



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

inside:

—
**Arkansas is the
Most Pro-Life State
in America!**

—
**Arkansas' Abortion
Rate Cut in Half
Since 2000**

—
**The Free World
Must Stand With
Hong Kong**

—
**Biden Promises
to Reinstate Obama's
"Guidelines"
On School Showers
and Bathrooms**

—
& MORE



**JANUARY 2021
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

In 1666 the Great Fire of London destroyed most of the homes and churches in England's capital city. Among the buildings burned was St. Paul's Cathedral—a church that had been established at least six hundred years earlier, and possibly as far back as the fourth century.

After the fire, Parliament and King Charles II commissioned architectural genius Sir Christopher Wren to rebuild much of London—including St. Paul's. A famous legend says that one day Wren disguised himself and visited the construction site for the new cathedral. He asked three men building a wall what they were doing.

The first construction worker said, "I am cutting stones."

The second said, "I'm working for five shillings and two pence a day."

But the third man proudly told him, "I am helping Sir Christopher Wren build a magnificent cathedral to the glory of God!"

What a difference a person's perspective and attitude can make! That third worker understood the "big picture" that he was part of, and it really showed.

I find that's true when it comes to our work in Arkansas. When we secure passage of pro-life bills, people sometimes complain "All you did was restrict abortion drugs! Why not do more?" or "That bill only saves babies aborted later in pregnancy, but what about babies aborted earlier?"

Those bills are like bricks going into the wall of a pro-life cathedral. By themselves they don't look like much, but when you put them together, they form something incredible.

In November the Centers for Disease control released a report showing Arkansas' abortion rate has been cut in half since the year 2000. Then in December our friends at Americans United for Life announced that Arkansas officially is the most pro-life state in America! On the whole, our laws are better than anyone else's when it comes to protecting innocent human life at every stage—from the womb to the tomb. None of that would have been possible without a lot of work from a lot of people laying a huge groundwork over the past four decades.

We aren't just passing laws. We're saving lives.

We aren't just educating voters. We're making Arkansas a better state to live, work, and raise a family.

We get to be part of something much bigger than ourselves. We're doing work that is going to impact the lives of people who haven't even been born yet! That's simply amazing.

You're an important partner with us in that work, and I really appreciate that. We have big plans for 2021—especially with the legislative session approaching in just a few days. And now let me tell you a little more about what we have planned for the coming year—and how you can be part of it.

**We aren't
just passing
laws. We're
saving lives.**

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



MY THOUGHTS: AFTER A DECADE OF TRYING, ARKANSAS IS THE MOST PRO-LIFE STATE IN AMERICA!

Ten years ago Family Council joined with other pro-life organizations and individuals in Arkansas to make our state the most pro-life state in the nation. By working together, I am pleased to say we have done that.

Family Council
President Jerry Cox

The announcement came at a press conference in the rotunda of the Arkansas Capitol Building on December 16, 2020. Family Council was joined by Americans United for Life, as well as Arkansas Right to Life President Andy Mayberry, State Sen. Cecile Bledsoe, State Rep. Robin Lundstrum, Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin, and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. Catherine Glenn Foster, President and CEO of Americans United for Life, made the announcement that Arkansas officially is the most pro-life state in America and praised Family Council and other pro-life leaders for our hard work. AUL analyzes pro-life laws in all 50 states, and they rank each state according to how well those laws protect the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and the dying. According to Americans United for Life, Arkansas has the best pro-life laws, on the whole, of any state in America.

This is really great news! If you've been on our mailing list very long, you probably know that Arkansas has been ranked the second most pro-life state in America for the past three years. Before that we consistently ranked number four or number five in the nation, and before that we were even lower. Arkansas has improved a lot when it comes to protecting human life. Obviously, this didn't happen overnight. It took a lot of work by a lot of folks—including Family Council, Arkansas Right to Life, the General Assembly, Governor Hutchinson, and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. There are those who fought the pro-life fight for decades without living to see this day—people like my friend Betsy Hagan who led Eagle Forum

in Arkansas for many years, Bishop Andrew McDonald, or former Arkansas Right to Life President Tina Chipman who passed away last August. One of the points I made during my remarks at the press conference is that we stand on the shoulders of pro-lifers who came before us.

So now that Arkansas is the most pro-life state in America, where do we go from here?

Becoming the most pro-life state in the nation is a milestone. It's not a destination. It gives Arkansans the opportunity to become real leaders in the struggle to end abortion. We worked really hard to reach this point, but in some ways the real work is just beginning. With that in mind, here are three goals Family Council wants to help achieve in Arkansas:

1. Keep Arkansas as the most pro-life state in America.
2. Close Arkansas' remaining abortion facilities.
3. End abortion in Arkansas.

Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R–Perryville) have filed S.B. 6 to end abortion in Arkansas. If passed, it would give the federal courts an opportunity to overturn pro-abortion decisions like *Roe v. Wade*. Sen. Rapert and I both have done interviews with national media outlets about this good bill. Many Americans are watching to see what Arkansas will do this year. This is an amazing opportunity, and we need to take full advantage of it to save as many unborn children as possible. We may be the most pro-life state in the country, but our ultimate goal is to end abortion—and there's still a lot of work left to do.



Americans United for Life President and CEO Catherine Glenn Foster and Family Council President Jerry Cox present the AUL Life List for 2021 at a press conference on December 16, 2020, in the rotunda of the Arkansas Capitol Building.



From Left: Sen. Mark Johnson (R – Little Rock), Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale), Charisse Cooksey, Ken Yang, Chip Gross, Luke McCoy, Erin Hogan, Doris Cox, Jerry Cox, Catherine Glenn Foster, and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) gather following a press conference announcing Arkansas is the most pro-life state in America.

Arkansas' Abortion Rate Cut in Half Since 2000

In November the federal Centers for Disease Control released a report indicating Arkansas' abortion rate has been cut in half since the year 2000. The numbers were published in the CDC's Abortion Surveillance report for the year 2018—the most recent year for which the CDC has published abortion statistics. The report shows that Arkansas' abortion rate was 5.3 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15–44. The abortion rate is a way to measure how prevalent abortion is in a state by comparing the total number of abortions to the state's female population. According to past CDC reports, Arkansas' abortion rate was 10 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15–44 in the year 2000, and it was higher before that. The CDC hasn't released abortion stats for 2019, but Family Council estimates based on Department of Health data that Arkansas' abortion rate has fallen to approximately 5.1. These numbers show how Arkansas has become more and more pro-life over the years. Slowly but surely we are winning the fight against abortion.

Bayer Gives \$40,000 Grant to Planned Parenthood Facility in Little Rock

In mid-December, pharmaceutical company Bayer—the same company that makes Bayer Aspirin—awarded a \$40,000 grant to the Planned Parenthood facility in Little Rock. The grant was made possible through a partnership between Bayer and Direct Relief. According to Planned Parenthood, the abortion facility in Little Rock will receive \$40,000 “to fund innovative projects in 2021 focused on expanding transportation for women traveling to Planned Parenthood's facility on Aldersgate Road. Pro-life Arkansans routinely pray outside Little Rock's abortion facilities—including the Planned Parenthood facility. **If you would like to be part of this rewarding ministry, call our office at (501) 375-7000, and we will connect you with the volunteers who lead this effort to pray against abortion.**

Planned Parenthood in Northwest Arkansas Apparently Closed for Good

In the summer of 2019 Planned Parenthood closed its Fayetteville abortion facility after its landlord reportedly chose not to renew the abortion giant's lease. The group has been looking for a new clinic in Northwest Arkansas ever

Planned Parenthood closed its Fayetteville abortion facility.

since. For about a year and a half Planned Parenthood kept a job opening posted on its website for a staff physician in Fayetteville. But late last year Planned Parenthood deleted that job listing, and it's been months since they've said anything at all about reopening in Northwest Arkansas. This leads our team to believe that Planned Parenthood has given up on reopening in Northwest Arkansas. That is welcome news.



State Medical Board Lets Abortionist Resume Writing Marijuana Certifications

On December 3 the Arkansas State Medical Board reluctantly voted to let abortionist Dr. Tom Tvedten return to writing “medical” marijuana certifications at Heber Springs Cannabis Clinic. Dr. Tvedten is the owner and medical director of Little Rock Family Planning Services, Arkansas' only freestanding surgical abortion facility. In February of 2020 Dr. Tvedten certified a 12-year-old psychiatric patient to use “medical” marijuana. The girl's psychiatrists filed a complaint with the Arkansas State Medical Board, and the board suspended Dr. Tvedten's medical license in August. On October 1, the board opted to reinstate Dr. Tvedten's license, but barred him from certifying anyone to use medical marijuana until the board held a disciplinary hearing in December. On December 3 the board voted to let Dr. Tvedten resume writing marijuana certifications, provided he does not certify any minors to use marijuana. Obviously, it's very concerning that Arkansas' medical marijuana law lets doctors who are not trained in psychiatry certify psychiatric patients to use marijuana. This situation highlights problems in the marijuana amendment that lawmakers can fix by passing simple legislation.



Above: Planned Parenthood's chemical abortion facility on Aldersgate Road in west Little Rock.

The Free World Must Stand With Hong Kong

By U.S. Senator John Boozman

Jimmy Lai may be an unfamiliar name to most Arkansans, but his story is one we all need to know.

Lai, a Hong Kong media tycoon and leading pro-democracy advocate, has strong ties with the west—including here in the United States. He is the founder of Apple Daily, the city's most-read pro-democracy newspaper, and as a respected voice of opposition, is often the target of abuse by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

The CCP detained Lai four times in 2020. His multiple arrests—including one under charges of violating a newly-enacted "national security" law—symbolize the extent to which mainland China will go in its quest to crush the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

The message is clear: Hong Kongers that are critical of Beijing will be treated as enemies by the CCP.

Hong Kong became part of China under a policy known as "one country, two systems"—which allowed it to retain its own economic and administrative systems. As a result, its citizens enjoy many liberties denied to those of mainland China. The CCP has long sought to impose its will on Hong Kong by encroaching on those rights, and the national security law passed last year has given it the authority to do so.

Hong Kong is required by statute to have a national security law, but failed to pass one through its legislature. This gave Beijing an opportunity to usurp authority and devise a national security law, the details of which were kept hidden until it was passed.

The law enabled Beijing to establish its own security office in Hong Kong, with its own enforcement personnel that do not have to adhere to the rules of local authorities. It allows for some cases to be tried in mainland China and for some proceedings to take place behind closed doors. The commission Hong Kong was required to establish to enforce the laws has a Beijing-appointed adviser, presumably to ensure that mainland China's wishes are carried out. These requirements effectively replace Hong Kong's common law judicial system with that of the CCP—and it is well documented that rights of the accused do not exist in the People's Republic of China.

Before COVID-19 shut down the world, the streets of Hong Kong were awash with demonstrators. These brave men and women were trying to warn the world of the CCP's efforts to strip away their individual rights. These demonstrations clearly worried Beijing as the final provisions of the national security law it implemented on the people of Hong Kong criminalize efforts to peacefully demand change.

In a show of support for the people of Hong Kong, Congress overwhelmingly passed two bills into law that strengthen

the administration's ability to punish senior Chinese leaders tied to human rights abuses and those that materially contribute to China's failure to preserve Hong Kong's autonomy.

In November, President Trump used those authorities to invoke travel bans and financial sanctions on a number of Chinese officials. Immediately following the president's announcement, authorities conducted raids across the city, arresting eight activists, including opposition lawmakers and protest organizers.

These raids come on the heels of an escalation of the crack-down by the CCP. In the past month, three of Hong Kong's more prominent pro-democracy activists were sentenced to prison for their roles in what the CCP deemed as an unauthorized assembly.

What has happened to Lai, and other opposition figures currently being targeted, is meant to scare the people of Hong Kong into submission. The free world has an obligation to continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong.

The aim of all of these arrests is to silence ideas that run counter to Beijing's party line. The CCP is using everything in its power, including the national security law, to retaliate against leaders of the pro-democracy movement.

Which brings us back to the troubling case of Jimmy Lai. The charges brought against Lai under this law include "colluding with a foreign power" and carry a life sentence. He was denied bail after his last arrest, and will remain detained until at least April 2021. What has happened to Lai, and other opposition figures currently being targeted, is meant to scare the people of Hong Kong into submission.

The free world has an obligation to continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong as they fight to defend their basic democratic rights.



U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-AR) serves on the Veteran's Affairs Committee and is one of nine senators serving on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Biden Promises to Reinstate Obama's "Guidelines" On School Showers and Bathrooms

Joe Biden plans to reinstate the Obama Administration's 2016 guidance directing public schools to let boys who claim to be girls use girls' shower facilities, locker rooms, and restrooms at school, according to the Associated Press. In May of 2016 the Obama Administration issued a set of guidelines reinterpreting federal law for schools that receive public funds—like K–12 public schools and most colleges and universities. The guidelines indicated that to continue receiving funds these schools must let biological males who claim to be female use the girls' restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and similar facilities at school, and vice versa. The guidelines also addressed male and female student housing at colleges and universities.

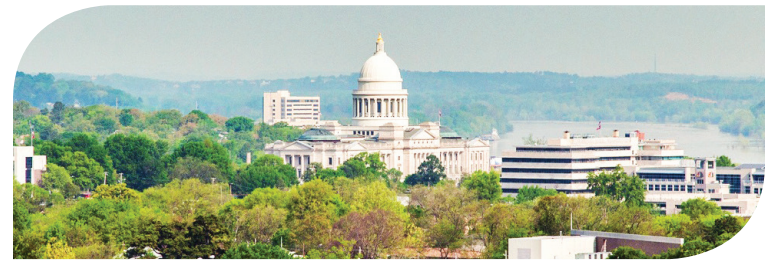
Needless to say those "guidelines" created a lot of chaos. Governor Hutchinson and Attorney General Rutledge advised public schools to disregard President Obama's guidelines, and Arkansas actually sued the federal government over the issue. President Trump rescinded the guidelines after he took office the following year. In 2017 the late Sen. Linda Collins (R – Pocahontas) filed S.B. 774, the Arkansas Physical Privacy and Safety Act, to help protect privacy in showers, restrooms, and locker rooms on government property—such as on public school campuses. Family Council supported S.B. 774, but it ultimately did not pass. Obviously, it is very troubling to hear Joe Biden promise to reinstate President Obama's radical pro-LGBT policies. This is an issue Family Council plans to monitor closely and continue to address in the future.

Arkansas Children's Hospital Has A "Gender Spectrum Clinic"

Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock houses a "gender spectrum clinic" listed as a top performer by the Human Rights Campaign, according to the hospital's website. The clinic offers cross-sex hormone therapies, puberty blockers, and other transgender procedures for children. To put it bluntly, what Children's Hospital is doing hurts kids. Nobody knows the long term effects of giving puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to children. Sex-change

To put it bluntly, what Children's Hospital is doing hurts kids. Nobody knows the long term effects of giving puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to children.

procedures performed on children leave them sterilized and permanently scarred. It's very disappointing to see one of the nation's premier children's hospitals promote these ideas and procedures. Family Council is looking into legislation that would prohibit sex-change procedures on children.



Good and Bad Legislation Filed So Far

Lawmakers began pre-filing legislation for the 2021 session last November. Here are two bills we plan to address in the coming days.

- **Good Bill: S.B. 6 Ending Abortion in Arkansas.** S.B. 6 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) would prohibit abortion in Arkansas except in cases when the mother's life is at risk. If passed, it would give our federal courts the opportunity to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and other pro-abortion decisions. Family Council fully supports this good bill.
- **Bad Bills: S.B. 3 and H.B. 1020 Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation in Arkansas.** S.B. 3 and H.B. 1020 by Sen. Jim Hendren (R – Gravette) and Rep. Fred Love (D – Little Rock) would write special, protected classes into Arkansas law by enacting hate crimes legislation. The bills are identical to one another. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 25 years, and we oppose these two bills as well.



Help Us Oppose Hate Crimes Legislation in Arkansas

We're anticipating a big fight at the state legislature over S.B. 3 and H.B. 1020 enacting hate crimes legislation in Arkansas. **We need your help if we are going to stop these bad bills.** Call our office at (501) 375-7000, and we will tell you how to get in touch with your legislators so you can encourage them to oppose these bad proposals. You can also sign a letter opposing hate crimes legislation in Arkansas at FamilyCouncil.org

Help Us End Abortion in Arkansas

If the legislature passes S.B. 6 prohibiting abortion, Arkansas will be able to tee the ball up for the federal courts to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and other pro-abortion rulings. **You can help us secure passage of this good, pro-life bill.** Call our office at (501) 375-7000, and we will tell you how to get in touch with your state senator and state representative. You can ask them to support S.B. 6, the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU'LL HELP US IN 2021

We just wrapped up 2020. With your friendship and support, it was a really good year. We have big plans for 2021. That's why I hope you will think about how you may support us this year.

One of the best ways anyone can help the work of Family Council is by becoming a monthly donor. There's no obligation. You just agree to donate a certain amount of money every month. You can stop giving any time you want. I know people's finances change or they just feel led to give elsewhere sometimes. That's fine.

I appreciate everybody who donates to our work, but personally, I would rather have ten donors who each give \$50 per month than one donor who gives \$500 every year. Monthly donations help us in ways that most people don't realize. They give us a little more financial stability. If you aren't already donating on a monthly basis, I hope you will pray and think about becoming a monthly supporter this year. Of course, you can always send a one-time gift to Family Council—or you can just say a prayer asking God to bless our work and meet our needs.

Thank you for standing with us! **Please call or email us anytime if you ever need anything.**

Sincerely,



Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. After decades of hard work, Arkansas has been named the most pro-life state in America! This is an opportunity for our state to become a true leader in the fight to end abortion. We're watching legislation and gearing up for the 2021 legislative session. Your support is helping us do so much good in Arkansas!



About Us: Family Council is a conservative, Christian non-profit organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas. Jerry Cox founded Family Council in 1989 in association with Dr. James Dobson and Focus on the Family. Our mission is to promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values. We educate and equip families and churches to make Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and we lobby lawmakers and elected officials on important issues that matter to families. Our work is funded by generous supporters all over Arkansas.
