



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

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**DECEMBER 2018
UPDATE LETTER**

DEAR FRIENDS,

I remember the day I noticed that my friend Mr. Sherman Cline's usual \$25 monthly gift had not been mailed to Family Council in several months. For the past two years he had lived in government-funded apartments for senior citizens in Paris, Arkansas. Not able to locate him, I called the local utility company to see if he had moved. Instead I learned that he was deceased. I sat quietly at my desk and thought for a little while.

Before moving to Paris, Mr. Cline lived alone in a small apartment in downtown Little Rock. I clearly remember the Christmas morning when I drove our young boys to Mr. Cline's apartment to invite him to our house for dinner that evening. He had no phone, no family, and no plans for Christmas—he would just be alone. I told him we'd be back to pick him up for dinner. When the boys and I returned, he was dressed in slacks, a shirt, and his best jacket. We had such a great evening. After dinner, Mr. Cline took out a book filled with pictures of The War. My boys were wide-eyed when he told them about marching and fighting—about wearing his boots for a solid month without taking them off. He talked a little about the horrific scenes he saw as he helped liberate the concentration camp at Dachau and about guarding German prisoners near Nuremburg.

Mr. Cline and his younger brother and sister were from Coal Hill, Arkansas. After their mother died during the Great Depression, their father caught a train to Texas looking for work and was never heard from again. Eventually he and his siblings were placed in an orphan's home. His sister was adopted, and they mostly lost touch. He and his brother later struck out on their own, but his brother was killed in a car accident. Sherman Cline was all alone. He ended up picking cotton at Dyess Colony in east Arkansas. Then the war came.

Mr. Cline served, survived, and came home, but he never married and never had a family. He worked blue collar jobs until he retired to live on his small Social Security check. Sometimes he ate only one meal a day. He didn't own a car or have a telephone. But Mr. Cline was a Christian and pro-life. In the 1980's he volunteered to help us pass the Unborn Child Amendment, a law that prevents public funding of abortion. I remember the night we won that election. When the final results came in, there were just a few people left in the room. As we gathered in a circle to thank God for the victory, there was Mr. Cline, probably the poorest person in the room, joining hands with some very wealthy people who helped fund the effort, but it didn't matter to him or to them.

That Christmas when Mr. Cline came to our house for dinner, I thought we were doing something to bless him. As it turns out, he blessed us. Over 20 years later, Doris, my boys, and I still cherish the memories of that evening around the fireplace with Mr. Cline. When his ashes were interred in Magazine, Arkansas, only about 10 people were there. But there was ninety-one-year-old Polly. Her late husband and Mr. Cline had been good friends. Only one of Mr. Cline's earthly possessions remained—his worn-out, marked-up Bible. We presented his Bible to Polly. The manager of the apartment told us more about the night Mr. Cline passed away. "We found him alone, sitting in his chair with that Bible open on his lap." Apparently, he had suffered a stroke. I thought, What a way bring this life to an end—reading God's word one moment and in His presence the next!

As I wrap up this year and look forward to 2019, I am so grateful to those whose sacrifice, hard work, and quiet heroism blessed so many who don't even know it. Even today, there may be those in Heaven who say thank you to Mr. Cline and others like him who fought their way across Europe and saved lives by ending the Holocaust and then worked here at home to end our own holocaust of abortion. Mr. Cline's life counted for things eternal. That's what we're about at Family Council—things eternal. Like Mr. Cline, you've helped us make a difference, and I am eternally grateful. I'm confident that someday we will see how our work on earth made a difference for eternity. Thank you, and may God bless you for standing with us.

414 S. Pulaski St., Suite 2 • Little Rock, AR 72201 • 501-375-7000 • info@familycouncil.org



Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: COMING UP ON 30 YEARS

2019 will mark 30 years since I started the work of Family Council and 35 years since I first became involved in pro-life work in Arkansas. A lot has happened in the past three and a half decades. I've helped lead two successful efforts to amend the Arkansas Constitution. I've testified in more legislative committee meetings than I can count, and I've literally run the halls of the Arkansas Capitol Building looking for a lawmaker or trying to make it to an appointment on time.

I've stood side-by-side with other Arkansans in opposing obscenity, gambling, and abortion. I've had a state surgeon general call me "mean, ugly, and evil." I've been given "hate awards" by homosexual activists. I've had a liberal columnist who was straining to be clever compare me to Dana Carvey's "Church Lady" from Saturday Night Live. On a few occasions, I've even mistakenly been called one of the worst names anyone can imagine: a lawyer!

I've also seen hearts and minds changed. I've seen Arkansas go from one of the most pro-abortion states in America to the second most pro-life state in the country. I've seen powerful legislators humbled, and I've seen humble lawmakers honored. As we come to the close of another year, I can't help but think about what the future holds. I believe we have great years ahead of us. We are very close to seeing our state's remaining abortion clinics close their doors, making Arkansas a state where innocent human life is protected from conception until natural death. As God allows us, and as good friends like you continue to stand with us, I believe we can carry the good work of Family Council forward in 2019 and for many more years to come.

Family Council's Greatest Hits 2018

Thanks to the generous support of our friends all across the state, 2018 was a really good year for Family Council. Below are just a few of our "greatest hits" for 2018:

Hosting Pastor's Day at the Capitol. One of the best things we do all year is Pastor's Day at the Capitol. We invite ministers and church leaders from all over Arkansas as well as elected officials to join us in the Capitol Rotunda for a time of prayer, worship, and preaching. This year some 200 ministers joined us for this free, nonpartisan event. Speakers included Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge; Pastor Gary Bell of Pine Bluff First Assembly; and Rep. Fred Allen (D – District 30). Our goal isn't to turn ministers into lobbyists—although I think it's great when pastors weigh in on legislation. Rather, Pastors Day at the Capitol is one way we try to bring a little bit of God's light and truth into the halls of government. We're already getting ready for Pastor's Day at the Capitol 2019. Look for more details soon.

Honoring Arkansas' Longest-Married Couple. This year Family Council launched a new, annual event: Arkansas' Longest Married Couple. In February, we honored the husband and wife in Arkansas who have been married the longest, as well as nine other couples who have been married almost as long. This year's winners were I.B. and Ima Jewel Williams of Biscoe, Arkansas. Honoring Arkansas' longest-married couple is a way we can show that marriage still matters and really can last a lifetime. We plan to honor Arkansas' ten longest-married couples again this coming February. If you or someone you know has been married more than 70 years, you can submit a nomination to Ken Yang at ken@familycouncil.org or by calling (501) 375-7000.

Educating Thousands of Arkansas Voters. Since 1990, Family Council's Arkansas Voter's Guide has been the leading source for nonpartisan information about the candidates and ballot issues. We survey the candidates, and we analyze the ballot issues, and then we publish that information in print and online. This year we distributed 65,000 printed copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide for the Primary and General elections. Those guides went to families and churches all over the state. We also had more than 15,500 users visit ArkansasVotersGuide.com—including nearly 2,000 people on Election Day in November. Our 2018 Arkansas Voter's Guide helped tens of thousands of voters identify the candidates that best reflect their values.

Defeating Bad Legislation. In March we helped stop legislation that lobbyists for the nursing home industry and other corporations tried to ramrod through the Arkansas Legislature making it easy for Arkansans to unknowingly waive their right to a jury trial when they sign contracts. In 2003 the nursing home industry tried to pass legislation shielding themselves from lawsuits when they neglect, injure, or kill a resident, and making it easy for nursing home residents to waive their right to a jury trial. We successfully opposed that legislation in 2003, and we successfully defeated a similar proposal earlier this year. We do not oppose medical malpractice reforms that protect good doctors from frivolous lawsuits, but we have serious concerns about proposals that protect corporations from being held accountable when their negligence injures or kills innocent people.

Family Council's Greatest Hits 2018 (continued)

Launching a New Pro-Life Effort. This year we formed the ARFuture Foundation that will provide grant money for pregnancy resource centers. The foundation will help distribute public grants and private donations to centers that assist women with unplanned pregnancies. In Arkansas, pregnancy resource centers offer women ultrasounds, maternity clothes, baby supplies, adoption information, and other services—all free of charge. These centers give women real options besides abortion, but they often struggle for funding. The ARFuture Foundation can help provide funding to these centers. Ultimately, we believe this will reduce the demand for abortion and bring Arkansas one step closer to ending abortion altogether.

Protecting Home Schooling. This year, we worked with the Arkansas Department of Education to rewrite most of the rules regarding home schooling. These rules are designed to provide guidance for public schools, home schools, and others as to how to follow the new laws. How these rules are written makes all the difference. We helped the Department craft rules that help rather than hinder home schoolers.

Educating People About Ballot Issues. We spent a lot of time educating people about five ballot issues: Issue 1, the lawsuit amendment, which the Supreme Court removed from the ballot. Issue 2 the amendment requiring voter I.D., which passed. Issue 3, term limits, which the Supreme Court removed from the ballot. Issue 4 the casino amendment, which passed, and Issue 5, the minimum wage act which passed.



Howard County Bans Marijuana Farms, Stores

This year Family Council Action Committee helped Howard County become the first county in Arkansas to prohibit farms and stores for so-called “medical marijuana.” In other states, marijuana businesses have been magnets for burglary and other crimes, and marijuana grown or sold at these locations often ends up on the black market. The Arkansas Constitution gives cities and counties the ability to prohibit marijuana farms and stores in their communities. Volunteers in Howard County circulated petitions and placed a proposal on the ballot prohibiting marijuana farms and stores in their county. That proposal passed on November 6. We are proud of everyone in Howard County who was part of this effort. If you would like to know more about how you can prohibit marijuana farms and stores in your community, call our office at (501) 375-7000.

State Board Rules Three Abortion Facilities Violated Arkansas Law

In October the Arkansas Board of Health determined Planned Parenthood's chemical abortion clinics in Little Rock and Fayetteville as well as a surgical abortion clinic in Little Rock all violated a pro-life law we helped pass nearly four years ago. In 2015 the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 1086 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Elm Springs). Act 1086 arguably is the best informed-consent law in the nation. It ensures women asking about abortion get all the facts—including information about abortion's consequences, risks, and alternatives, and about the cutting-edge science of chemical abortion pill reversal.

Act 1086 also required abortion clinics to give women at least 48 hours to consider their options before having an abortion, and it prohibited abortionists from charging women for the abortion and any related procedures before the end of that 48-hour period. In some states, if a woman asks about abortion, the clinic charges her up front for the abortion. If she changes her mind and decides not to have the abortion, the clinic doesn't give her a refund. They keep her money anyway—even though she didn't have an abortion. Act 1086 helps ensure women are free to change their minds about abortion and won't be penalized financially for deciding not to have an abortion. This good law has saved 731 babies from abortion in the past two years. However, state inspectors learned earlier this year that Arkansas' three abortion facilities have been breaking part of the law.

According to documents we obtained, in March the Health Department cited Planned Parenthood and Little Rock Family Planning Services for charging women for some of the procedures related to abortion—like the woman's initial appointment at the abortion facility—before the end of the 48-hour reflection period. All three abortion facilities stopped charging women up front, but they also complained to State Board of Health about the citation. After several months of procedural work, the State Board of Health declared late in October that the Health Department's inspectors were right, and that the clinics violated state law. Planned Parenthood and Little Rock Family Planning Services will have to obey this good, pro-life law that is saving the lives of hundreds of unborn children in Arkansas.



Pro-Life Law Cost Abortion Clinics \$30,000 in Less Than Nine Months

Besides saving lives, Act 1086 is hitting abortion facilities where it hurts: Their bottom lines. Since they stopped charging women up front last spring, Planned Parenthood claims their clinics have lost about \$10,000; Little Rock Family Planning Services says it has lost approximately \$20,000. Before Act 1086 went into effect, clinics could charge women ahead of time for abortion and procedures related to abortion. Now that abortionists can't do that, their bottom lines are hurting. Not only is Arkansas' informed-consent law saving the lives of unborn children. It's also making it more difficult to operate an abortion business in Arkansas. In my book, both of those are good things.

Volunteers Save AR Babies from Abortion

40 Days for Life just wrapped up its semiannual prayer campaigns across America. Each spring and fall pro-life volunteers take time to pray outside abortion facilities every day for 40 days. These events aren't protests or rallies. They are solemn prayer vigils where Christians pray that abortion will end, and they work.

This year at least six unborn babies were saved from abortion in Little Rock thanks to the work of people praying outside the surgical abortion facility. Two of those children were twins. Pro-life volunteers plan to throw their mother a baby shower as her due date approaches. In Northwest Arkansas, volunteers outside a Planned Parenthood facility were able to pray with and minister to a woman who had an abortion some time ago.

This is what we mean when we say that 40 Days for Life saves lives! We always hear stories of abortion facilities closed and clinic workers coming to Christ in the wake of a 40 Days for Life effort elsewhere. It's great to hear about hearts touched and lives saved at Arkansas' own 40 Days for Life vigils!



Casinos are Coming to Arkansas. What Do We Do?

In November voters passed Issue 4, a proposal authorizing casinos in Pope and Jefferson counties and converting the racetracks in Garland and Crittenden counties into full-fledged casinos. So now that Arkansas is going to have four casinos, where do we go from here?

First we, we need to hem gambling in as much as we possibly can through rules and regulations. Issue 4 gives the Arkansas Legislature very little power to regulate casino gambling. Most of the regulatory power resides with the Arkansas Racing Commission. In the next few months, the Racing Commission is going to publish new rules and regulations for casino gambling. We need to be part of that rulemaking process.

Second, citizens in Pope and Jefferson counties need to tell their local officials that they don't want casinos in their communities. Under Issue 4, a casino needs approval from the county judge or quorum court and the mayor, if the casino will be located inside city limits. We can block efforts to open casinos in Pope or Jefferson County by convincing local leaders not to approve gambling in their jurisdiction.

Third, if we really want to fix the problems Issue 4 creates, the Arkansas Legislature can refer a constitutional amendment to voters for 2020 amending Issue 4 and either prohibiting casino gambling completely, or at the very least, giving the casino industry responsible oversight and regulation.

Family Council has opposed casino gambling consistently over the years. Even though voters passed Issue 4 last month, casino gambling is still bad for Arkansas. That's why we remain committed to stemming the harm that casinos will cause to families in our communities. Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims. Casino gambling is a very bad idea, and it's going to leave a long list of victims in its wake.



Sidewalk volunteers saved at least six unborn babies from abortion in Little Rock this fall.

Official Analysis Shows Casinos Will Cost the State Approximately \$40 Million

The day after Issue 4 passed, Governor Hutchinson held a press conference at which he told reporters that an initial look at the state's budget for next year showed casinos

When you let the casinos write their own amendment that sets their own tax rate, you can bet they're going to write it in their favor.

would cost the State of Arkansas approximately \$40 million. That estimate has since been reduced by a couple million dollars, but it's still very high. In a nutshell, Issue 4 lowered the taxes that Oaklawn and Southland currently pay the state. In fact, under Issue 4, casinos in Arkansas will pay some of the lowest taxes of any casinos in America. What's more, the Arkansas Legislature cannot raise that tax rate. That's because Issue 4 was written by out-of-state gambling companies who want to expand their business to Arkansas. When you let the casinos write their own amendment that sets their own tax rate, you can bet they're going to write it in their favor. Now that casinos are coming to Arkansas, our state legislature will have to find a way to plug a \$40 million hole in the state's budget.

Expansion at Oaklawn Proves Casinos Aren't Good for the Economy

Just days after voters passed Issue 4, Oaklawn in Hot Springs announced a \$100 million expansion. If anything, this proves what we have said all along: Casinos pull money out of the local economy. While Garland County has poverty levels that are well above average, Oaklawn has \$100 million it can spend expanding its gambling operation. The only business that has truly benefited from all the gambling at the racetrack in Hot Springs is Oaklawn itself—with the possible exceptions of the pawn shops and liquor stores located near Oaklawn. Gambling hasn't bolstered the economy in Hot Springs or West Memphis. It hasn't lifted Mississippi or Oklahoma out of poverty. Even Nevada has economic downturns. When it comes to gambling, they say the house always wins. I would add, the house is the only one who wins.



Assistant Executive Director
David Cox

POLICY POINTS: PLANNED PARENTHOOD IS ON THE RETREAT

By David Cox

In October Planned Parenthood asked a federal judge in Little Rock to temporarily pause the group's lawsuit over the state's decision to quit giving Medicaid money to the abortion provider. A few weeks later Planned Parenthood announced it was dropping its lawsuit against the

state over the Abortion-Inducing Drugs Safety Act, Act 577 of 2015, that requires abortionists to follow FDA protocols when dispensing abortion drugs like RU-486, and requires abortion facilities that perform chemical abortions to contract with a physician who has hospital admitting privileges to handle any complications women may experience from a chemical abortion. Planned Parenthood says it still believes the law is unconstitutional, but the group is dropping its legal challenge and will comply with the law anyway.

Since 2013, Arkansas has passed one pro-life law after another, and Planned Parenthood has filed lawsuit after lawsuit to try to stop those good laws. Why are they suddenly hitting the brakes on a couple of those lawsuits? My guess is Planned Parenthood sees the writing on the wall. They've already lost some cases in the federal Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals that presides over Arkansas. With the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court both leaning our direction on pro-life issues, Planned Parenthood probably wants to cut its losses.

By delaying and dropping these court cases, Planned Parenthood may be giving Arkansas a green light to pass more pro-life laws. If the abortion giant is backing away from legal challenges, Arkansas may be able to pass pro-life laws without the serious threat of a lawsuit from Planned Parenthood. That could translate into more pro-life laws and more babies saved from abortion. We are winning the fight to protect the unborn. Our abortion numbers are at historic lows. Our legislature has passed dozens of good, pro-life laws. Our federal courts are upholding those laws. And abortionists are on the retreat. Momentum is on our side, and we can use that momentum to carry us forward in 2019.



Director of Governmental Affairs
Ken Yang

HELP US FIND ARKANSAS' LONGEST-MARRIED COUPLE!

By Ken Yang

We're searching for the man and woman in Arkansas who have been married the longest. The competition is pretty fierce! This year we honored ten wonderful couples who had each been married more than 75 years. The couple married the longest—I.B. and Ima Jewel Williams of Biscoe—had recently celebrated their 80th wedding

anniversary. Who knew there were so many men and women who had been married more than seven decades?

If you've been married more than 70 years, send me an email at ken@familycouncil.org or call me at (501) 375-7000. Send me your name, address, email address, phone number, and wedding date, and I will put you and your spouse in the running for Arkansas' Longest-Married Couple in 2019. If you know someone in Arkansas who has been married more than 70 years, nominate them for our Longest-Married Couple Award by sending me their names, email address, phone number, and wedding date. We will honor the ten couples who have been married the longest at a special reception in February, so we need to receive all nominations by February 1, 2019. Give me a call or send me an email if you have questions.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In spite of this busy time of the year, we still have time to turn our hearts to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thankfully, God reached out to us with the ultimate gift. Now, we can reach out to others. From the Salvation Army bell ringers to food for the hungry, we all give.

There are so many good organizations and worthy causes, and we're not any more worthy than them, but I can say that we're unique. There aren't many places where you can give a dollar and see it converted into an unborn life saved, religious freedom protected, home schooling defended, good laws passed, or the radical homosexual agenda blunted. No other organization in Arkansas does all that we do.

You are part of a small number of individuals and churches who understand and appreciate the importance of our work. Never entertain the thought that your gifts don't matter or that someone else will take up the slack. You and every other person on our list form a team that cannot function right without all its members.

If you have not helped us recently, we really need to hear from you between now and the end of the year. If you have helped us recently, please accept my sincere thanks. If you are able to help with a little more as we close out the year, we really need it. All gifts are tax-deductible. **Thank you so much for standing with us.**

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. Thank you for your prayers, your kind words, and your financial support. You keep us in the fight. At this wonderful Christmas Season, may you and your family be richly blessed. **May you have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

