



# *Family Council* **VISION & PROJECTS** *January – April 2021*

## **1. Mobilizing the Arkansas Rapid Response Network:**

Too many members of the Arkansas Legislature ignore the people back home in their district. Some run as conservatives, but they vote like liberals once elected. Years ago we mobilized a rapid response network to put pressure on Democrats to vote for conservative legislation. It worked. We have been on the phone all summer recruiting people in every Arkansas House and Senate district who will mobilize others to put pressure on their state lawmakers to vote the way they promised. Several hundred citizens have joined the network, and the number grows every week.

## **2. Requiring Healthcare Facilities to Let People Be With their Dying Loved Ones During a Pandemic:**

No one should be barred from being in the hospital with their dying child, spouse, or parent. We all know the heart-breaking stories of people dying alone in the COVID ward. We're going to team up with our friends in the legislature to ensure that people can be with their dying loved ones no matter what.

## **3. Stopping Sex Changes on Children and Protecting Doctors and Hospitals:**

Imagine a mentally unbalanced parent being able to have their eight-year old changed from a boy to a girl or vice versa. It's almost unimaginable, but courts are upholding this type of abuse in other states, and doctors are being threatened with lawsuits if they refuse. We need to blunt this before it comes to Arkansas. That is why we're going to work for passage of a law that ensures no doctor can be forced to help a parent change the sex of a child. No hospital or healthcare facility should be sued for refusing to do sex changes. And no parent should be able to abuse their child by trying to alter the child's biological sex.

## **4. Establishing Hundreds of Arkansas Pro-Life Sanctuary Cities or Counties:**

Not in our town! That's what the Springdale City Council said when they voted to make their city a pro-life sanctuary city—a place where city government has resolved that abortion is wrong and should be illegal. Family Council's Arkansas network reaches to every city or town in Arkansas. We're mobilizing hundreds of citizens to bring a proposed ordinance to their city or county government to become a pro-life sanctuary. Through this, we're opening another front in the fight against abortion.

## **5. Keeping Boys out of Girls' Sports:**

Girls should never be forced to compete with boys in sports. Yet this is what LGBT activists and the courts are doing in other states. It's only a matter of time before this becomes a serious issue in Arkansas as well. We need to pass legislation before that happens. We're already working with ladies in the Arkansas Legislature to get this law passed in January.

## **6. Stopping Hate Crimes Laws:**

No one should be punished for what they believe, but that is exactly what a hate crimes law does. There is no evidence that a hate crimes law has ever prevented a hate crime anywhere in the nation. In addition, these laws have terrible unintended consequences. LGBT activists can use laws like these against people of faith who run a business. People bent on creating social unrest can use them to punish or intimidate average Americans. That is why we plan to oppose the hate crimes law proposed by Sen. Hendren and Governor Hutchinson.

## 7. Requiring True History and Government in Our Schools:

Too many people are ignorant of our nation's amazing history and our unrivaled form of government. The waves of young people in the streets calling for the destruction of our nation and praising failed socialist and communist systems have been taught from liberal textbooks by poorly educated teachers in an education system that has ignored good citizenship, patriotism, and the virtues of our nation and its people. We need a law that brings these virtues back into our classrooms. We plan to work with lawmakers on this issue.

## 8. Passing Good Laws and Defeating Bad Ones:

We've been working with lawmakers and the Bureau of Legislative Research to draft at least 25 good laws—laws that will protect religious freedom and home schooling. We need legislation that designates churches and faith-based institutions as essential services, especially during a state of emergency. Leftist groups are on the march, even in Arkansas. We expect them to ally with liberal lawmakers and try to put sexual-orientation and gender-identity in the state civil rights law.

## 9. Opposing Public Drinking Districts, Casinos, Marijuana, and the Expansion of Other Vices:

Pottersville! Arkansas is becoming Pottersville. If you've seen the traditional Christmastime movie "It's a Wonderful Life," you know what I mean. Bedford Falls was a good place where there was no lottery, no gambling casinos, no marijuana stores, and alcohol was confined to a few reputable places. Then greed set in, and Bedford Falls became Pottersville—a grim, poor, nasty place. That is why we oppose all forms of gambling, medical and recreational marijuana, adult-oriented businesses, and the expansion of alcohol.

## 10. Holding the Arkansas Lottery Accountable:

The Arkansas Lottery may be the most mismanaged lottery in America. The new director is a lawyer who moved back to Arkansas from out of state. There is talk of making the lottery more predatory by legalizing electronic gambling under the lottery. The average lottery budgets about 30% of its proceeds for education or other intended purposes. The Arkansas Lottery budgets only about 17% of its proceeds. This is why we keep asking what is being done with the other 83%. This is why we keep trying to pass laws to regulate the lottery.

## 11. Opposing Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide:

There is nothing pro-life about hastening the death of the elderly, the sick, or the disabled. We're going to stand up against those who want this to be legal in Arkansas. In 2019 the worst assisted suicide law in America was introduced in the Arkansas Legislature. We and others worked very hard to defeat that effort—and we succeeded. We are working on legislation to promote responsible palliative care at hospitals and nursing homes, and ensure that doctors and nurses respect the sanctity of patients' lives during a terminal illness.

## 12. Prohibiting Abortion in Arkansas:

Now that Arkansas has been recognized as the most pro-life state in America, we have an opportunity to be a true leader in the fight to end abortion. Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) have filed S.B. 6, the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act. This good bill would prohibit abortion in Arkansas except in cases when the mother's life is at risk. If passed, S.B. 6 would protect unborn children in Arkansas and give the federal courts the opportunity to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and other pro-abortion rulings.