

## FAMILY COUNCIL LEGISLATION

### Pro-Life

**S.B. 148.** S.B. 148, the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, by Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R - Branch) and Rep. Charlene Fite (R - Van Buren) protects babies who survive an abortion from being killed or denied medical treatment after birth. From other states we have heard stories of abortionists killing babies born alive after an abortion; some babies have been left to die or denied medical treatment. This bill ensures if a baby survives an abortion, the medical staff will be legally obligated to do everything they can to save the baby's life. It's a good bill that we are proud to support.

**H.B. 1428.** H.B. 1428 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R - Elm Springs) and Sen. Scott Flippo (R - Bull Shoals) cleans up several abortion laws in Arkansas. This bill is similar to one Sen. Flippo filed in 2015. It gives the Health Department the power to immediately close any clinic that fails a health inspection, and clarifies that abortion clinics must be inspected at least annually. Laws like this one literally help states close abortion clinics.

**H.B. 1566.** Undercover videos showing Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of aborted baby parts has spurred several states to look at how the remains of aborted babies are handled. H.B. 1566 by Rep. Kim Hammer (R - Benton) addresses that issue in Arkansas. H.B. 1566 helps ensure aborted babies are respectfully buried or cremated and that their organs are not bought or sold.

**S.B. 340.** S.B. 340 by Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson (R - Little Rock) and Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R - Clarksville) prohibits "wrongful birth" lawsuits in Arkansas. In some states couples have collected millions of dollars in "wrongful birth" lawsuits, claiming that it is a doctor's or hospital's fault their children were not aborted. No one should be able to file a lawsuit based on the claim that a child should not have been born. S.B. 340 makes sure that won't happen in Arkansas.

**H.B. 1628.** This bill by Rep. Brandt Smith (R - Jonesboro) strengthens Arkansas' protections for healthcare workers and payers who have a conscientious conviction against participating in abortions and other activities that violate their conscience. No one should ever be forced to participate in or pay for abortion, abortion counseling, or abortion-inducing drugs. H.B. 1628 helps ensure that will not happen in Arkansas.

**H.B. 1434.** H.B. 1434 by Rep. Charlie Collins (R - Fayetteville) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R - Mountain View) prohibits abortions performed due to the baby's sex, also known as "sex-selection abortion." In many countries and cultures unborn girls are more likely to be aborted than unborn boys. H.B. 1434 requires an abortionist to inform a woman seeking an abortion that sex-selection abortion is illegal. A doctor who performs a sex-selection abortion can be criminally prosecuted. This is a good bill that will make Arkansas a more pro-life state.

**SJR 9.** Sen. Jason Rapert (R - Conway) has filed SJR 9 calling for an Article V convention to add a pro-life amendment to the U.S. Constitution. If two-thirds of the state legislatures across the country pass resolutions identical to SJR 9, a constitutional convention will be called for the purpose of adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution protecting human life from the moment of conception. This is an opportunity to push for a federal amendment that would abolish abortion and protect the right to life nationwide.

**H.B. 1185.** H.B. 1185 by Rep. David Meeks (R - Conway) makes it easier for miscarried and stillborn children to be given official death certificates. This bill further reinforces that unborn children are people, and that their deaths matter just as much as anyone else's. It has passed the Arkansas Legislature and been signed into law.

**H.B. 1032.** The legislature passed H.B. 1032 by Rep. Andy Mayberry (R - Hensley) prohibiting most abortion procedures that dismember unborn babies. This good, pro-life bill has passed the Arkansas Legislature and been signed into law.

### Pro-Life Bills We Plan to File

**Surrogacy.** We plan to ban commercial surrogacy; too many women are victims of human trafficking and find themselves being victimized by people who use them to produce babies for commercial contract purposes. This bill would not affect altruistic or benevolent surrogacy arrangements between friends or relatives.

### Home School

**H.B. 1574.** Arkansas' home school registration process has not been updated in 20 years. H.B. 1574 by Rep. Mark Lowery (R - Maumelle) simplifies and clarifies the Notice of Intent to Home School. It makes it easier for home schoolers to file their notice online or by mail. It reduces the amount of information required on the Notice of Intent form. Parents will no

longer be required to list their curriculum or class schedule. It replaces the waiver home schoolers are required to sign with an agreement that simply says the home school parents will be responsible for their child's education. It also ensures local school districts do not try to force additional requirements on home school families.

**H.B. 1474.** Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" law lets home schoolers participate in interscholastic activities like athletics or band at their local public schools. H.B. 1474 by Rep. Mark Lowery (R - Maumelle) would allow home schoolers to participate in interscholastic activities outside their resident school district if both school districts agree. This means a home schooled student who lives right on the line between two school districts may be able to try out for extracurricular activities in the neighboring school district, if both school districts agree.

**H.B. 1471.** Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" law lets home schoolers participate in interscholastic activities like athletics or band at their local public schools. H.B. 1471 by Rep. Mark Lowery would let home schoolers participate in interscholastic activities at any private school within 25 miles of the student's home if the private school agrees to let the home schooler participate and is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association.

**H.B. 1208.** Currently, state rules and regulations let home schoolers take individual courses at their local public school if the school district is willing to enroll them. H.B. 1208 by Rep. Mark Lowery (R - Maumelle) writes this practice into state law. The bill has passed the Arkansas Legislature and been signed into law by Gov. Hutchinson.

**S.B. 112.** Sen. Jane English (R - North Little Rock) has filed S.B. 112 letting home schoolers deduct a portion of qualified educational expenses—such as the cost of textbooks—from their income taxes. This has the potential to save home schoolers money on their income taxes. Unfortunately, this bill has stalled—probably because it is estimated the State of Arkansas will miss out on \$7 million in taxes if S.B. 112 passes.

## Home School Bills We Plan to File

**School Transfers.** We plan to file a bill clarifying the transfer process from a home school to a public school. We hope to clarify policies regarding issues like course credits, class rank, honor graduation status, and other areas in which home schoolers have been penalized if they transfer back to a public school.

## Marijuana

**S.B. 238.** S.B. 238 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R - Conway) delays implementation of Arkansas' "medical marijuana" program until marijuana's status changes under federal law. Right now there is no question Arkansas' marijuana amendment and related laws and programs blatantly violate federal law. Sen. Rapert's bill puts these programs on hold until federal law changes to make marijuana legal.

**H.B. 1391.** The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment makes it extremely difficult for local municipalities to regulate the cultivation or sale of marijuana. H.B. 1391 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R - Elm Springs) lets a city council or quorum court regulate, zone, or prohibit marijuana farms and stores. This legislation gives local control back to the people of Arkansas.

**H.B. 1392.** Candy and drinks infused with marijuana are routinely sending people—especially children—to the hospital with marijuana overdoses. Children are especially at risk of accidentally ingesting marijuana-infused food. That's why four states prohibit edible marijuana products completely, and many others regulate them. H.B. 1392 by Rep. Lundstrum is similar to a law passed in Pennsylvania. It prohibits edible marijuana in Arkansas, with one exception: medical marijuana users may mix marijuana with food or drink individually. This means a marijuana user can bake marijuana brownies at home, but gummy bears, candy bars, and soft drinks or alcoholic beverages infused with marijuana cannot be manufactured and sold in marijuana stores.

**H.B. 1400.** Smoking is a recreational activity that is almost universally recognized as harmful to a person's health. That's why four states that have legalized medical marijuana prohibit marijuana smoking. H.B. 1400 by Rep. Lundstrum would prohibit marijuana cardholders from smoking marijuana in Arkansas.

**S.B. 130.** Right now Arkansas' marijuana amendment does not say what it means to be "under the influence" of marijuana. S.B. 130 by Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R - Branch) defines "under the influence of marijuana" as having five nanograms or more of THC—the active ingredient in marijuana—per milliliter of blood. This is similar to legislation on the books in other states.

**S.B. 254.** S.B. 254 by Sen. Greg Standridge (R - Russellville) would prohibit marijuana stores from growing marijuana. This would help cut down on marijuana cultivation in Arkansas.