



**FAMILY  
COUNCIL**

*inside:*

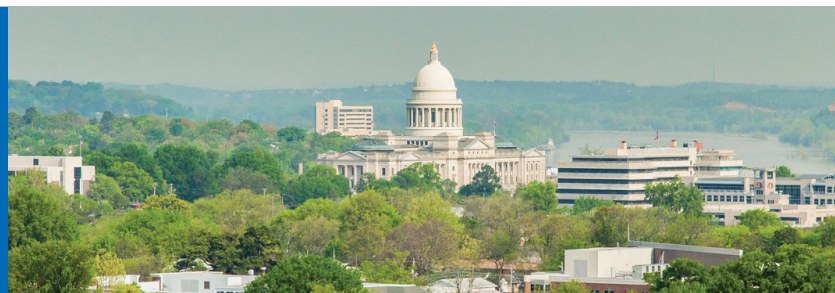
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**The Greatest Hits of  
the 2021 Legislature**

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**Good Bills Passed  
Into Law This Year**

—  
**Bad Bills Defeated**

—  
**Walmart Asks  
Legislators to  
Pass “Hate Crimes”  
Law—And Says  
It’s Not Enough**

—  
**& MORE**



**SPECIAL 2021  
LEGISLATIVE  
— REPORT —**

*Dear Friends,*

I’ve been at the State Capitol in Little Rock for 32 years, but I’ve never felt the need for police protection until this year. I am so grateful for the professionalism of our Capitol Police and others who provide security at the State Capitol. Here is what happened.

On Tuesday, March 9, Capitol Police were forced to remove a California lawyer from the House Public Health Committee meeting after he refused to stop testifying against H.B. 1570, the bill prohibiting sex-reassignment procedures on children. Due to the large number of people signed up to testify on the bill, the committee had been forced to limit the amount of time each speaker had. The committee chair told the gentleman multiple times that he was out of time and needed to yield the floor. When the man refused to leave, Capitol Police had no choice but to handcuff him and forcibly remove him from the room. Officers later said that was the first time any of them had ever had to lay their hands on someone who had come to the capitol to testify on a bill.

A little over a week later, on March 18, I was on my cell phone at the Capitol Building when screaming and shouting erupted in one of the hallways outside the Senate Education Committee meeting. The senators had just passed S.B. 354 protecting fairness in women’s sports. The pro-LGBT crowd that believed girls ought to be forced to compete against biological males at school was furious. Capitol Police officers escorted them to a lower level of the building.

We waited around to let the noisy crowd clear out before we left the building. My friend Paul didn’t know what he was in for when he casually joined me and about five others who had supported S.B. 354. We all walked out of the front of the Capitol and straight into an angry crowd of pro-transgender protesters who were waiting for us. Paul had nothing to do with the debate over that law, but that didn’t stop protesters from hurling profane insults at him and pursuing all of us as we walked toward the street. Fortunately, Capitol Police were there to protect us and hold the crowd at bay as we made our way out of the shouting crowd.

A few days after that, on Monday, March 22, Capitol Police again had to help us avoid protesters waiting for us after the House Public Health Committee passed H.B. 1570, the law banning sex-change surgeries on children. Pro-transgender protesters had already cursed and insulted us in the hallway outside the committee room. When Capitol Police saw them gathering outside, they escorted us out of the building another way for our safety.

Things got so bad that some lawmakers had to be assigned armed security to escort them around town and watch their residences. One female lawmaker was especially targeted and had to have armed, plain-clothed security walk with her to and from meetings inside the Capitol building and stand watch outside the committee room. They also escorted her to and from her apartment near the Capitol. That may be normal in Washington, D.C., or other places, but it’s highly unusual in Little Rock.

Thankfully, no one was hurt. Our goals were not hindered by the protesters. Of the 15 goals we set in January, 13 have been achieved to date. We secured passage of more than two dozen good laws, including 10 more pro-life laws, the best rights-of-conscience law in the nation, and laws allowing people in hospitals or nursing homes during a pandemic. We stopped most of the bad laws and fought hard for religious freedom, home schooling, and biblical values. And now let me tell you a little more about what happened at the legislature.

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## MY THOUGHTS: THE GREATEST HITS OF THE 2021 LEGISLATURE

This was without a doubt the busiest—and most successful—legislative session in Family Council's history. We worked on more bills this year than ever before. We had a full team of people monitoring legislation, supporting good bills, opposing bad bills, educating folks across the state, and explaining legislative issues to lawmakers. The past 100 days have been a roller-coaster ride. There's a lot of information in this letter recapping the 2021 legislative session, but below are a few of the highlights.

**#1: Totally Banning Abortion.** For more than 50 years pro-lifers in Arkansas have worked to prohibit abortion. This year we finally have done so. In November Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) pre-filed S.B. 6 prohibiting abortion in Arkansas except when the mother's life is at risk. The state legislature passed S.B. 6 in March, and Governor Hutchinson signed it into law. This is a good law that will force our federal courts to take a serious look at *Roe v. Wade* and other pro-abortion rulings. If enforced, it will save thousands of children from abortion every year.

**#2: Passing Ten New Pro-Life Laws.** Arkansas is well on its way to ending abortion. Lawmakers took seriously our place as the most pro-life state in the nation by passing a whole slate of pro-life laws that will protect the safety of women and reduce the number of abortions. These laws include prohibiting abortions in hospitals, better regulations on drug-induced abortions, requiring abortion providers to have agreements with local hospitals, and requiring police reports for women seeking abortions for rape or incest.

**#3: Allowing People to Visit Family Members in a Nursing Home or Hospital During a Pandemic.** All of us came out of the COVID-19 pandemic with stories about people left to die alone in nursing homes and hospitals. Nobody should have to sit in a hospital or nursing home without being able to see their loved ones. Last year I felt very strongly that Family Council needed to do something to stop this from happening in Arkansas. We were able to work closely with Rep. Julie Mayberry (R – Hensley) to pass H.B. 1061, the No Patient Left Alone Act. This measure will protect your loved ones and mine from being left alone without visitors or family members. Passing this bill was a lot of work. We spent countless hours meeting with experts who understand the nuances of our country's healthcare laws. The bill had to be amended multiple times to make it do what we all wanted it to do. In the end, though, it was a really good bill that is now a really good law. In April I actually talked to a gentleman who was able to visit his mother in the nursing home because of the No Patient Left Alone Act. It's good to know we were able to pass a law that is already helping people.

**#4: Stopping Government from Closing Churches During a Pandemic.** All throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we heard about essential workers and essential businesses. But one group that many states didn't consider essential was churches. Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson didn't try to target churches during the COVID-19 shutdowns the way other governors did, but our news media and others still unfairly blamed churches for the spread of the coronavirus. Act 94 (H.B. 1211) of 2021 by Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Sen. 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. Family Council was proud to support this good law. Governor Hutchinson chose to let it take effect without actually signing it into law, and he even went so far as to write a letter to the Arkansas House of Representatives complaining that the bill suggests his office didn't properly handle the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to the governor's credit he did let the bill become law.

**#5: Defeating Bad End-of-Life Legislation.** In March and April Family Council worked with National Right to Life, Arkansas Right to Life, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition USA, Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents, the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock, national experts on life-sustaining medical treatment, Arkansas lawyers, a palliative care physician, a hospital ethicist, and others to defeat two really bad bills—H.B. 1685 and H.B. 1686 by Rep. Michelle Gray (R – Melbourne) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville)—that made it easier to deny food and water to people who are dying and weakened our laws surrounding life-sustaining treatment. These were complicated measures that were very difficult to stop. We sent 6,200 letters across Arkansas and thousands of emails calling on Arkansans to contact their legislators and ask them to oppose these bills. Several legislators became very angry with me and my team for fighting these bad bills. A prominent nursing home owner personally called to tell us that the bills were certain to pass and that we ought to drop our opposition to them. We tried to arrange a meeting with him to discuss our concerns about the bills and hear what he had to say about them, but he canceled the meeting and never

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## My Thoughts: The Greatest Hits of the 2021 Legislature *(continued)*

offered to reschedule. We had no choice but to fight these bills until they were defeated on the floor of the House of Representatives. I'm very grateful to every legislator who opposed these bad bills.

**#6: Prohibiting Sex Change Procedures on Children.** My staff and I thought the most contentious bill of the session would be the proposal to end abortion in Arkansas. Boy were we wrong! H.B. 1570, the Save Adolescents From Experimentation (SAFE) Act, by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Alan Clark (R – Lonsdale) prohibits sex-reassignment procedures on children in Arkansas. You would think that a bill protecting children from sex-change surgery and chemical castration would be a no-brainer. Instead LGBT activists descended on the Arkansas Capitol Building. They screamed at legislators, were disrespectful during committee testimony, made idle—but troubling—threats against people who supported the SAFE Act, and brought relentless pressure against elected officials. Gov. Hutchinson's decision to veto the SAFE Act added gasoline to the fire by putting lawmakers in the position of having to vote on the measure a second time. In the end, our lawmakers stood their ground and overrode his veto. I talked to a lot of different leaders at the national level who were deeply impressed by the resolve of our lawmakers on this issue. Arkansans ought to be proud of their courageous legislators for passing such a good law in the face of such vicious opposition.

**#7: Keeping Planned Parenthood Out of Our Schools.** In March Family Council sent Freedom of Information Act requests to several public school districts in central Arkansas requesting documents related to Planned Parenthood. The Pulaski County Special School District responded with 1,395 pages of redacted documents revealing that Planned Parenthood has been very active in public schools in and around Little Rock and North Little Rock. That information

helped fuel legislation like H.B. 1592 by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) that keeps abortion groups out of Arkansas' public schools. H.B. 1592 largely flew under the radar until it finally passed the Arkansas Legislature—but after it passed, several different news outlets noticed. Different states have their own ways of trying to keep abortionists away from public schools, but H.B. 1592 is unique in that it prohibits public schools from entering into any type of agreement or arrangement with an abortion provider. This will keep groups like Planned Parenthood from promoting their sex-education programs to our public school students.

**#8: Enacting the Nation's Strongest Medical Rights of Conscience Law.** It only took us three legislative sessions over the course of four years, but we finally secured passage of legislation protecting healthcare workers' rights of conscience. S.B. 289 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Brandt Smith (R – Jonesboro) is now Act 462 of 2021. In years past Governor Hutchinson's administration and the radical pro-LGBT lobby both opposed this bill—even though all it really says is that you can't force a healthcare professional to perform a medical procedure that violates his or her convictions. The legislation is crafted in such a way that it could not be used to deny somebody lifesaving treatment or to discriminate against a person or group of people. This year the governor was neutral on the bill, but it still drew opposition from Walmart and the State Chamber of Commerce. Walmart's CEO even wrote a letter to Governor Hutchinson expressing his opposition to S.B. 289 as well as the "Stand Your Ground" bill and other measures at the Arkansas Legislature. Family Council received a copy of that letter from an individual we know who has worked with Walmart in the past. Despite Walmart's opposition, the bill passed, and the governor signed it into law. That means healthcare professionals in Arkansas now have some of the best conscience protections in the country.



From Left: Rep. Lundstrum and Joseph Backholm of Family Research Council testify in favor of H.B. 1570, the SAFE Act, in the House Public Health Committee on March 9.



Rep. Barker and Family Council staff member Ken Yang testify in favor of pro-life bill H.B. 1402 on March 11.

## Good Bills Passed Into Law This Year

Family Council worked on a lot of really good bills this year. Below are some of the good pieces of legislation that we supported along with our friends in the Arkansas Legislature and elsewhere.

**PASSED: 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. Family Council worked 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.

**PASSED: Act 498 / S.B. 85 (Abortion):** This good law 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.

**PASSED: Act 358 / H.B. 1408 (Abortion):** This good law by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch) helps prevent abortion providers and their affiliates from receiving Medicaid reimbursements.

**PASSED: Act 562 / H.B. 1402 (Abortion-Inducing Drugs):** This good law 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, which could help save unborn children from RU-486.

**PASSED: H.C.R. 1007 (Abortion):** This good resolution by Rep. Jim Wooten (R – Beebe) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) recognizes 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 unborn babies killed in abortion over the past five decades, and it encourages Arkansans to lower their flags to half-staff on January 22 to mourn the innocent children who have lost their lives.

**PASSED: S.B. 388 (Abortion Facilities):** This good law by Sen. Charles Beckham (R –

McNeil) and Rep. Joe Cloud (R – Russellville) 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.

**PASSED: Act 787 / S.B. 463 (Abortion Facilities):** This good law by Sen. Blake Johnson (R – Corning) and Rep. Tony Furman (R – Benton) requires the State of Arkansas to report abortion data to the federal Centers for Disease Control. It also tightens Arkansas law concerning abortion facility inspections, and it requires abortionists to file certain documentation when the woman is a victim of rape or incest.

**PASSED: Act 561 / H.B. 1589 (Transactions With Abortionists):** This good law by Rep. Harlan Breaux (R – Holiday Island) and Sen. Bob Ballinger (R – Ozark) prohibits government entities in Arkansas from engaging in transactions with abortion providers and affiliates of abortion providers.

**PASSED: Act 820 / H.B. 1592 (Abortion):** This good law by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) prohibits public schools in Arkansas from engaging in transactions with abortion providers.

**PASSED: Act 740 / S.B. 527 (Abortion Facilities):** This good law by Sen. Ben Gilmore (R – Crossett) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) requires abortion facilities to have transfer agreements with hospitals, and it fixes a flawed definition in a pro-life law passed in 2019. It also requires abortionists to provide women with information regarding human trafficking.

**PASSED: Act 560 / H.B. 1572 (Informed-Consent to Chemical Abortion):** This good law 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. Act 560 will help ensure women get all the facts about chemical abortion — including its risks, consequences, and pro-



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



Rep. Cloud presents S.B. 388 in the Arkansas House of Representatives on April 20.

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## Good Bills Passed Into Law This Year *(continued)*

life alternatives. This will help save many unborn children from abortion.

**PASSED: Act 392 / H.B. 1544 (Pro-Life Cities Resolution):** This good law 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. It also clarifies that Pro-Life Cities can install signs or banners announcing that they are pro-life

**PASSED: 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.

**PASSED: Act 226 / H.B. 1116 (Simon's Law):** This good law by Rep. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) and Sen. Bart Hester (R – Cave Springs) would help protect children in Arkansas from being denied life support or having a DNR placed on their medical charts without parental consent.

**PASSED: Act 609 / S.B. 474 (Prohibiting Fraudulent Fertility Treatments):** This good law by Sen. Charles Beckham (R – McNeil) and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) prohibits fraud and abuse in fertility treatments. Act 609 ensures people performing fertility treatments are honest, ethical, and abide by principles of informed-consent.

**PASSED: Act 626 / H.B. 1570 (Prohibiting Sex-Reassignment on Children):** This good law by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Springdale) and Sen. Alan Clark (R – Lonsdale) prohibits sex-reassignment procedures on children. It also prevents funding of sex-reassignment procedures performed on children. This law will protect children from being subjected to surgeries and procedures that can leave them sterilized and permanently scarred.

**PASSED: Act 461 / S.B. 354 (Fairness in Women's Sports):** This good law by Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View) and Rep. Sonia Barker (R – Smackover) prevents male student athletes from competing against girls in women's athletics. This will protect fairness for girls' sports at school in Arkansas.

**PASSED: Act 462 / S.B. 289 (Conscience):** This good law 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. Act 462 helps broaden these protections for healthcare workers.

**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.

**PASSED: 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.

**PASSED: Act 342 / H.B. 1353 (Marijuana Advertisements):** This good law 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.

**PASSED: Act 623 / H.B. 1429 (Home School):** This good bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R – Maumelle) and Sen. Ben Gilmore (R – Crossett) reduces the fourteen-day waiting period for families wishing to transfer out of a public school to home school. It also makes technical corrections to the home school law.

**PASSED: H.R. 1021 (Home School):** This good resolution by Rep. Cameron Cooper (R – Romance) recognizes and celebrates 35 years of homeschooling in Arkansas. The resolution passed the Arkansas House on a voice vote.

**PASSED: S.B. 662 (Prayer):** This good bill by Sen. Ricky Hill (R – Cabot) and Rep. Cameron Cooper (R – Romance) establishes a Day of Prayer for Arkansas Students annually on the last Wednesday of September.



*Rep. Robin Lundstrum asks the Arkansas House of Representatives to override the governor's veto of H.B. 1570.*

## Good Bills that Failed to Pass

**S.B. 649 (Lottery):** This good bill by Sen. Charles Beckham (R – McNeil) and Rep. Richard Womack (R – Arkadelphia) requires the Arkansas Lottery to increase the percentage of its revenue budgeted for scholarships to 25% over the next six years. The bill was referred to interim study—meaning that legislators will study the issue between now and their next session in 2023.

**H.B. 1882 (Privacy):** This good bill by Rep. Cindy Crawford (R – Fort Smith) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch) pro-

pects physical privacy and safety of Arkansans in showers, locker rooms, changing facilities, and restrooms on government property. Unfortunately, the bill failed to make it out of committee.

**H.B. 1523 (The Equal Justice Act):** This good bill by Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch) outlined penalties for felonies involving violence committed for the purpose of preventing a person from exercising a constitutional right. Unfortunately the bill did not pass.

## Bad Bills Passed

**Act 681 / S.B. 622 (Hate Crimes):** This bad law by Sen. Jimmy Hickey (R – Texarkana) and Rep. Matthew Shepherd (R – El Dorado), commonly being called a “hate crimes law,” outlines vague, protected classes in state law. This law is so ambiguous that it’s impossible to know just how far-reaching this legislation may be. Its protections for religious liberty are not adequate. The law does not contain sufficient safeguards to prevent cities and counties from enacting their own, more stringent hate crimes ordinances. It does not do enough to protect free speech or prevent thought-policing. This bad law is a watered-down version of an even worse bill proposed by Sen. Jim Hendren and Governor Asa Hutchinson.

**H.B. 1228 (Public Drinking):** This bad law by Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) lets cities in dry counties approve public drinking in “entertainment districts” if the city contains a private club that serves alcohol. State law previously allowed public drinking in entertainment districts in wet counties. H.B. 1228 expands public drinking to dry counties. Does anybody genuinely believe voters intended for there to be public drinking in their communities when they voted to make their county dry? And yet thanks to this bad bill by Rep. Johnson and Sen. Davis, that’s exactly what is going to happen in dry counties around the state now.

## Bad Bills Defeated

**H.B. 1685 (End-of-Life Care):** This bad bill by Rep. Michelle Gray (R – Melbourne) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) would have made it easier for healthcare providers to deny a dying person food or water and take a person off life support. The bill passed the Arkansas House Public Health Committee, but it was soundly defeated in the House of Representatives.

**H.B. 1686 (End-of-Life Care):** This bad bill by Rep. Michelle Gray (R – Melbourne) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) would have let physician assistants and APRNs at a nursing home or hospital make end of life decisions without consulting a physician. The bill passed the Arkansas House Public Health Committee, but it was soundly defeated in the House of Representatives.

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*Jerry Cox testifies against H.B. 1685 in the House Public Health Committee on Thursday, April 8.*



*Family Council staff members Charisse Dean and Erin Hogan pause for a quick photo outside the Capitol.*



## Bad Bills Defeated *(continued)*

**S.B. 3 (Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation):** This bad bill by Sen. Jim Hendren (I – Gravette) and Rep. Fred Love (D – Little Rock) would have enacted hate crimes legislation by enhancing penalties for crimes committed against certain protected classes of people listed in the bill. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 20 years, and we opposed this bill as well. The bill failed to make it out of committee.

**H.B. 1020 (Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation):** This bad bill by Rep. Fred Love (D – Little Rock) and Sen. Jim Hendren (I – Gravette) would have enacted hate crimes legislation by enhancing penalties for crimes committed against certain protected classes of people listed in the bill. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 20 years, and we opposed this bill as well. The bill failed to make it out of committee.

**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. Thankfully, the bill never came up in committee.

**S.B. 655 (Sex-Education):** This bad bill by Sen. Greg Leding (D – Fayetteville) and Rep. Megan Godfrey (D – Springdale) would have implemented Planned Parenthood-style comprehensive sex-education in public schools in Arkansas. Fortunately, the bill never came up in committee.

**H.B. 1697 (No-Fault Divorce):** This bad bill by Rep. Ashley Hudson (D – Little Rock) and Sen. Greg Leding (D – Fayetteville) would have permitted no-fault divorce in Arkansas. Fortunately, the bill was soundly defeated on the floor of the Arkansas House of Representatives.

## Walmart Asks Legislators to Pass “Hate Crimes” Law—And Says It’s Not Enough

Ever since the mass shooting at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, the nation’s largest retailer has called on states like Arkansas to pass “hate crimes” legislation. As soon as Arkansas’ new “hate-crimes” law passed—it is now Act 681 of 2021—Walmart began calling for it to be made even more stringent. We’ve been telling lawmakers for over a year that passing any hate crimes law at all will only lead Walmart, the Chamber of Commerce, and the cancel culture to call for a stronger law later on. It didn’t take them long.

In a statement, Doug McMillon, President and CEO of Walmart, celebrated the passage of the law, and in the next breath said, “While more work needs to be done to strengthen this proposal...” Walmart didn’t bother to thank legislators for passing the bill. In fact, in the very same statement Walmart’s CEO took an indirect jab at legislation like H.B. 1570 that protects children from dangerous gender-reassignment procedures.

The new “hate crimes” law does practically nothing to protect people of faith. It is the perfect platform for Walmart

and the Left to build upon at future legislative sessions. Two years from now you can bet that Walmart and others will be back at the Capitol asking for more. We knew this would happen. We told lawmakers so. Now we have to live with what they have done for Walmart—and what Walmart wants to do to the rest of us.

We were pleased to see the Arkansas Legislature pass needed and long-overdue hate crimes legislation. While more work needs to be done to strengthen this proposal, it was important for Arkansas to join the 47 other states that have adopted these protections for their citizens. We believe it’s good for Arkansas to be a welcoming place and to be seen as such with decisions like this one. Unfortunately, a number of bills being considered by the legislature targeting the LGBTQ+ community are troubling and work against that goal. These kinds of bills make it harder for employers to grow, recruit and retain talent that contributes to the state’s economic growth. We will continue to advocate on behalf of our associates so their voices are heard and protected.

**Doug McMillon**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, WALMART

## Here are the Constitutional Amendments You Will See on the Ballot in November 2022

**H.J.R. 1005** is a proposed State Constitutional Amendment that raises the percentage of the vote required for voter approval of State Constitutional Amendments and initiated acts from the current threshold of a simple majority to at least 60% of the vote.

**S.J.R. 10** is a proposed State Constitutional Amendment that will appear on the November 2022 General Election ballot. This proposed State Constitutional Amendment will

allow the Arkansas General Assembly to call itself into special session during a state of emergency.

**S.J.R. 14** is a proposed constitutional amendment that 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.

## Looking Ahead to the Rest of 2021

We just wrapped up a very successful legislative session. We still have a lot we want to accomplish the rest of this year. Here are a few of our goals:

- Make sure Arkansas remains the most pro-life state in America.
- Establish hundreds of pro-life sanctuary cities around Arkansas.
- Ensure our good laws are properly implemented and enforced in the coming months.
- Blunt the Biden/Harris Administration's liberal agenda in Arkansas.
- Support religious liberty in Arkansas.
- Continue to develop our Rapid Response Network.
- Support home schooling.



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

The 2021 Arkansas Legislature has been a rollercoaster. It's had its ups and downs, but now it is finished. We have so much we want to accomplish between now and the end of this year. I hope you will send us a generous, tax-deductible gift today, if you are able, because there is no way we would be able to do everything that we do without generous friends like you who support our work. Also, remember to pray for me and my team, and tell your friends about our work too! **Thank you for helping us promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values in Arkansas.**

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

**P.S. Enclosed with this letter are a couple of flyers telling you how all 135 legislators voted on most of the bills listed in this letter.** Some of the bills we wrote about—like the bad sex-education bill, S.B. 655—never made it to the House or Senate chamber for a full vote. Others—like the divorce bill, H.B. 1697—came up in the House, but not the Senate. Lawmakers voted on upwards of a thousand measures this year, but I hope this gives you a window into where many of them stood on legislation that we wrote about. Thank you for your support!



**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.