Lexington, KY 40591-1111



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 the General Assembly to protect conscience rights for healthcare workers.

SB 72 would ensure conscience rights and help end discrimination against Christians in the medical field.



The last sentence of Section 5 of Kentucky's Constitution states, "No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience." This provision, enacted in 1891 and never amended, guarantees the right of conscience in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, exceeding the protections of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Unfortunately, Kentucky's healthcare professionals, particularly acting Christians, have not benefited from these constitutional protections. One in three Christian medical students and one in five Christian healthcare professionals have reported discrimination in the classroom/workplace environment. This has impacted Kentucky's ability to attract healthcare professionals, since 91% of religious professionals have stated they would rather stop practicing medicine than violate their ethical, moral, or religious beliefs.

Kentucky was the location of a high-profile example of the weak state of conscience protections. In 2019, the University of Louisville fired Dr. Allan Josephson for speaking at a Heritage Foundation event on the dangers of "transitioning" kids. Thankfully, he won a major victory in court last year, resulting in a \$1.6 million payout.

While we are thankful for this major victory and for our friends at Alliance Defending Freedom for taking this case, it is a clear example of why we need comprehensive medical conscience protections in state law. Had the protections been in law, UofL

likely would have thought twice about their actions, which would have saved taxpayers a lot of money.

Last session, the General Assembly fell just short of passing conscience protections when House leadership refused to call a vote on the bill in the last days of session. However, the General Assembly has no excuse not to pass a bill this session with it being a long 60-day session. SB 72 by Sen. Donald Douglas (*pictured*) would finally address this issue, ensuring that no healthcare professional in Kentucky faces discrimination for living out his ethical, moral, and/or religious beliefs. Please ask your Representative and Senator to finally protect medical conscience rights by supporting SB 72.

SB 72 TALKING POINTS

1. **The Kentucky Constitution guarantees the right to conscience.**
2. **A person's career should never be threatened for living out his deeply held beliefs.**
3. **Stop discrimination against Christians in the medical field.**

The General Assembly must protect kids, restore parental rights on social media.

HB 227 would protect kids from the addictive harms of social media and allow parents greater control over social media usage.



In recent legislative sessions, the Kentucky General Assembly has taken substantial steps to protect children from harm. In 2023, the General Assembly passed SB 150, which banned gender "transitions" on minors. In 2024, the General Assembly passed HB 278 to protect kids from online pornography. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld both of those laws last year. However, the General Assembly must do more to ensure that children in Kentucky are fully protected. The next step should be implementing commonsense protections for kids on social media.

Social media has brought positives to society. It expedites the sharing of information, bypassing biased legacy media outlets and empowering independent journalists. It allows families who live in different states and even countries to stay in contact. And it gives small businesses an opportunity to advertise for much cheaper than traditional advertising methods. However, social media has also brought some serious negatives upon society, especially children.

The addictive nature of social media has had serious dangerous effects on kids. Social media addiction rewires kids' brains, creating anti-social behavior and stunting social and emotional learning. Brain imaging has shown that the effects of social media addiction is similar to the effects of hard-core drugs. Additionally, this addiction has led to a massive increase in depression rates amongst teenagers. But this is not the only effect social

media has caused. Social media can expose kids to explicit content at young ages. One study found that 58% of kids exposed to porn accidentally encountered pornography the first time. Social media is a common avenue for accidental exposure to porn. And this threat remains even after Kentucky's age verification law.

To address these harms, Rep. Matt Lockett filed HB 227 (*pictured*) to give parents more control over their kids' social media usage and to ban addictive features on social media platforms. The bill simply requires companies to estimate the ages of their users, something they already do, ensuring that kids are protected without infringing upon First Amendment rights. Please ask your Representative and Senator to support HB 227.

HB 227 TALKING POINTS

1. **Parents have a constitutional right to manage the upbringing of their children.**
2. **Social media is incredibly harmful to children.**
3. **Free speech and parental rights are compatible.**

Let the Church be the Church—why we must ensure KY Churches are free to focus on ministry.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR: Pastor Josh Schmidt on why the General Assembly must end the sales tax burdening ministry.



Dr. Josh Schmidt
Pastor of Burlington
Baptist Church

I love the local church. I love the local church as much as anything in this world, except God and my family. Everything good that God has ever given me, I received through the local church. I met my wife at a local church. I received my calling to ministry at a local church. The local church is the greatest force for good the world has ever known.

I serve at Burlington Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. We have a large Upward Ministry that has seen thousands of participants over the years, and many have come to know Christ through it. An unnecessary sales tax imposed on churches would directly harm ministries like this. Why would we limit the church's ability to minister in local communities for their good and for the glory of God?

This is why HB 101 is so important. This legislation already has tremendous support from faith leaders across the Commonwealth. In November 2025, messengers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Cold Spring unanimously approved a resolution stating:

“RESOLVED, that we urge the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly to pass legislation eliminating the sales and use tax burden on churches, protecting religious liberty, and ensuring that the church can reach as many people as possible with the good news of Christ free of government interference.”

I am thankful for the numerous legislators who listened to the voice of the largest Protestant denomination in the state and worked tirelessly to protect the local church and her mission by already signing on to cosponsor this important bill.

Pastors, church leaders, and lay members, I encourage you to reach out to your local legislators and ask them to support the local church. Let them know about the ministries that are being harmed by this unnecessary sales tax. Tell them about all the good God is doing in your community through your local church. Supporting HB 101 helps ensure that local churches can continue serving their communities, meeting real needs, and sharing hope without unnecessary government interference.

HB 101 TALKING POINTS

1. **Churches should not be forced to become tax collectors for the state.**
2. **Church ministries seek to make disciples and serve the community, not make a profit.**
3. **HB 101 is narrowly tailored to religious institutions.**

No more death by mail—the General Assembly must stop the abortion death pill.

Despite Kentucky's pro-life laws, abortion by mail is still threatening the lives of babies and their mothers across Kentucky.



In recent years, Kentuckians have seen major victories in the fight for life. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* with the *Dobbs* decision. Kentucky's Human Life Protection Act went into effect, outlawing abortion without political exceptions. The abortion industry has failed multiple times to successfully challenge that prohibition. And, last session, the General Assembly passed HB 90, which provided clarity to the law and expanded medical options for pregnant mothers. However, despite these wins, the abortion cartel continues to be a threat to preborn Kentuckians.

The latest attack on the preborn of the Commonwealth is the abortion death pill. During the Biden Administration, the FDA eliminated most remaining “safeguards” on the pill. They authorized the abortion death pill to be sent by the U.S. Postal Service and eliminated the in-person requirements for dispensing the pills. These changes resulted in a mass proliferation of the abortion death pill, increasing abortion numbers nationwide. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has done nothing to reverse these pro-abortion policies, allowing the mass proliferation to continue.

In the absence of action at the federal level, the General Assembly must step up and take action to protect preborn Kentuckians from this deadly pill. Last session, Sen.

Steve Rawlings and Rep. TJ Roberts filed legislation to designate the abortion death pill as an unlawful controlled substance and to create additional civil penalties for abortion traffickers who willfully violate Kentucky's pro-life laws. Unfortunately, those bills did not move. This session, the General Assembly must push those proposals forward.

Failure to act will leave preborn children exposed to harm due to the abortion cartel's death pill. Sitting on the sidelines is not an option when evil forces are at work. That would be an inexcusable dereliction of duty for those who swore an oath to uphold the KY and U.S. Constitutions, which clearly include the right to life. Please encourage your legislators to support legislation that cracks down on the abortion death pill and abortion traffickers.

TALKING POINTS

1. **The abortion cartel is attempting to circumvent KY law.**
2. **Kentucky's pro-life laws need to be strengthened in response to the abortion death pill to protect babies.**
3. **The abortion death pill is incredibly harmful to women.**

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

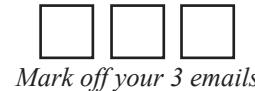
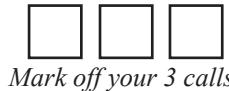
Let's ensure our families thrive — parents, children, and families matter.



RESTORING TEN COMMANDMENTS IN SCHOOLS AWAITING NUMBER (REP. JOSH CALLOWAY/REP. RICHARD WHITE)

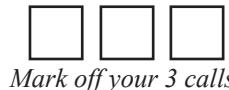
SUMMARY: The bill would require schools to place the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms, create a process for people to donate Ten Commandments displays, and would also allow for the Decalogue to be used during instruction as a historic document.

- The Ten Commandments played a significant role in the founding of our nation and our Commonwealth.



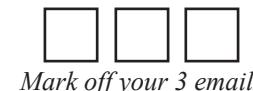
MEDICAL CONSCIENCE RIGHTS SB 72 (SEN. DONALD DOUGLAS)

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.



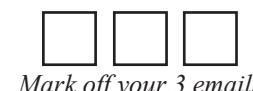
PROTECT KIDS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA HB 227 (REP. MATT LOCKETT)

SUMMARY: HB 227 would require social media companies to estimate the ages of their users and enforce parental consent requirements when a child under 17 is using their platform. It would also ban addictive features for kids.



STOP DEI INDOCTRINATION IN K-12 SCHOOLS SB 26 (SEN. LINDSEY TICHENOR)

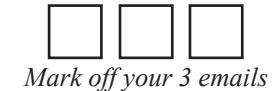
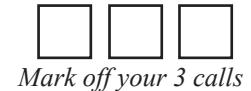
SUMMARY: SB 26 would ban and defund DEI programs in K-12 schools, prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education from instituting DEI mandates, and prohibit discrimination in hiring practices.



STRENGTHENING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM HB 170 (REP. TJ ROBERTS)

SUMMARY: Would strengthen KY's Religious Freedom Restoration Act to ensure that government is not burdening the religious liberty of Kentuckians.

- Gives Kentuckians the ability to sue in state court to protect their religious freedom.
- Kentuckians of faith should be able to practice their religious beliefs without government intrusion.



SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR CHURCHES HB 101 (REP. JAMES TIPTON)

SUMMARY: Churches with 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.



KENTUCKY WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS HB 334 (REP. CANDY MASSARONI)

SUMMARY: Cleary defines in state law that there are only two sexes, male and female, and defines male and female based on biology. Also ensures that government at all levels accurately collects data based on only two sexes.



BABY OLIVIA ACT HB 359 (REP. NANCY TATE) STOP ABORTION PILL TRAFFICKING AWAITING BILL NUMBER

SUMMARY: HB 359 would require public schools to educate kids on the growth of a preborn child in the womb. The bill on the abortion death pill would increase penalties for traffickers who willfully violate KY's pro-life laws.



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 HB 170 & SB 72 to strengthen religious liberty and conscience rights. Also, vote against HB 22 & HB 23 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 HB 170 & SB 72 to strengthen religious liberty and conscience rights. Also, vote against HB 22 & HB 23 and other attempts to re-legalize abortion."

Bills hurting families – but, we can stop them!

RE-LEGALIZE ABORTION & PROTECT TRAFFICKERS HB 22 & 23 (REP. LINDSEY BURKE)

SUMMARY: Re-legalizes abortion by repealing pro-life laws & protects abortion death pill traffickers from prosecution.

- Promotes abortion and eliminates most pro-life protections.
- Legalizes discrimination based on unchangeable characteristics.
- Weakens informed consent, late-term abortion, and live dismemberment bans.
- Requires abortion referrals and allows for taxpayer-funded abortions.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY LAW SB 115 (SEN. GERALD NEAL)

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

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA HB 198 & 199 (REP. NIMA KULKARNI)

SUMMARY: These bills would legalize marijuana for recreational use for all adults 21 years old or older.

- Recreational marijuana causes an increase in impaired driving.
- These bills would make it easier for children to gain access to marijuana products.
- Daily use causes long-term mental health issues.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

ASSISTED SUICIDE HB 408 (REP. ADRIELLE CAMUEL)

SUMMARY: Would authorize hospitals to offer assisted suicide.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails



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 2026 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 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 bless our entire Commonwealth.

OUR CORE VALUES



Religious
Freedom



Family



Life



Human
Dignity



Human
Sexuality

The Family Foundation Team Serving Kentucky



David Walls



Jesse Green



John Wehrle



Justin Warriner



John Raizer



Martin Cothran



Baxter Boyd

...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.

SCOTUS hears Save Women's Sport's case.

Decision could impact laws in Kentucky and 26 other states.



TFF stands with Riley Gaines at U.S. Supreme Court

the U.S. Constitution and/or Title IX.

The Family Foundation's executive director, David Walls, and policy analyst, John Wehrle, were outside the Supreme Court during oral arguments, attending the Rally for Women's Sports with advocates from across the country. Many people spoke at the rally, including University of Kentucky's own Riley Gaines (pictured), explaining why laws preventing men from playing in women's sports are necessary and common sense. The Family Foundation and over 200 female state legislators, including 13 from Kentucky, signed onto an amicus brief urging the Court to uphold such laws.

Our brief argues, "There is no serious dispute that, with respect to athletic competitions, women and men 'are not similarly situated'—and that the relevant difference turns on biology, not on an individual's interior sense of gender." This clash between biology and one's "interior sense of gender" came to a clash during the oral arguments numerous times. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson sought to legitimize founding discrimination in one's interior sense of gender, instead of actual biology.

In sharp contrast, Justice Samuel Alito saw discrimination being founded in biological reality. Justice Alito asked Kathleen Hartnett, the attorney defending men who want to play on girls' teams, if she could define what a man and a woman are, but, embarrassingly, the attorney was unable to. These exchanges show that there is more than a disagreement over the law taking place here. There is a conflict in worldviews.

In 2022 though, Kentuckians showed which side of the debate they're on. That year the General Assembly passed SB 83, a Save Women's Sports bill The Family Foundation supported, which was authored by Sen. Robby Mills and championed in the House by Rep. Ryan Dotson. We urge the Supreme Court to uphold these commonsense laws, biological reality, and a truthful understanding of the Constitution.

2026 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

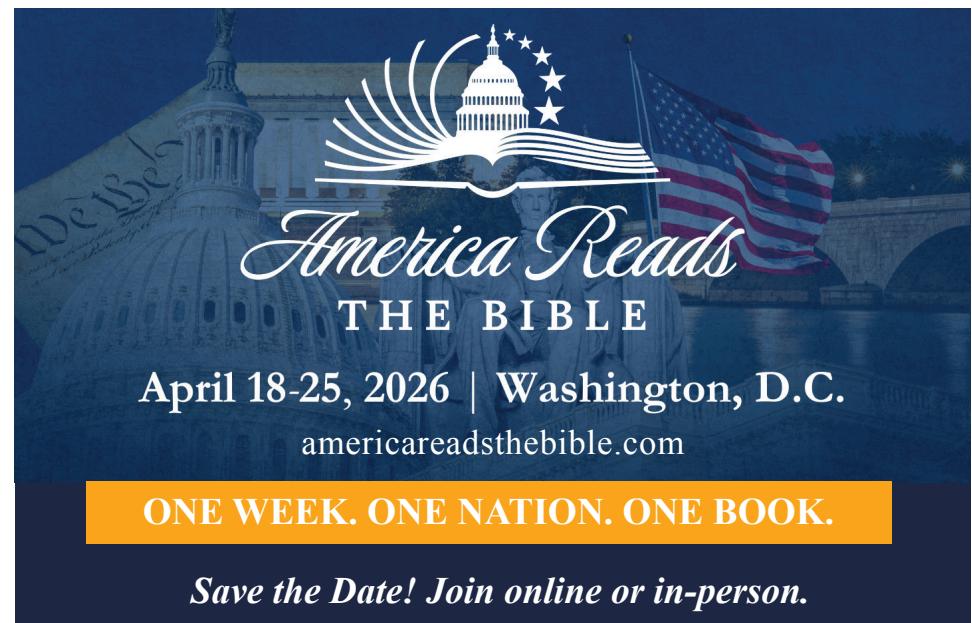
- March 2 — Last Day for New Senate Bills
- March 4 — Last Day for New House Bills
- March 31 - April 1 — Concurrence
- April 2-13 — Veto Period
- April 14-15 — Veto Override
- April 15 — Sine Die (Last Day of Session)

Join America Reads the Bible, April 18-25.

And stand for life with us at KY March for Life on March 11.

The Family Foundation is excited to share one of the most important initiatives we've ever undertaken: America Reads the Bible. For one week, April 18-25, 2026, we will help bring over 400 ministry leaders, elected officials, and influential Christian voices from across the country together to read the entire Bible out loud—**live from the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.**, to form the largest public reading of scripture in American history, which will be broadcast across the entire nation. Readers will include **Franklin Graham, Candace Cameron Bure, David Barton, Eric Metaxas**, and a special delegation of leaders from Kentucky that we will be leading.

We invite you, your family, and your church to join us in spreading God's Word to the nation. [Learn more and get involved at AmericaReadsTheBible.com](http://AmericaReadsTheBible.com).



KENTUCKY MARCH FOR LIFE

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 11
FRANKFORT
KENTUCKY



Race divides. Why Kentucky schools should be race neutral.

OPINION: Justin Warriner on why eliminating DEI in government schools is a good thing.



Justin Warriner
Communication and
Policy Associate

In 1684, a massively influential essay, *New Division of the Earth by the Different Species or 'Races'*, was written by a world traveler, Francois Bernier. The essay recorded observations he made about humanity during his travels and according to Bernier, humanity could be divided into four different races. This was the first time “race” as a concept was applied to

humanity. Following in his footsteps, many other early anthropologists began classifying humanity into these different “races” with Johann Blumenbach being the most influential. As the idea developed, race became more than just an observation. It became destiny.

Certain defining characteristics were attributed to different races, and some races were seen as superior while others were seen as inferior. In America, the white race, or “Caucasians” as Blumenbach called them, were seen as the superior race, while Blacks were seen as the inferior race.

Since its conception, race has always been a problem. It has always been divisive rather than unifying. To be one race is to not be another. And in America, we have a dark history of race being used to justify evils like slavery and the atrocities committed under Jim Crow.

By God’s grace though, America has grown a lot since those dark days. I write this as an educated black man who is married to a white woman with two mixed children. And while all the people in my household have varying degrees of melanin, race does not define or divide us.

Sadly, this is not the case for everyone. State Rep. Sarah Stalker (D-Louisville) made that clear with her remarks in

December when she said she “doesn’t feel good about being white every day because it’s a point of privilege.” She went on to explain that an opportunity is being missed when we don’t give kids “a moment to reflect about how the color of their skin does and does not allow them to move through the world.” She believes we need to resist the urge to not let kids “pause and have some internal feelings.”

Now, I don’t think Rep. Stalker was being malicious when she made her remarks, but that doesn’t make them okay. This type of guilt and hyper fixation on race is what keeps the concept around and humanity divided, which is evident since her comments were made in response to a bill that would help eliminate racial discrimination. That bill is SB 26, which was put forward by Sen. Lindsey Tichenor.

This bill would require K-12 schools to get rid of DEI practices. The bill prevents people from providing “any differential treatment or benefits to an individual, including an applicant for employment, promotion, or contract renewal, on the basis of the individual’s religion, race, sex, color, or national origin.” The bill also prevents schools from implementing “student disciplinary policies that consider religion, race, sex, color, or national origin or otherwise establish student disciplinary caps or quotas on the basis of religion, race, sex, color, or national origin.” This means instead of being labeled and treated differently according to their race and/or other categories, children, teachers, and administrators are viewed according to their humanity.

Race is divisive by design, but all of humanity is made in the image of God. Any policy that undermines this truth by discriminating against people based on race or other categories needs to be rejected. But any policy that treats all people equally needs to be supported. SB 26 is such a policy.

Let's multiply our impact in 2026!



David Walls
Executive Director

impact across Kentucky? Every gift makes an impact!

The 2026 General Assembly is underway, and our team is working hard for Kentucky families. With momentum from recent pro-family victories reverberating around the country, Kentucky has a tremendous opportunity – *and responsibility* – to move forward courageously this legislative session.

By financially partnering with The Family Foundation, you help support effective strategies that promote biblical values to influence our culture and laws, educate legislators, encourage the Body of Christ, and advance faith, family, and freedom across Kentucky.

The cost of producing and postage for the Kentucky Citizen continues to increase while the demand continues to grow. Please give generously today, so we can continue to multiply our impact!

We need your prayers and support to accomplish all that the Lord has called us to in 2026. Will you make a gift to The Family Foundation to help us multiply our

impact across Kentucky? Every gift makes an impact!



The Kentucky Citizen
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The Family Foundation

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

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