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COUNCIL**

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**APRIL 2021
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

"An act to abolish abortion in Arkansas and protect the lives of unborn children." I never thought I would ever hear those words echo through the chamber of the Arkansas Senate, but I did!

I listened as the secretary read the title of S.B. 6 by Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Mary Bentley over the loudspeaker ahead of the historic vote. From the gallery overlooking the floor of our Arkansas Senate, I watched as senators received message after message from constituents asking them to support the bill to ban abortion. In the end, S.B. 6 didn't just pass—it passed with overwhelming support in the Arkansas Senate and the Arkansas House.

If you could have been at the Arkansas Capitol ten years ago, you might not have believed that a bill to ban abortion could even be filed—much less pass—at our legislature.

If you had followed me around the capitol in 2011, you would have seen pro-life bill after pro-life bill pass the Arkansas Senate only to languish and die in the House Public Health Committee that former state Rep. Linda Tyler (D – Conway) chaired.

If you had been there in 2009, you would have seen pro-abortion lawmakers add hostile amendments to pro-life bills just to make sure the bills failed. From 1989 to 2009, you would have seen very little pro-life legislation enacted. The few exceptions would have been bills like the parental-consent law and the Woman's Right to Know Act of 2001 that implemented some of Arkansas' first informed-consent requirements for abortion.

You would have seen pro-life bills fail by a single vote. You would have watched as legislators quietly slipped out of committee rooms to avoid voting on a bill you support. You would have given testimony to lawmakers who literally turned their backs on you to show they weren't willing to extend the courtesy of looking you in the eye while you spoke against abortion.

You also would have seen a pro-life surge at the capitol as pro-abortion lawmakers like Rep. Linda Tyler were replaced by pro-life legislators like Sen. Jason Rapert. You would have monitored the rankings from groups like Americans United for Life as Arkansas rose into the top ten most pro-life states in the country—and then the top five—and finally the number one spot. If you had been at the Arkansas Legislature for the past 32 years, you would have seen decades of hard work by countless pro-lifers slowly begin to pay off.

You may not have been physically present at the capitol all these years, but if you support the work of Family Council, then you were there in a way. Your friendship, your prayers, your kind words, and your financial support have let my team and me be active at the Arkansas Legislature. They've let us equip and educate Arkansans. They've helped us fight for children who are alive because of pro-life bills you helped us pass.

We are a team—and you are a vital member of that team. Family Council is proud to work with our friends at Arkansas Right to Life, Americans United for Life, Alliance Defending Freedom, and the state legislators to enact really good laws that save the unborn. Nobody gets very far as a Lone Ranger in the pro-life fight. We cannot do what we do without good friends like you who believe in our mission. Thank you. And now let me tell you a little more about that mission—and how you can continue to be a part of it.

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Family Council
President Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: HERE'S HOW TO EXPLAIN S.B. 6 IN 60 SECONDS OR LESS

The Arkansas Legislature has passed S.B. 6 (now Act 309 of 2021), a bill prohibiting abortion, by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville). It's important for Arkansans to understand what this good law does. Here's everything you need to know to explain S.B. 6 to your friends in 60 seconds or less:

1. S.B. 6 prohibits abortions in Arkansas, except in cases of medical emergency when the mother's life is at risk.
2. It applies to all forms of abortion—both surgical abortion and chemical abortions that use the RU-486 regimen.
3. S.B. 6 does not contain exceptions for rape or incest. Part of the reason for that is that placing those exceptions in this particular law could make the law more difficult to defend in court.
4. It contains an exemption clarifying that it does not affect contraceptives—including emergency contraceptives like the morning-after pill.
5. If enforced, S.B. 6 will save approximately 3,000 unborn children from abortion every year.
6. If challenged by the ACLU, S.B. 6 will give our federal courts an opportunity to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and other pro-abortion decisions.



Assistant Director
David Cox

Policy Points: Arkansas Just Banned Abortion. Now What?

By David Cox, Assistant Director

On Monday, February 22, 2021, the Arkansas Senate passed S.B. 6 by Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville). It prohibits abortion in Arkansas. Ten days later on March 3 the Arkansas House passed it. In all, 103 out of Arkansas' 135 state legislators voted to ban abortion. Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson has signed S.B. 6 into law, making it Act 309 of 2021. What happens now?

There are a few things we can expect. For starters, the bill won't officially take effect until 90 days after the legislature adjourns—which will be sometime this summer. If the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and the abortionists in Little Rock choose not to file a lawsuit against Act 309, abortion will be illegal in Arkansas except in cases of medical emergency when the mother's life is at risk. S.B. 6 will save approximately 3,000 unborn children from abortion every single year.

If pro-abortion groups decide to challenge the law—which seems likely—then they probably will file a federal lawsuit. The lawsuit most likely will go to U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker's court; for reasons that nobody has been able

to explain, Judge Baker has presided over nearly every abortion-related lawsuit in Arkansas for the past several years even though the judges for these cases are chosen at random. If the past is any indicator of the future, Judge Baker will issue a temporary restraining order blocking the state from enforcing Act 309. Then she will follow up within two weeks with a preliminary injunction against Act 309.

Again, if the past is any indicator, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge will appeal Judge Baker's pro-abortion ruling to the Eighth Circuit of Appeals, where a three-judge panel might disagree with Judge Baker's decision to block the law—or at least disagree with her reasons for doing so. Regardless of the decision, the case could go all the way to the full Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and even the U.S. Supreme Court. Altogether, this process could take anywhere from 18–36 months or more. Along the way, Arkansas will elect a new Attorney General in 2022 due to term limits, and it's going to be really important that the new A.G. be fully committed to defending Act 309 in court. Even though this process is going to take the next several months or years, at the end of it we almost certainly will have court decisions that we can use to pass even better pro-life laws that will save unborn babies from abortion—and we just might overturn *Roe v. Wade* along the way. That ought to be encouraging to every pro-lifer in Arkansas.

Here's How Your State Legislators Voted on S.B. 6, the Bill to Prohibit Abortion

If your state senator and state representative voted for S.B. 6, the bill to end abortion in Arkansas, please be sure to thank them for being pro-life. Below is a breakdown of all 135 votes on S.B. 6—now Act 309 of 2021.

The Following State Representatives Voted FOR S.B. 6

Rep. Sonia Barker (R - District 7)	Rep. Brian Evans (R - District 43)	Rep. Ron McNair (R - District 98)
Rep. Howard Beaty (R - District 9)	Rep. Charlene Fite (R - District 80)	Rep. Stephen Meeks (R - District 67)
Rep. Rick Beck (R - District 65)	Rep. Lanny Fite (R - District 23)	Rep. Josh Miller (R - District 66)
Rep. Mary Bentley (R - District 73)	Rep. Jack Fortner (R - District 99)	Rep. Jon Milligan (R - District 53)
Rep. Mark Berry (R - District 82)	Rep. Tony Furman (R - District 28)	Rep. John Payton (R - District 64)
Rep. Stan Berry (R - District 68)	Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R - District 57)	Rep. Clint Penzo (R - District 88)
Rep. Justin Boyd (R - District 77)	Rep. Justin Gonzales (R - District 19)	Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R - District 69)
Rep. Ken Bragg (R - District 15)	Rep. Michelle Gray (R - District 62)	Rep. David Ray (R - District 40)
Rep. Harlan Breaux (R - District 97)	Rep. Delia Haak (R - District 91)	Rep. Marcus Richmond (R - District 21)
Rep. Keith Brooks (R - District 31)	Rep. Spencer Hawks (R - District 70)	Rep. Johnny Rye (R - District 54)
Rep. Karilyn Brown (R - District 41)	Rep. David Hillman (R - District 13)	Rep. Matthew Shepherd (R - District 6)
Rep. Joshua Bryant (R - District 96)	Rep. Mike Holcomb (R - District 10)	Rep. Keith Slape (R - District 83)
Rep. John Carr (R - District 94)	Rep. Steve Hollowell (R - District 49)	Rep. Brandt Smith (R - District 58)
Rep. Frances "Fran" Cavenaugh (R - District 60)	Rep. Lane Jean (R - District 2)	Rep. Stu Smith (R - District 63)
Rep. Craig Christiansen (R - District 47)	Rep. Lee Johnson (R - District 75)	Rep. Nelda Speaks (R - District 100)
Rep. Joe Cloud (R - District 71)	Rep. Jack Ladyman (R - District 59)	Rep. Dwight Tosh (R - District 52)
Rep. Bruce Coleman (R - District 81)	Rep. Mark Lowery (R - District 39)	Rep. Kendon Underwood (R - District 90)
Rep. Cameron Cooper (R - District 44)	Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R - District 87)	Rep. DeAnn Vaught (R - District 4)
Rep. Bruce Cozart (R - District 24)	Rep. Roger Lynch (R - District 14)	Rep. Jeff Wardlaw (R - District 8)
Rep. Cindy Crawford (R - District 76)	Rep. John Maddox (R - District 20)	Rep. Les Warren (R - District 25)
Rep. Carol Dalby (R - District 1)	Rep. Julie Mayberry (R - District 27)	Rep. Danny Watson (R - District 3)
Rep. Marsh Davis (R - District 61)	Rep. Rick McClure (R - District 26)	Rep. Carlton Wing (R - District 38)
Rep. Gary Deffenbaugh (R - District 79)	Rep. Austin McCollum (R - District 95)	Rep. Richard Womack (R - District 18)
Rep. Jim Dotson (R - District 93)	Rep. Mark McElroy (R - District 11)	Rep. Jim Wooten (R - District 45)
Rep. Les Eaves (R - District 46)	Rep. Richard McGrew (R - District 22)	
Rep. Jon Eubanks (R - District 74)	Rep. Gayla McKenzie (R - District 92)	

The Following State Representatives Voted AGAINST S.B. 6

Rep. Fred Allen (D - District 30)	Rep. Megan Godfrey (D - District 89)	Rep. Mark Perry (D - District 42)
Rep. Nicole Clowney (D - District 86)	Rep. Monte Hodges (D - District 55)	Rep. Jay Richardson (D - District 78)
Rep. Andrew Collins (D - District 35)	Rep. Ashley Hudson (D - District 32)	Rep. Jamie Scott (D - District 37)
Rep. Denise Ennett (D - District 36)	Rep. Fredrick "Fred" Love (D - District 29)	Rep. Joy Springer (D - District 34)
Rep. Deborah Ferguson (D - District 51)	Rep. Tippi McCullough (D - District 33)	Rep. David Whitaker (D - District 85)
Rep. Vivian Flowers (D - District 17)	Rep. Reginald Murdock (D - District 48)	
Rep. Denise Garner (D - District 84)	Rep. Milton Nicks (D - District 50)	

The Following State Representative Voted "Present" on S.B. 6

Rep. David Tollett (R - District 12)

The Following State Representatives Did Not Vote On S.B. 6

Rep. Kenneth "Ken" Ferguson (D - District 16)	Rep. Joe Jett (R - District 56)
Rep. David Fielding (D - District 5)	Rep. Stephen "Steve" Magie (D - District 72)

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Here's How Your State Legislators Voted on S.B. 6, the Bill to Prohibit Abortion *(continued)*

The Following State Senators Voted FOR S.B. 6

Sen. Bob Ballinger (R - District 5)	Sen. Scott Flippo (R - District 17)	Sen. Mathew "Mat" Pitsch (R - District 8)
Sen. Charles Beckham (R - District 12)	Sen. Trent Garner (R - District 27)	Sen. Jason Rapert (R - District 35)
Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (R - District 3)	Sen. Ben Gilmore (R - District 26)	Sen. Terry Rice (R - District 9)
Sen. Ronald "Ron" Caldwell (R - District 23)	Sen. Kim Hammer (R - District 33)	Sen. Bill Sample (R - District 14)
Sen. Alan Clark (R - District 13)	Sen. Bart Hester (R - District 1)	Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R - District 6)
Sen. Breanne Davis (R - District 16)	Sen. Ricky Hill (R - District 29)	Sen. James Sturch (R - District 19)
Sen. Jonathan Dismang (R - District 28)	Sen. Missy Irvin (R - District 18)	Sen. Dan Sullivan (R - District 21)
Sen. Lance Eads (R - District 7)	Sen. Blake Johnson (R - District 20)	Sen. Larry Teague (D - District 10)
Sen. Jane English (R - District 34)	Sen. Mark Johnson (R - District 15)	Sen. David "Dave" Wallace (R - District 22)

The Following State Senators Voted AGAINST S.B. 6

Sen. Linda Chesterfield (D - District 30)	Sen. Jimmy Hickey (R - District 11)	Sen. Clarke Tucker (D - District 32)
Sen. Joyce Elliott (D - District 31)	Sen. Keith Ingram (D - District 24)	
Sen. Stephanie Flowers (D - District 25)	Sen. Greg Leding (D - District 4)	

The Following State Senator Voted "Present" on S.B. 6

Sen. Jim Hendren (I - District 2)

Good Bills Passed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10

Act 309 / S.B. 6 (Prohibiting Abortion): This good law 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. This good law could save the lives of thousands of children and give the courts an opportunity to overturn decades of bad, pro-abortion rulings.

Act 311 / H.B. 1061 (No Patient Left Alone): This good law 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 law helps address that in Arkansas.

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.

Act 90 / H.B. 1195 (Pro-Life): This good law 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.

Act 226 / H.B. 1116 (Simon's Law): This good law 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. This law will help protect children in Arkansas from being denied life support or having a DNR placed on their medical charts without parental consent.



Right: Rep. Mary Bentley presents S.B. 6 in the Arkansas House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Good Bills Filed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10

S.B. 354 (Fairness in Women's Sports): This good bill by Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) and Rep. Sonia Barker (R – Smackover) would prevent male student athletes from competing against girls in women's athletics. This would protect fairness for girls' sports at schools in Arkansas. Family Council supports this measure.

H.B. 1570 (Prohibiting Sex-Reassignment on Children): This good bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Alan Clark (R – Lonsdale) prohibits sex-reassignment procedures on children. The bill also prevents funding of sex-reassignment procedures performed on children. This bill will protect children from being subjected to surgeries and procedures that can leave them sterilized and permanently scarred.

H.B. 1572 (Informed-Consent to Chemical Abortion): This good bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Scott Flippo (R – Mountain Home) outlines the informed-consent process for chemical abortion. Arkansas' current informed-consent laws for abortion are geared primarily for surgical abortion procedures. H.B. 1572 will help ensure women get all the facts about chemical abortion — including its risks, consequences, and pro-life alternatives. This will help save many unborn children from abortion.

S.B. 388 (Abortion Facilities): This good bill by Sen. Dan Sullivan (R – Jonesboro), Rep. Joe Cloud (R – Russellville), and Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) requires any facility that performs abortions to be licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health as an abortion facility, and it prohibits abortions in hospitals except in cases of medical emergency. S.B. 388 will help ensure that every clinic that performs abortions follows all of Arkansas' laws concerning abortion facilities. This has the potential to save many women and unborn children from abortion.

H.B. 1544 (Pro-Life Cities Resolution): This good bill by Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch) affirms the right of municipalities in Arkansas to declare themselves pro-life. H.B. 1544 outlines some of the findings and language that cities can put in their pro-life resolution. The bill also clarifies that Pro-Life Cities can install signs or banners announcing that they are pro-life.

S.B. 474 (Prohibiting Fraudulent Fertility Treatments): This good bill by Sen. Charles Beckham (R – McNeil) and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) prohibits fraud and abuse in fertility treatments. The bill ensures people performing fertility treatments are honest and ethical.

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.

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.

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From Left: Family Council staff members Luke McCoy, Erin Hogan, and Charisse Dean stand in front of the Capitol after a long day lobbying the Arkansas Legislature.



From Left: Sen. Gary Stubblefield, Sen. Jason Rapert, Alliance Defending Freedom Attorney Matt Sharp, and Family Council staff member Ken Yang discuss legislation.

Good Bills Filed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10 *(continued)*

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 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.

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

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 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. 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.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 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.B. 1523 (The Equal Justice Act): This good bill by Rep. Delia Haak (R – Gentry) identifies various protections and criminal penalties currently found in Arkansas law. The bill

expands on Arkansas’ law regarding felonies involving violence. It creates the offense of committing a felony involving violence for the purpose of preventing a person from exercising his or her constitutional right. The bill outlines minimum and maximum sentences for this type of felony. It also requires the state to collect and report statistics regarding felonies involving violence committed for the purpose of preventing a person from exercising his or her constitutional right.

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.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

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From Left: Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Joseph Backholm of Family Research Council testify in favor of H.B. 1570 in the House Public Health Committee. Family Council has been pleased to work with Rep. Lundstrum and our friends at FRC on this good bill that will protect children from dangerous gender-reassignment procedures.

Good Bills Filed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10 *(continued)*

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.

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 eliminating 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.

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.

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. 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 reduces 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.



Family Council staff members and friends gather for a quick photo outside the capitol.

Bad Bills Filed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10

S.B. 510 (LGBT Counseling): This bad bill by Sen. Greg Leding (D – Fayetteville) and Rep. Tippi McCullough (D – Little Rock) would prohibit healthcare professionals from helping children overcome unwanted same-sex attraction and gender confusion. However, the bill would permit pro-LGBT counseling that encourages children to embrace a different sexual orientation or gender identity. This is a bad bill that hurts healthcare professionals and endangers the welfare of children.

H.B. 1697 (No-Fault Divorce): This bad bill by Rep. Ashley Hudson (D - Little Rock) and Sen. Greg Leding (D - Fayetteville) permits no-fault divorce in Arkansas. Under current law, couples in Arkansas can divorce in cases such as infidelity, abuse, following a lengthy separation, and other circumstances. H.B. 1697 would permit divorce due to irreconcilable differences, discord, or conflict of personalities regardless of if the husband or wife is at fault.

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.

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

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.

(continued on following page)

Bad Bills Filed at the Arkansas Legislature as of March 10 (continued)

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.

S.B. 510 Would Prohibit Counselors From Helping Kids Overcome Gender Confusion

S.B. 510 by Sen. Greg Leding (D-Fayetteville) and Rep. Tippi McCullough (D-Little Rock) would prevent healthcare professionals from providing children with assistance overcoming unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion. However, the bill would permit pro-LGBT counseling. That means S.B. 510 would let counselors, doctors, and other healthcare professionals encourage children to accept same-sex attraction or reject their biological sex, but they would not be able to help children overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or accept their biological sex.

Needless to say, this is a bad bill that undermines the welfare of children and threatens healthcare professionals' ability to help their patients. S.B. 510 infringes free speech and the free exercise of religion among licensed healthcare professionals. It does not contain any exceptions for healthcare professionals who have deeply-held religious convictions against performing pro-LGBT counseling. It fails to account for the fact that many medical professionals, like the American College of Pediatricians, believe that encouraging a child to disagree with his or her biological sex amounts to child abuse. Family Council strongly opposes S.B. 510

Safe Haven Baby Box Honors Pro-Life Arkansan Dr. Fay Boozman

On Friday, March 12, pro-life Arkansans celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Fay Boozman by installing a Safe Haven Baby Box in his memory at a fire station in Rogers. Arkansas Safe Haven Act of 2001 lets a woman surrender her newborn baby to law enforcement, medical personnel, and first responders. The law gives women an option besides abortion. Safe Haven baby boxes installed at fire stations let women surrender a child safely and anonymously using a specialized drop-box designed to keep the baby secure while notifying the first responders inside the fire station that the baby is there. These boxes are amazing pieces of pro-life technology. I cannot think of anyone more appropriate to honor with one of these Safe Haven boxes than Dr. Fay Boozman.

Fay was an ophthalmologist from Northwest Arkansas. He served in the Arkansas Senate from 1994 - 1998. He directed the Arkansas Department of Health from 1999 until his untimely death in 2005. As a state leader, Fay supported pro-life and pro-family legislation and policies. But Fay wasn't just a doctor from Rogers or a state legislator or a department director. He was a devoted husband, a father, and a committed follower of Christ. He treated people with respect, and he understood that the things he did impacted others.

In 2005 UAMS named its college of public health after Fay. I think that was a very good thing to do, and I think Fay would feel honored that the state's medical school would do that. But I can't help but wonder if Fay wouldn't feel just as honored to know that at a fire station in Rogers newborn babies will have the opportunity to live and grow up thanks to a Safe Haven box that also bears his name.



From Left: Vickey Boozman, State Sen. Cecile Bledsoe, and Monica Kelsey, founder and CEO of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, stand with the baby box at Fire Station #5 in Rogers following a ceremony dedicating the box to the late Dr. Fay Boozman.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Is there anybody who wants things to get worse and worse in the future?

Of course not. We all want our children and grandchildren to live in a world that is better than the one we have right now. I don't want to just talk about a better future. I want to build one. Right now Family Council is helping make Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family. We've secured passage of a law that prohibits abortion, a law that protects patients from being left alone in hospitals and nursing homes, and a law that affirms churches and religious organizations are essential in Arkansas. We are working with our friends in the legislature and our colleagues at the state and national level to shape Arkansas for generations yet unborn.

As believers, we know a lot of the evil in our world is a sign of the times that we're living in. The Arkansas Legislature won't bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. Like Chuck Colson used to say, "Salvation doesn't arrive aboard Air Force One." But the scriptures also remind us that God wants us to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has given us. I believe that includes being good citizens, working for the passage of good laws, and equipping Arkansans to stand up for biblical values.

You can partner with us in this work through your generous financial support. You can send a tax-deductible gift to Family Council today using the enclosed envelope and response card. If you cannot give at this time, that's alright. I hope you will make it a point to pray for me and my staff as we continue going out to the Arkansas Legislature each day. **Thank you for standing with us. Give us a call if there's ever anything we can do for you.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Thank you!!". The signature is written in a cursive, friendly style.

Jerry Cox, President

P.S. There's so much happening at the capitol right now. Arkansas just passed legislation prohibiting abortion! We're tracking and working on dozens of pieces of legislation. **Your friendship and support is doing 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.
