



**FAMILY  
COUNCIL**

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is played out not in great battles,  
but in thousands of little ways. ”**

**SEPTEMBER 2017  
UPDATE LETTER**

### **DEAR FRIENDS,**

When Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939, a young nurse banded together with her coworkers to rescue Jewish children and their families. Her name was Irena Sendler.

At the outset of World War II, Sendler helped Jews evade capture by supplying them with false documents. As the Holocaust progressed, Sendler began smuggling Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto. As a nurse, she was permitted to enter the ghetto to check for disease and sanitation concerns. During those inspections, Sendler would help children escape by stowing them in everything from ambulances to oversized suitcases she carried with her.

Over the course of the war, Irena Sendler and her colleagues rescued some 2,500 Jewish children. The children she smuggled out of the ghetto were hidden with Christian families, orphanages, monasteries, and churches. Irena Sendler did this at great personal risk. Under Nazi rule, any person who aided the Jews could be put to death along with his or her entire household.

Many of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto were sent to extermination camps in eastern Poland. Oftentimes, children were among the first lives claimed by the Nazis in these camps. Irena Sendler's work no doubt saved many children from almost certain death.

Eventually the Gestapo arrested Irena Sendler. They tortured her and sentenced her to be executed. However, a friend was able to secure her release by bribing the soldiers guarding her. Sendler assumed a fake identity and continued helping Jewish families until the war ended.

Following the war, Sendler tried to reunite the children she rescued with their families. Despite having kept meticulous records of each child, Sendler found most of the children's families had either been killed or gone missing during the Holocaust.

It took many years for Irena Sendler to be recognized for her work and sacrifice. She has been honored by modern day Poland and by the state of Israel. In 2007, a year before she passed away, Sendler was reportedly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; however, the award was ultimately given to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for their work on global warming.

Irena Sendler's life is difficult to read about. It is a life marked by hardship, tragedy, and sacrifice. However, I believe there is a valuable lesson we can take away from it. Irena Sendler and the many others like her could have quit any time they wanted to, but they didn't. They kept going.

You and I may not be risking life and limb to rescue children from the Nazis, but we do have our own opportunities to do what's right each and every day. The epic struggle between good and evil typically is played out not in great battles, but in thousands of little ways at dinner tables, classrooms, churches, and offices each week.

Now let me tell you a little more about how Family Council is engaging in that struggle—and how you can too.

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Family Council  
President Jerry Cox

## MY THOUGHTS: ANSWERING THE QUESTION, “HOW’D MY LEGISLATOR VOTE?”

One of the most common questions I get from our supporters is, “How did my legislator vote?” Everywhere I go, people want to know how their state senator or state representative is doing. Wouldn’t it be great if there were a single guide that showed how lawmakers voted on important bills? I think I have the answer. Family Council Action Committee has produced a handy legislative report card, which I have enclosed with this letter.

Family Council Action Committee selected votes on key legislation in the Arkansas House and Arkansas Senate based on the core belief in promoting, protecting, and strengthening traditional family values. These bills were chosen because they address issues conservative Arkansans care about, including abortion; marriage and family; marijuana; education; and others. Law-

makers’ grades are based on 25 bills that came before the Arkansas House and Senate. Some bills were voted on by one chamber only, while others were voted on in both the House and Senate. Bills that never passed a legislative committee vote are not included. Not all lawmakers voted on every bill. To receive a grade, lawmakers had to vote on at least 15 of the 25 bills in the report card; otherwise they received a grade of “incomplete.”

I am pleased to share this report card for the 2017 Arkansas General Assembly. It is a snapshot of how lawmakers voted on key social, moral, or economic legislation. This report card is not an endorsement of any candidate or political party. It does not measure any lawmakers’ integrity, commitment to their faith, work ethic, or rapport with Family Council or Family Council Action Committee. It is only a report on how each lawmaker voted.

I always say it is not enough for citizens to vote. We need to know who our candidates and elected officials are, and we need to be engaged in the legislative process. I believe this report card can help you do that. If you would like to request additional copies of the report card, call Family Council Action Committee at (501) 375-7000. You can also find the report card online at [www.ArkansasReport.com](http://www.ArkansasReport.com).

## Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Duking It Out With Little Rock Judge on Pro-Life Laws

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis and U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker in Little Rock have been duking it out over Arkansas’ pro-life laws this summer.

In 2015 the Arkansas Legislature passed a good law requiring abortion drugs like RU-486 to be dispensed according to FDA protocols and requiring abortion clinics to contract with a physician who has admitting privileges at a hospital. That same year, Governor Hutchinson directed the state to stop giving Medicaid funds to Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood responded by filing two lawsuits against the state. Both lawsuits went to U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker in Little Rock, who issued injunctions blocking these good, pro-life laws and policies.



In 2016 Attorney General Leslie Rutledge asked the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Judge Baker’s injunctions. It took almost a year, but this summer, judges on the Eighth Circuit overturned both of Judge Baker’s bad rulings. This is a major pro-life victory!

A few hours after the Eighth Circuit reinstated Arkansas’ pro-life law from 2015,

Judge Baker blocked four good, pro-life laws the Arkansas Legislature passed earlier this year.

These laws do things like ban abortions performed due to the baby’s sex; prohibit certain abortion procedures in which the unborn baby is dismembered; make it easier for authorities to identify victims of rape, incest, and human trafficking; and ensure aborted babies are not treated like medical waste or lab material.

U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker has blocked these laws for now, but Arkansas’ Attorney General has appealed this bad ruling to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Given the fact the Eighth Circuit has already thrown out two of Judge Baker’s bad decisions, I believe there is a good possibility the Eighth Circuit will reverse this one as well and put these four good laws back in effect.

While Judge Baker has generally given the ACLU and Planned Parenthood everything they have ever asked for, the judges on the Eighth Circuit of Appeals have been much more reasonable—and recently they have been highly critical of Judge Baker’s actions. I am confident we will see pro-life rulings from the higher courts in the months to come.

**Take Action:** Call (501) 682-2007 to thank Attorney General Leslie Rutledge for defending Arkansas’ pro-life laws.

*Left: Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is defending our pro-life laws*

## Recreational Marijuana Supporters On the March

Now that Arkansas has “medical marijuana,” recreational marijuana’s supporters want to circulate petitions to place a measure on the ballot for November 2018.

From late May to August, supporters of recreational marijuana submitted ballot proposals almost weekly to Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. These proposals generally let adults grow, buy, sell, and use marijuana recreationally. As the A.G. has noted, these proposals are legally deficient. They expand Arkansas’ marijuana industry, and many of them would make it difficult for state or local government to regulate marijuana.

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As we keep saying: so-called “medical marijuana” is just a stepping stone. The endgame is—and always has been—full legalization of marijuana. Family Council remains committed to keeping recreational marijuana out of Arkansas, and we are continuing to work with others who share that commitment.

**Take Action:** Call (501) 682-2007 to thank Attorney General Leslie Rutledge for continuing to reject these flawed marijuana measures.

## ON OCTOBER 5, DON'T GO TO SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS!

We are partnering with our friends at Focus on the Family to promote an important event this year: Bring Your Bible to School Day. On October 5, tens of thousands of students across America will take their Bibles with them to school. This is a simple opportunity for our students to exercise their religious liberty and celebrate God’s Word at the same time. If you have children or grandchildren enrolled in school, encourage them to take their Bibles to school this October—and be sure to tell the students in your church’s Sunday school or youth group about it as well. You can learn more at [www.BringYourBible.org](http://www.BringYourBible.org).



## Hot Springs, Texarkana Buddy Up to Marijuana Industry

Marijuana is a multibillion dollar business in America today. Some three dozen corporations related to marijuana have already set up shop in Arkansas, and unfortunately several communities are beating a path to the industry’s door in hopes of finding tax revenue.

In July the Hot Springs City Board of Directors passed a resolution welcoming marijuana growers and sellers to town. City officials said the resolution was necessary to help dispel the notion that Hot Springs is not favorable to marijuana. Likewise, Texarkana passed a set of regulations in support of marijuana companies. Both cities are looking to make money from fees imposed on marijuana businesses.

Marijuana is a blight on the community. Taxing it won’t change that. It is a sad indictment on the leadership in Hot Springs and Texarkana that they cannot think of a better way to improve their communities than to embrace the marijuana industry.

**Take Action:** Call your city council or quorum court, and encourage them not to go along with any plans to bring marijuana to your community.

## Illegal Gambling Houses Proliferating in Some Parts of Arkansas

With the exception of the state lottery and the casinos and racetracks in Hot Springs and West Memphis, Arkansas generally prohibits gambling. However, some of Arkansas’ anti-gambling laws are vague. Others have been on the books for nearly a century—long before the Internet and electronic gaming. As a result, we are hearing more reports of gambling houses opening in some parts of Arkansas.

Earlier this year authorities in Saline County arrested several people in connection with four gambling houses. We have heard rumors of similar establishments in east Arkansas. These gambling houses often use machines that look more like video games than traditional slot machines or card games. Some attorneys consider them legally “gray”—the machines probably are illegal, but the case against them isn’t black and white.

From what we are hearing, these gambling houses sometimes locate in former liquor stores or old gas stations. They may look like legitimate businesses, but their activities could be illegal. We plan to work with lawmakers and prosecutors to clarify state laws and ensure our existing anti-gambling laws are enforced.

**Take Action:** If you suspect a gambling house is operating in your community, please notify your local sheriff’s office; your local prosecutor’s office; and your county judge’s office. Then call us at (501) 375-7000.

## Trump Administration Cuts More Federal Money From Planned Parenthood

In 2010 Congress and the Obama Administration authorized the federal Office of Adolescent Health to award grant money to organizations offering “evidence-based” teen pregnancy prevention programs. Earlier this summer the Trump Administration quietly ended funding for those programs.

While some of the teen pregnancy programs focused on abstinence, most of them taught middle school and high school students about birth control. When all was said and done, independent evaluators found most of these programs were either ineffective or inconclusive when it came to reducing teen pregnancy.

In one instance, teen girls were actually more likely to become pregnant immediately after completing the program—not less. That program was conducted in Oregon by Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest. The Obama Administration gave Planned Parenthood millions of dollars to teach students in Oregon about preventing pregnancy, and the result was that more teenagers became pregnant. You can’t make this stuff up.

Altogether, Planned Parenthood clinics have received millions of dollars to conduct these teen pregnancy prevention programs since 2010. Planned Parenthood is the nation’s leading abortion provider. By some estimates, one out of every three abortions in America happens in a

**We need to address teen pregnancy, but giving federal tax money to abortionists simply is not the way to do it.**

Planned Parenthood clinic. And while abortion overall has been on the decline in many states, Planned Parenthood’s annual reports show it has actually increased the number of abortions it performs in recent years. We need to address teen pregnancy, but giving federal tax money to abortionists simply is not the way to do it.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

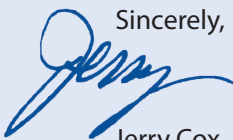
Here’s a snapshot of our plans for the coming months:

**Voter’s Guides:** The 2018 elections will be here before we know it. When our next voter’s guide is released, you can expect big changes in our format, and content. We want our voter’s guide to be the best in the nation.

**Home Schooling:** Our Education Alliance division works with the state Department of Education and helps home schoolers with everything from kindergarten to college admission.

**Marijuana:** We are working with attorneys to craft solid wording for a local ballot measure to ban marijuana operations in cities and counties. We hope Arkansas ends up with many marijuana-free counties.

You are a valuable partner in our work. Without you, we simply would not be here. That’s why I hope you will send a generous, tax-deductible gift to Family Council today. Your support will mean so much. Thank you for standing with us. Please let me know if there is ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,  
 Thank you!!  
Jerry Cox, President

P.S. Enclosed is your copy of Family Council Action Committee’s 2017 Legislative Report Card. It shows how lawmakers voted on key bills and grades each state legislator based on his or her votes. We’ve had some major pro-life victories in court this summer. Your generous financial support is enabling us to do so much. **Thank you for standing with us.**

