



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

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**MARCH 2021
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year I received a letter from my friend Ludwik in Little Rock. Ludwik is a retired physician, and a longtime supporter of our work at Family Council. He was one year old when Hitler ordered the invasion of his home country of Poland, and he grew up in Communist-dominated Europe. Incredibly, he was able to escape the grip of the Soviet Union, immigrate lawfully to America, and build a successful career practicing in Arkansas. If I know anyone who truly has lived the “American dream,” it’s Ludwik.

But the story that Ludwik shared with me in the letter he wrote several weeks ago is even more remarkable. Ludwik shared the story of his sister Karola. Ludwik writes,

My 71 year old sister Karola was born with Down Syndrome in Poland on our mother’s 43rd birthday. She was the youngest of five children. Her four siblings went on to college and made big careers. Karola has been an amazing person all her life. Our mother certainly raised her well. Karola got six years of special education. She worked in Poland and later in California.

In his letter, Ludwik went on to say that Karola has been in the care of their older sister since their mother passed away. Over the years Karola’s health has worsened. She suffers from poor eyesight and difficulty swallowing. In 2020 Karola’s health deteriorated to the point that she was believed to be close to death. Her family asked that she be placed on comfort care measures and given proper nutrition, hydration, pain control, and skin care. Ludwik continues,

After a prolonged hospitalization, a hospice home program was arranged recently. Amazingly after returning home to her sister, Karola’s condition improved remarkably. She seems to enjoy her life at home with loving attention of all around her ... After a recent evaluation her doctor feels that Karola may be with us for a few more years... If she lives a few more years, she may be considered the longest survivor with Down Syndrome in the world.

I was 11 years old when Karola was born. I had fun growing up with her. She may be the reason why I went into medicine.

There must be a reason for having people with Down Syndrome around.

Life is worth living and must be protected from conception until natural death.

At the top of this page is a photo of Karola that my friend Ludwik sent me.

I wish I had space to tell you everything that Ludwik shared with me about Karola’s ability to encourage and uplift others and the joy she has brought. Her story is a good reminder that every life is precious in the eyes of God. The world could use more people like Karola—and like my friend Ludwik. And now let me tell you a little more about how we are standing up for human life and traditional family values in Arkansas—and how you can be part of that important work.

**There must
be a reason for
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Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: PREPARING TO GET CANCELED BY THE CULTURE

In 1991 U.S. Circuit Judge Clarence Thomas appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by then-Senator Joe Biden. President George H.W. Bush had nominated Thomas to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. Shortly before his confirmation vote in the entire U.S. Senate, allegations of sexual harassment surfaced in the media, and Senator Biden reopened confirmation hearings in the committee. Judge Thomas appeared before the senators to speak on his own behalf.

Judge Thomas surprised the senators with these words: "This is a circus. It's a national disgrace. And from my standpoint, as a black American, it is a high-tech lynching. . ." Thomas left the senate committee absolutely speechless. Ultimately, evidence and testimony before the U.S. Senate led to Thomas' confirmation as a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Thomas' point was simple: Our society is more sophisticated today than it was 100 years ago, but our tendencies haven't changed. Lynchings were horrible, but today there's no need to hang someone from a tree when we can assassinate their character on national television. Nearly thirty years later we see digital stonings and lynchings play out almost daily on social media as people are silenced, censored, ostracized, and criticized. Recently Twitter suspended one of Focus on the Family's accounts simply because Focus said a transgender woman is "a man who thinks he is a woman." For Twitter, that statement went too far. As of this writing, Focus on the Family is still locked out of that Twitter account.

It may only be a matter of time before Facebook and Twitter decide to suspend our social media accounts at Family Council. Our team has been preparing for a time when letters like this one and the telephone may be the only ways we can communicate with you.

Let us know if you appreciate these regular update letters. Send us a note, give us a call, or email us. And make sure we have a good telephone number for you so we can call you if we need to. We want to be as prepared as possible to tell you about what is going on in Arkansas if our ability to communicate electronically ever gets canceled.

Good and Bad Bills Filed at the Legislature

Arkansas' lawmakers have filed hundreds of bills at the legislature. We're currently tracking several dozen pieces of legislation. Here is a list of a few bills Family Council supports, opposes, or is simply watching as of Friday, February 19.

Good Bills Passed

Act 94 / H.B. 1211 (Religion is Essential): This good law by Representative Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Senator Kim Hammer (R – Benton) recognizes that religion and religious organizations are essential in Arkansas. Act 94 will protect churches and religious groups without hampering the government's ability to respond during a pandemic. The Arkansas Legislature has passed this measure. It became law February 10, 2021.

Act 90 / H.B. 1195 (Pro-Life): This good bill by Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) and Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark) enacts legislation ensuring that women are offered information, assistance, and resources that could help them choose an option besides abortion. The Arkansas Legislature has passed this measure. It became law February 10, 2021.

Good Bills Filed

H.J.R.1024 (Religious Freedom): H.J.R. 1024 by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It prevents the government from burdening a person's free exercise of religion. The measure is similar to Arkansas' state Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Family Council strongly supports this good amendment to the Arkansas Constitution.

S.J.R.14 (Religious Freedom): S.J.R. 14 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It prevents the government from burdening a person's free exercise of religion. The measure is similar to Arkansas' state Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Family Council strongly supports this good amendment to the Arkansas Constitution.

H.J.R.1025 (Life): H.J.R. 1025 by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It says that the sanctity of life is paramount to all other rights protected

Good and Bad Bills Filed at the Legislature *(continued)*

by the constitution. It states that Arkansas citizens, acting as jurors, have the sole authority to determine the amount of compensation or civil penalty imposed because of injuries resulting in death or resulting from acts that create a significant risk to life. H.J.R. 1025 will help prevent the State of Arkansas from placing a price tag on human life. Family Council strongly supports this good amendment.

H.J.R.1006 (Recall): H.J.R. 1006 by Rep. Frances Cavanaugh (R – Walnut Ridge) amends the Arkansas Constitution to permit voters to recall elected officials and judges in Arkansas. Upon initial review, Family Council supports this amendment.

H.J.R.1010 (Casino Gambling): H.J.R. 1010 by Rep. Joe Cloud (R – Russellville) amends the Arkansas Constitution to remove authorization of a casino in Pope County. This is a good amendment that will help curtail casino gambling in Arkansas. Family Council supports H.J.R. 1010.

H.J.R.1011 (Casino Gambling): H.J.R. 1011 by Rep. Joe Cloud (R – Russellville) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It changes the casino amendment that authorizes casino gambling in Pope, Jefferson, Garland, and Crittenden counties. Under H.J.R. 1011, the Arkansas Racing Commission would not issue a casino license in Pope County unless the voters of the county approve conducting casino gaming at a local election. Family Council supports H.J.R. 1011.

H.J.R.1018 (Lottery): H.J.R. 1018 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Jane English (R – North Little Rock) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It clarifies that proceeds from the Arkansas Lottery may be used to fund scholarships and grants to students at vocational-technical and technical institutes. Currently, lottery scholarships are only available to students enrolled in public or private two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Family Council supports legislation that ensures lottery-funded scholarships are managed responsibly. We support H.J.R. 1018.

S.J.R.16 (Boys and Girls Athletics): S.J.R. 16 by Sen. Alan Clark (R – Lonsdale) would amend the Arkansas Constitution to require public schools to designate their athletic teams as “male” or “female,” and require student athletes to compete according to their biological sex. This would prevent boys who claim to be girls from competing in girls’ sports at school—and vice versa. Family Council supports this measure.

S.B. 6 (Prohibiting Abortion): This good bill by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) prohibits abortion in Arkansas, except in cases when the mother’s life is in jeopardy. Family Council fully supports this good bill. Family Council is working closely with Sen. Rapert to pass this good bill that could save the lives of

thousands of children and give the courts an opportunity to overturn decades of bad, pro-abortion rulings. The bill has passed the Senate Public Health Committee. It is currently before the entire Arkansas Senate. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU both oppose this good bill.



Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) presents S.B. 6 ending abortion in Arkansas in the Senate Public Health Committee on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. The bill passed the committee on a unanimous voice vote.

H.B. 1441 (Pro-Life/Bioethics): This good bill by Rep. Cindy Crawford (R – Fort Smith) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) regulates the buying and selling of human eggs. Arkansas law currently lets companies harvest women’s eggs for profit. Commercial egg harvesting carries a number of risks and is ethically suspect. H.B. 1441 prohibits companies from paying women for their eggs, but contains exceptions for free egg donations and for fertility treatments. The bill is currently in the House Public Health Committee.

H.B. 1402 (Abortion-Inducing Drugs): This good bill by Rep. Sonia Barker (R – Smackover) and Sen. Blake Johnson (R – Corning) updates Arkansas’ restrictions on abortion-inducing drugs like RU-486. It outlines requirements that abortionists must follow in administering abortion-inducing drugs, and it prohibits abortion drugs from being delivered by mail in Arkansas. It also updates current law to ensure doctors who perform chemical abortions are credentialed to handle abortion complications and can transfer the woman to a hospital if she experiences complications.

H.B. 1324 (Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Women): This good bill by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) gives pregnant women priority in accessing substance abuse treatment programs that accept Medicaid.

H.C.R. 1007 (Abortion): This good resolution by Rep. Jim Wooten (R – Beebe) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) recognizes January 22 — the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision — as “The Day of

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Good and Bad Bills Filed at the Legislature *(continued)*

Tears” in Arkansas. The resolution acknowledges the 61 million of unborn babies killed in abortion in America over the past five decades, and encourages Arkansans to lower their flags to half-staff on January 22 to mourn the innocent children who have lost their lives. The resolution has passed the House and been sent to the Arkansas Senate.

S.B. 85 (Abortion): This good bill by Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (R – Rogers) and Rep. Joe Cloud (R – Russellville) requires an abortionist to show an ultrasound image of the unborn baby to the pregnant woman before an abortion. Currently, Arkansas law says an abortionist must offer to let the woman see the ultrasound image. Research indicates that some women are less likely to have an abortion once

S.B. 85 requires an abortionist to show an ultrasound image of the unborn baby to the pregnant woman before an abortion.

they see an ultrasound image of their unborn child. That means pro-life bills like S.B. 85 can help further decrease the number of abortions in Arkansas. Arkansas Right to Life is the chief proponent of this bill, and we fully support their efforts.

H.B. 1116 (Simon’s Law): This good bill by Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) and Sen. Bart Hester (R – Cave Springs) is named in honor of an infant in Missouri who died after doctors put a Do Not Resuscitate order on his chart without his parent’s knowledge or permission. If passed, it would help protect children in Arkansas from being denied life support or having a DNR placed on their medical charts without parental consent. The bill has passed the Arkansas House and been sent to the Senate Public Health Committee.

H.B. 1408 (Abortion): This good bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch) helps prevent abortion providers and their affiliates in Arkansas from receiving Medicaid reimbursements from the state.

H.B. 1061 (No Patient Left Alone): This good bill by Rep. Julie Mayberry (R – Hensley) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) protects patients from being left alone and denied visitors in hospitals, nursing homes, and similar facilities. No one should be barred from being in the hospital with their dying child, spouse, or parent. This bill helps address that in Arkansas.

H.B. 1160 (Used Car Tax): This good bill by Rep. John Payton (R – Wilburn) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) would eliminate the tax on used cars sold for less than \$7,500; the bill contains a provision that would take effect in 2023 elim-

inating the tax on used cars sold for less than \$10,000. Family Council has worked for years to eliminate the used car tax, because it hurts single moms and middle class families who often can barely afford to buy a used vehicle, much less pay sales tax on one.

H.B. 1431 (Used Car Tax): This good bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) eliminates the sales tax on used cars sold for less than \$10,000. The bill is similar to H.B. 1160 by Rep. Payton and Sen. Rapert. Family Council has worked for years to eliminate the used car tax, because it hurts single moms and middle class families who often can barely afford to buy a used vehicle, much less pay sales tax on one.

S.B. 289 (Conscience): This good bill by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Brandt Smith (R – Jonesboro) protects healthcare workers’ rights of conscience. Arkansas’ current conscience protections are narrowly focused on abortion, abortifacients, and end of life decisions, and they protect only a limited number of people. S.B. 289 helps broaden these protections for healthcare workers. The bill has passed the Arkansas Senate and is currently before the House Public Health Committee. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU both oppose this good bill.

H.B. 1353 (Marijuana Advertisements): This good bill by Rep. Delia Haak (R – Gentry) and Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (R – Rogers) closes a loophole in Arkansas’ laws regarding medical marijuana advertisements. It clarifies the law to say that marijuana dispensaries and cultivators cannot use a cross of any color or other symbols commonly associated with the practice of medicine in their advertisements. The bill has passed the House Rules Committee and been sent to the entire House of Representatives.

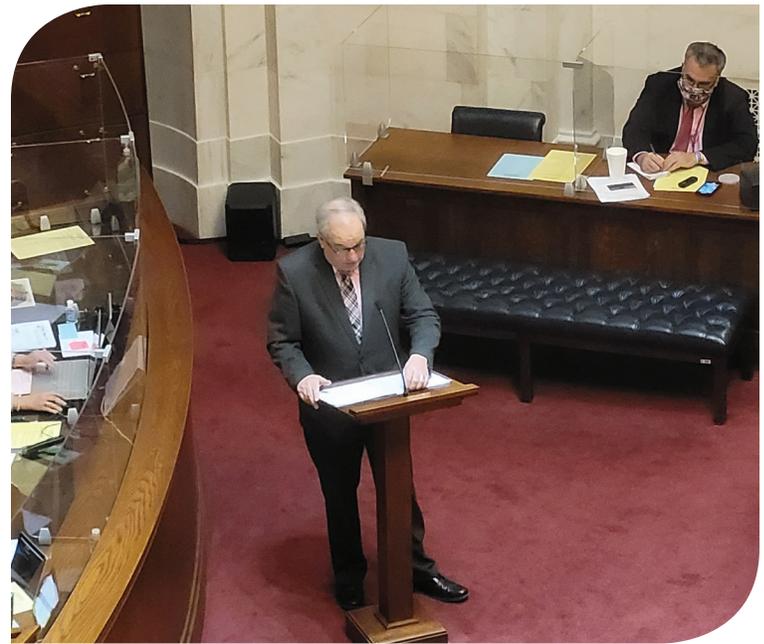
H.B. 1430 (“Tim Tebow” Law): This good bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) makes technical adjustments to Arkansas’ “Tim Tebow” law that allows home schoolers to participate in interscholastic activities at public and private schools. H.B. 1430 makes it easier for home schoolers to play sports or other activities outside their resident school district.

H.B. 1461 (Home School): This good bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) helps give home schooled students equal access to tests like the ACT, SAT, PSAT, AP Test, and other assessments.

H.B. 1429 (Home School): This good bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) and Sen. Ben Gilmore (R – Crossett) makes it easier for a student to withdraw from a public school to home school. The bill eliminates the fourteen-day waiting period currently in Arkansas law for families wishing to transfer out of a public school. It also makes technical corrections to the home school law.



From Left: Family Council staff member Luke McCoy, Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Alliance Defending Freedom Attorney Stephanie Nichols testify in favor of S.B. 289 in the Senate Public Health Committee on February 8, 2021. The bill passed the committee, and the Arkansas Senate passed it two days later.



Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) presents S.B. 289 protecting healthcare professionals' rights of conscience from the floor of the Arkansas Senate on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Sen. Hammer did a remarkable job explaining the bill. It passed with strong support, and it is currently in the hands of the Arkansas Public Health Committee.

Good and Bad Bills Filed at the Legislature *(continued)*

Bad Bills Filed

H.J.R.1014 (Capping Damages): H.J.R. 1014 by Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the Arkansas Legislature the power to cap non-economic and punitive damages that courts can award when a person is injured or killed through someone else's negligence. Family Council has never opposed responsible lawsuit reforms. However, H.J.R. 1014 makes it possible for the Arkansas Legislature to put a price tag on human life. Family Council opposes this proposed constitutional amendment.

S.J.R.8 (Capping Damages): S.J.R. 8 by Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) and Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the Arkansas Legislature the power to cap non-economic and punitive damages courts can award when a person is injured or killed through someone else's negligence. Family Council has never opposed responsible lawsuit reforms. However, S.J.R. 8 makes it possible for the Arkansas Legislature to put a price tag on human life. Family Council opposes this proposed constitutional amendment.

H.J.R.1015 (Restricting Evidence): H.J.R. 1015 by Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) and Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the Arkansas Legislature the power to set rules about pleading, practice, procedure, and evidence for all courts in Arkansas. Family Council has never opposed responsible lawsuit reforms. However, giving the Arkansas Legislature the ability to restrict evidence that can or cannot be used in court may

make it difficult or impossible for people to obtain justice in court. Family Council opposes this proposed constitutional amendment.

S.J.R.7 (Restricting Evidence): S.J.R. 7 by Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark) and Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the Arkansas Legislature the power to set rules about pleading, practice, procedure, and evidence for all courts in Arkansas. Family Council has never opposed responsible lawsuit reforms. However, giving the Arkansas Legislature the ability to restrict evidence that can or cannot be used in court may make it difficult or impossible for people to obtain justice in court. Family Council opposes this proposed constitutional amendment.

S.J.R.9 (Restricting Evidence): S.J.R. 9 by Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark) and Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It gives the Arkansas Legislature the power to set rules about pleading, practice, procedure, and evidence for all courts in Arkansas. Family Council has never opposed responsible lawsuit reforms. However, giving the Arkansas Legislature the ability to restrict evidence that can or cannot be used in court may make it difficult or impossible for people to obtain justice in court. Family Council opposes this proposed constitutional amendment.

H.J.R.1008 (Initiatives and Referenda): H.J.R. 1008 by Rep. DeAnn Vaught (R – Horatio) amends the Arkansas Constitution. It requires initiatives and referenda submitted to voters via petition drives to be approved by at least 60% of the votes cast on the measure in order to pass. However, it would not require constitutional amendments submitted

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Good and Bad Bills Filed at the Legislature *(continued)*

by the General Assembly to be approved by 60% of the vote. Family Council opposes this measure.

S.B. 3 (Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation): This bad bill by Sen. Jim Hendren (I – Gravette) and Rep. Fred Love (D–Little Rock) enacts hate crimes legislation by enhancing penalties for crimes committed against certain protected

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classes of people listed in the bill. The bill is virtually identical to H.B. 1020. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 20 years, and we oppose this bill as well.

H.B. 1020 (Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation): This bad bill by Rep. Fred Love (D – Little Rock) and Sen. Jim Hendren (I–Gravette) enacts hate crimes legislation by enhancing penalties for crimes committed against certain protected classes of people listed in the bill. The bill is virtually identical to S.B. 3. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 20 years, and we oppose this bill as well.

H.B. 1228 (Public Drinking): This bad bill by Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) would let cities in dry counties approve public drinking in “entertainment districts” if the city contains a private club that serves alcohol. Under Arkansas’ “entertainment district” law, alcohol can be carried and consumed outdoors on city streets and sidewalks around bars and restaurants, if approved by the city council. The bill has passed the Arkansas House of Representatives and been sent to the Senate City, County, and Local Affairs Committee.

H.B. 1066 (Alcohol): This bill by Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R–Clarksville) would let microbrewery operators ship beer directly to private residences anywhere in the state of Arkansas or to residences in other states that allow direct shipment of alcohol. The bill may not contain sufficient safeguards to prevent alcohol from being delivered to someone who is under 21.

H.B. 1148 (Alcohol): This bill by Rep. Frances Cavanaugh (R – Walnut Ridge) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) overhauls Arkansas’ local option election law concerning alcohol. The bill reduces the threshold for taking a county wet or dry via a petition drive. Liquor stores in wet counties would be able to continue operating even if the county voted to go dry. The bill would make it easier for some cities or towns in a dry county to be wet while the rest of the county is dry.

Other Noteworthy Bills

H.B. 1069 (Contraceptives): This bill by Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R – Clarksville) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) lets pharmacists dispense oral contraceptives to women without a prescription from a doctor. Family Council previously opposed this bill. However, Rep. Pilkington has filed amendments to the bill. His amendments address objections Family Council raised against H.B. 1069. At this time, Family Council is neutral on this bill.

S.B. 32 (Alcohol): This bill by Sen. Jane English (R – North Little Rock) and Rep. Karilyn Brown (R – Sherwood) would let retail liquor permit holders — such as liquor stores — deliver alcoholic beverages to private residences in the county where the store is located. The bill may not contain sufficient safeguards to prevent alcohol from being delivered to someone who is under 21. The bill has passed the Arkansas Senate and the Arkansas House.

S.B. 76 (Alcohol): This bill by Sen. Lance Eads (R – Springdale) and Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) lets “excursion trains” serve alcoholic beverages to passengers. It has passed the Arkansas Senate and the Arkansas House.

H.B. 1341 (Alcohol): This bill by Rep. Karilyn Brown (R – Sherwood) and Sen. Jane English (R – North Little Rock) permits on-premises consumption of alcohol on Christmas Day. Currently, Arkansas law generally prohibits bars and liquor stores from selling alcohol on Christmas. This bill would allow alcohol to be sold for on-premises consumption in bars and restaurants on Christmas. It would not let liquor stores sell alcohol for off-premises consumption.

S.B. 155 (Organ Donations): This bill by Sen. Breanne Davis (R -Russellville) and Rep. Austin McCollum (R – Bentonville) helps prevent people with physical or mental disabilities from being denied organ transplants because of their disabilities. The bill has passed the Arkansas Senate and been sent to the House Public Health Committee.



Arkansas Right to Life Hosts Virtual Conference on Euthanasia, End-of-Life Ethics

By Arkansas Right to Life

Experts in euthanasia, hospice, palliative medicine, and bioethics addressed important end of life issues February 6 during the Preserving the Sanctity of Life at the End of Life Zoom conference hosted by Arkansas Right to Life and co-sponsored by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Family Council, and the Diocese of Little Rock, Respect Life Office.

More than 150 people from six states registered for the event, which included the following topics: "What is Happening with Assisted Suicide in America" by Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; "The Truth About the Assisted Suicide Law in Oregon and the Facts About the Lethal Drug Experiments by the Assisted Suicide Lobby," by Dr. William Toffler, national director of Physicians for Compassionate Care; "What Do We Mean? – Dying, Euphemisms, and Deceptions Associated with the End of Life," by Dr. David Smith, director of Supportive Medicine Baptist Health-Little Rock; "Christian Spirituality in the Dying Process," by Father Jason Tyler, a bioethicist with the Diocese of Little Rock, and "Near Death Experience (NDE): A Personal Journey," by Father Joseph Chan, MD, and a chaplain at Mercy Hospital, Fort Smith.

Schadenberg discussed the growing acceptance of assisted suicide in the United States, which he said is now legal in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Washington State, and the District of Columbia. Additionally, he said, assisted suicide is permitted in Montana based on the Baxter court decision, which created a defense of consent.

He added that debate continues on assisted suicide bills in Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, and



ARKANSAS RIGHT TO LIFE

North Dakota, and bills to expand existing assisted suicide laws are being considered in Hawaii and Washington State.

Schadenberg suggested ways to prevent the spread of euthanasia and assisted suicide culture include working with people from all political points of view, and for politicians to hear the voices of people with disabilities who are often the target of euthanasia and assisted suicide proponents.

Toffler, who resides in Oregon where assisted suicide was legalized in 1994, discussed physician-assisted suicide (PAS) and how public perception of PAS has shifted over the past 30 years, its lack of oversight and potential for abuse.

PAS is a problematic paradigm for many reasons, said Toffler, and can result in lingering death or failed death of the patient, not to mention the pressure to cut health costs, lack of tracking of PAS incidents, and possible ulterior motives of such as life insurance payouts and inheritance.

Smith discussed in his presentation what he feels is "misguided intent" of physicians assisting with suicide or euthanasia and practices that result in misapplication of sedation and good palliative care.

To watch the entire presentation, to view individual speaker presentations, or to download PowerPoint presentations or other resources, visit artl.org.

New Law Declares Religion is Essential in Arkansas

On February 10, H.B. 1211 declaring religious organizations essential in Arkansas became Act 94 of 2021. The measure is now in effect as a part of state law. This good law by Representative Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Senator Kim Hammer (R – Benton) helps protect churches and other religious organizations from being targeted, penalized, or discriminated against during a time of emergency.

Public officials have the authority to protect public health and safety, but the First Amendment—including the free exercise of religion—is never suspended. Act 94 ensures our government never closes churches and other houses of worship—even during an emergency or pandemic. Act 94 passed with 75 votes in the Arkansas House of Representatives and 31 votes in the Arkansas Senate. Family Council was very pleased to work with Rep. Bentley and Sen. Hammer for the passage of this really good law.



Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) presents H.B. 1211 to the Arkansas House of Representatives on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

Arkansas Senate Passes Bill to End Abortion

On Monday, February 22, the Arkansas Senate passed S.B. 6 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R–Perryville). This good bill prohibits abortion except when the mother’s life is at risk. S.B. 6 would save thousands of unborn children every year and give the federal courts an opportunity to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Family Council fully supports this good measure. This is an opportunity for Arkansas to be a real leader in the effort to end abortion in America. Many people have said for almost fifty years that

abortion should be illegal. The time has come for us to make it so. S.B. 6 now goes to the Arkansas House of Representatives.



Senators hear testimony on S.B. 6, the bill to end abortion in Arkansas, on February 22.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Is this a time for Christians to shrink back from the public arena?

Of course not. We need to press into the darkness around us. We need to evangelize. We need to make disciples. And we need to stand up for what is true and right. I see the work at Family Council as a type of discipleship. We take biblical principles, and we articulate them to other people—elected officials and voters alike. We help explain what is true, why it’s true, and why truth is important.

The other day a woman in Arkansas emailed after we helped her contact her legislators about an important bill. She thanked us for helping her play a “small part” in our work. Let me tell you: Her part is not small. We can’t do very much without people like you who believe in what we do and will help us speak out.

You can help us continue to take a stand for biblical values by sending a generous, tax-deductible donation to Family Council today, if you are able. A response card and return envelope are enclosed with this letter for your convenience. We will stretch every dollar you give as far as we possibly can.

Thank you for standing with us. It’s so good to have friends like you who support our work. Please let me know if there is ever anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

P.S. The Arkansas Legislature is in full swing. I hope you will take the time to read our legislative update in this letter and call your state lawmakers about any legislation that you think is important. Give us a call at (501) 375-7000 if you need help reaching out to your state senator or state representative.



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.