



**FAMILY  
COUNCIL**

*inside:*

—  
**Arkansas Legislature  
Adjourns Special  
Session Without  
Taking Up Texas-  
Style Pro-Life Law**

—  
**University of  
Arkansas Goes  
for Woke With  
“Antiracist” Pledge**

—  
**Arkansas to Mark  
First Annual  
“Day of Tears” for  
Aborted Babies**

—  
**The “Suicide Pods” in  
Switzerland Could  
Foreshadow Things  
to Come in U.S.**

—  
**& MORE**



*Photo source: New York Public Library, public domain*

**JANUARY 2022  
UPDATE LETTER**

## *Dear Friends,*

On January 17, 1781, two-hundred forty-one years ago this month, American soldiers scored a crucial victory in the American Revolution. The victory at the battle of Cowpens, South Carolina proved to be a turning point in our nation’s fight for freedom from the British Crown.

On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence and became the United States of America. For the next few years, the war for independence raged—and it generally went poorly for American soldiers. The British Empire commanded arguably the best military and best navy on the planet. Patriot forces suffered defeats and setbacks. By January of 1781 the Continental Army was exhausted, hungry, and poorly equipped. American troops had begun foraging the South Carolina backcountry for supplies and support from people loyal to the revolution. Lord Cornwallis dispatched 1,100 British forces to pursue the Americans.

The two armies met near Cowpens, South Carolina, a little before dawn on January 17. The battle was not large, but it was decisive. The Redcoats were used to routing American militia and pushing back colonial troops. When the British attacked, the American general ordered his militia to retreat after the first two volleys of musket fire. The British assumed the militia were running away, and they chased after the Americans. But they did not realize that seasoned Colonial soldiers were stationed behind the militia. British forces soon found themselves standing muzzle-to-muzzle with battle-hardened veterans of the American Revolution.

As the battle progressed, the militia suddenly stopped “fleeing” and began fighting, catching the British troops off guard. American soldiers from Delaware and Maryland mounted a bayonet charge. The American counterattack was so overwhelming and so demoralizing that some sources say nearly half of the British men simply fell to the ground in shock, whether they were wounded or not.

By 8:00AM, Britain’s commanders had lost all but 182 of their men. The battle lasted about an hour, but it triggered a series of British retreats in the south that ultimately led to the end of the war at Yorktown, Virginia just 9 months later. The Battle of Cowpens is famous in American history. In fact, it helped inspire the battle scene at the climax of the movie *The Patriot* starring Mel Gibson as the leader of the American militia.

During the Revolution the British had little respect for the colonial militia—mostly farmers with muskets. Today, high-minded progressives and Hollywood elites treat us the same way. To them, we’re a basket of deplorables who cling to our guns and our God. In their minds, it’s just a matter of time before they defeat our values and throw us on the trash heap of history.

Make no mistake, the forces arrayed against our way of life want to wipe our faith and freedom from the face of the earth. There won’t be any peace treaties for us or our children to sign if we lose these fights. But I’m encouraged. None of us knows how Providence—the hand of almighty God—will use some little thing, like a David with a slingshot or a baby born in a barn to turn things upside down—or should I say—right-side up.

By the way, it has been written that when Lord Cornwallis surrendered to the Colonials at Yorktown the British band played “The World Turned Upside Down.” As you and I stay true to the fight, I pray that some relatively small battle we fight will, in the long run, turn the world upside down—to make it right side up. Faithfulness in “the little things” is something we try to practice at Family Council, too. And now let me tell you a little more about how we’ve been doing that—and about what we have planned for 2022!



Family Council  
President Jerry Cox

## MY THOUGHTS: ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SPECIAL SESSION WITHOUT TAKING UP TEXAS-STYLE PRO-LIFE LAW

In December the Arkansas Legislature convened in special session to address tax issues. Among other things, several lawmakers also pushed to have the legislature tackle a Texas-style pro-life law while the General Assembly was at the capitol.

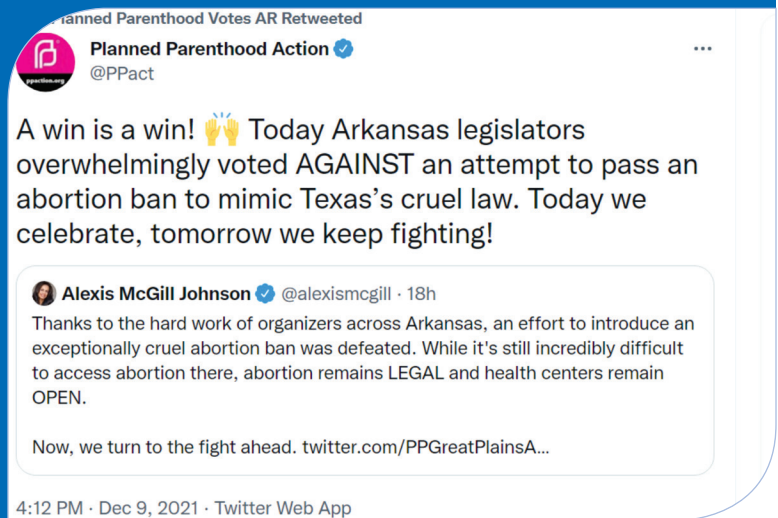
Last year Texas passed a law generally prohibiting abortion after an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detected. Instead of containing criminal penalties for abortion, Texas’ law lets anyone file a lawsuit against a person who violates the state’s heartbeat law. If an abortionist performs an abortion in violation of Texas’ law, a person could sue the abortionist for \$10,000. Since September, the law has generally stopped abortion in Texas, and Arkansas has seen a growing number of women traveling from Texas to Little Rock for abortions.

Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) led the effort to bring us a Texas-style pro-life law at the Arkansas Legislature during the special session in December. However, after approving tax cuts, the Arkansas Legislature voted on December 9 to end the special legislative session without taking up a Texas-style abortion law. After the legislature adjourned, Planned Parenthood issued a series of statements praising the Arkansas Legislature for adjourning without taking up the pro-life measure and claiming a pro-abortion victory in Arkansas. However, Planned Parenthood’s statements incorrectly said that lawmakers voted against the pro-life law. At best, lawmakers voted to adjourn without taking up the legislation. The Texas-style law never came up for a vote in the Arkansas House and Senate. Family Council is very grateful to Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Mary Bentley for their effort to pass a Texas-style law during the special session.

The U.S. Supreme Court has let the Texas heartbeat law stand for now, but we expect more lawsuits over the law in the near future. We’re also waiting for the court to rule on Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban. That decision probably will be handed down this coming June. All of this could impact the Texas law and other pro-life laws nationwide.

The Arkansas Legislature may have an opportunity to pass a Texas-style pro-life law in February if enough lawmakers agree to take the issue up during the 2022 budget session. A law like the one that the Texas Legislature passed last year could actually close abortion facilities and stop abortions in Arkansas. That would be something to celebrate.

*Right: A screenshot of one of the statements Planned Parenthood issued on social media celebrating the Arkansas Legislature’s decision to adjourn without taking up a Texas-style pro-life measure.*



## University of Arkansas Goes for Woke With “Antiracist” Pledge

Recently Family Council learned that the University of Arkansas’s Sam M. Walton College of Business as well as the university’s law school have jumped on the “woke” bandwagon with materials and resources promoting critical race theory.

Critical theory is a set of ideas that emerged among Marxist sociologists and philosophers in Germany during the 1930s. According to critical theory, society consists of two groups: Those who have power and those who don’t. Critical theory teaches that those who have power always use it to oppress those who don’t have power, and that insti-

tutions—such as the church, family, government, or law enforcement—are tools of oppression.

Critical race theory draws these distinctions along racial lines. Critical race theory classifies people as oppressors or oppressed based on their race or ethnicity. According to critical race theory, racism is systemic in America—meaning it’s everywhere.

The law school at the U of A has an “Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias Pledge” for faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the school to sign. The pledge incorrectly claims that “racism is

*(continued on following page)*

## University of Arkansas Goes for Woke With “Antiracist” Pledge *(continued)*

the combination of social and institutional power structures and racial prejudice.” This language tracks closely with critical race theory. The business college maintains a web page that provides a list of “antiracism resources.” Many of the resources listed on this page promote critical race theory.

Obviously, we should oppose racism, but critical race theory isn’t the way to do it. Critical theory as a whole distorts reality and misunderstands human nature, society, and institutions. As John Stonestreet puts it, critical race theory

“offers a very different explanation of humanity, sin, and redemption than the Bible does.” Unfortunately, critical race theory seems to be infiltrating portions of Arkansas—including our publicly funded universities.

**Take Action:** If you hear about pro-critical race theory material or activities on your local public school or college campuses, call our office at (501) 375-7000, and let your state senator and state representative know as well.



David Cox,  
Assistant Director

### Policy Points: The “Suicide Pods” in Switzerland Could Foreshadow Things to Come in U.S.

*By David Cox, Family Council Assistant Director*

In December several major news outlets incorrectly reported the Swiss government’s medical review board had authorized the use of the Sarco Suicide Pod as one of the country’s newest methods of assisted suicide. The Swiss government later issued statements saying the suicide pods had not been approved, but pro-suicide advocates would like to see the pod authorized for assisted suicide in that country in the near future. Assisted suicide efforts in European countries like Switzerland and Belgium have inspired similar movements in places like Oregon, Washington, and California. That’s why it would be very troubling if Switzerland decided to authorize the Sarco Suicide Pod in its country.

The Sarco Suicide Pod is the invention of Australian suicide activist Dr. Philip Nitschke—a man who has been called “the Elon Musk of assisted suicide.” Dr. Nitschke has invented several “death machines” over the years that help people end their lives. I first heard of Dr. Nitschke in 2017 when Newsweek wrote a story on his latest invention, the Sarco Suicide Pod. Newsweek described the suicide pod at the time, writing, “The Sarco is sleek—and, Nitschke stresses, luxurious. It resembles a spaceship and is intended to convince its user that he or she is journeying to the great beyond.” A person enters the Sarco pod and activates it through a computer system. The pod fills with nitrogen, which causes oxygen levels inside the pod to plummet. Unconsciousness occurs in a matter of seconds, and death follows a few minutes later. Dr. Nitschke reportedly told Newsweek that the death is “relatively painless.” Honestly, though, how can anybody know what it feels like to die from nitrogen poisoning?

When I first heard about the Sarco Suicide Pod back about four years ago, I honestly thought it looked like a gimmick. I figured it would grab headlines and force people to discuss assisted suicide legislation. I never thought anybody would seriously entertain the idea of letting people take their own lives by climbing inside a nitrogen-filled capsule that looked like something out of a sci-fi movie.

Why should Americans care about assisted suicide efforts in Switzerland? Because history tells us that pro-suicide efforts in Switzerland probably won’t stay in Switzerland. Products like the Sarco Suicide Pod are intended to make suicide aesthetically pleasing—even “cool” and stylish. They are part of a global effort to normalize assisted suicide—both in Europe and here in the U.S.

The U.S. is winning the fight to end abortion. Nationwide, abortion rates have been in freefall since the 1990s, and states like Arkansas have passed a long list of pro-life measures. We aren’t having the same level of success when it comes to euthanasia and assisted suicide. If we don’t seriously engage on assisted suicide and euthanasia, we may succeed at protecting life at its beginning but fail to protect life at its end.



Right: The Sarco Suicide Pod. The capsule fills with nitrogen, killing its user.  
Photo used in accordance with Fair Use Doctrine.

## Arkansas to Mark First Annual “Day of Tears” for Aborted Babies

Last April the Arkansas Legislature passed H.C.R. 1007 by Rep. Jim Wooten (R – Beebe) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R – Conway) recognizing Roe v. Wade’s anniversary—January 22—as The Day of Tears in Arkansas. Alabama and Louisiana have enacted similar resolutions as well. H.C.R. 1007 acknowledges the 61 million unborn babies killed in abortion in America 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.

This coming January 22 will mark the first official Day of Tears in Arkansas. With that in mind, here are some steps you can take as a pro-life Arkansan to make sure that this important date is observed in your community:

- Encourage your local city and county officials to fly flags at half-staff outside government buildings.
- Ask your mayor or county judge to issue a statement acknowledging that January 22 is the Day of Tears in Arkansas.
- If they have not already done so, ask your local leaders to propose a resolution affirming that your city or county is Pro-Life.

If you want additional information on how to pass a Pro-Life resolution in your city or county, call our office at (501) 375-7000.

## U.S. Sen. Cotton Introduces Measure to Provide Tax Credit for Miscarriages and Stillbirths and Stop Funding Abortionists

In November U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R – AR) and U.S. Senator Ashley Hinson (R – IA) filed the HEALING Mothers and Fathers Act. The proposed legislation amends the federal 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Among other things, the measure adds “spontaneous loss of an unborn child” as a qualifying medical condition for leave under FMLA, and it establishes a \$3,600 tax credit for any mother or couple that suffers the loss of a child in the womb. The bill also prevents federal Title X funds from going to abortionists or to anyone who offers abortion referrals. This would help stem the tide of taxpayer funds currently directed to organizations like Planned Parenthood.

Family Council has joined with Arkansas Right to Life, the National Right to Life Committee, and other pro-life organizations in endorsing this good measure. The HEALING Mothers and Fathers Act is similar to Arkansas’ Act 935 of 2021—also known as Paisley’s Law—which the Arkansas Legislature enacted earlier this year. Act 935 provides Arkansans with a \$500 income tax credit for the stillbirth of a child at or after 20 weeks gestation. Arkansas also has enacted legislation over the years to de-fund abortionists. We fully support Sen. Cotton’s effort to enact good, pro-life legislation at the national level.



*In November U.S. Sen. Cotton (above) sponsored the HEALING Mothers and Fathers Act, a proposed federal law endorsed by Family Council, Arkansas Right to Life, National Right to Life Committee, and Susan B. Anthony List.*



*John Stonestreet,  
Director of the Colson Center  
for Christian Worldview.*

## THE PROBLEM WITH SURROGACY ISN'T THE PRICE

*By John Stonestreet and Maria Baer*

On Black Friday, a surrogacy agency in Ukraine called BioTexCom offered a fun new deal: three percent off your next baby. The discount, according to the ad, applied to hiring Ukrainian women to be surrogate mothers, to IVF, or whatever mixture thereof.

If the name BioTexCom sounds familiar, it's because this is the agency saddled with nearly 100 stranded babies in a Kiev hotel, to be cared for by a handful of nurses, at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. That happened because the babies legally belonged to the wealthy Western couples who bought them but couldn't pick them up due to travel restrictions. The babies' Ukrainian mothers weren't allowed to care for the babies after the birth—

they weren't their “property” anymore.

That situation, and this tacky Black Friday discount, illustrate something crucial. Whatever feels icky about “three percent off a new baby” *is still there when it's full price*. Industrialized assisted reproduction turns both women's bodies and babies into commodities on Black Friday and every other day. God made us for so much more.

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## Religious Freedom Commission's Factsheet Shows Christian Ministers in China Face Imprisonment, Torture

Recently the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom released a factsheet regarding the Chinese Communist Party's heavy-handed management of ministers in China. The report outlines the ways that China's "clergy management" rules hurt religious freedom in its country. Nearly a year ago China implemented a new set of regulations subjecting ministers and religious groups to tighter state control and surveillance. The new rules also penalize clergy who violate the country's religious laws and prohibit virtually all religious activity that isn't sanctioned by the Chinese government.

According to the factsheet, China's rules for ministers effectively impose a political test to gauge whether or not ministers are loyal to the Chinese Communist Party. They also contain overly-broad language that could be used to give the CCP license to crack down on any minister who strays too far out of line for the communist party's comfort. The rules also appear to make it very difficult for churches in China to work with international missionaries.

The USCIRF factsheet describes some of the torture that ministers in China have experienced since the communist party issued the new rules last year, writing,

Since the issuance of the Measures [on the Management of Religious Clergy] in February 2021, Chinese authorities have detained and arrested scores of underground Catholic priests...and unregistered Protestant house church leaders... Authorities reportedly tortured some of these religious leaders, including Bishop Zhang Weizhu, forcing him to join the state-sanctioned Catholic group.

A separate USCIRF publication highlighted credible investigative reports that show China has been forcibly harvesting human organs from religious dissidents whom the communist government has imprisoned. China's record on human rights is among the worst on the planet. With that in mind, it's good to see countries like the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and others hold diplomatic boycotts of the upcoming Winter Olympics in Beijing, but we need to do more.



## Jonesboro Public Library Admits Failure to Comply With Public Meetings Law, Agrees to Pay Attorney Fees to Former Board Member Who Filed Lawsuit

Last year the Jonesboro Public Library made headlines on multiple occasions when news broke that there was pro-LGBT material and sexually-explicit content in the library's children's area. On October 6 the Jonesboro Public Library Board's Sensitive Content Subcommittee met to discuss books in the children's area of the library that contained nudity and sexually-explicit images—including books containing illustrations of sexual acts. However, the library board failed to advertise the meeting ahead of time to the general public as required by state law. As a result parents and members of the community did not have an opportunity to find out about the explicit material at the library or comment on how the library board ought to address the material.

On October 27 an attorney from Fort Smith and Amanda Escue, a former library board member, filed a lawsuit against the board. The lawsuit alleged that the library board failed to comply with Arkansas' open meetings law, and it also showcased some of the shocking material that the subcommittee met to discuss without notifying the public. On November 3, the attorney for the library board filed a response to the lawsuit in court. Among other things, the response admitted that the library failed to comply with the state's open meetings law, saying that "[the library board] should have given notice to the general public at least two hours prior to the subcommittee meeting." As a result, on December 3, the Craighead County Public Library Board agreed to pay Ms. Escue \$1,387.50 in attorney's fees and costs. That ends the lawsuit, and it demonstrates that the library board failed to comply with the state's open meetings law. Unfortunately, it doesn't change the fact that there is sexually-explicit material in children's sections at Arkansas' public libraries.

If you find inappropriate material in your library, here are three steps you can take to have it removed:

- Ask the librarian for a copy of the library's Material Reconsideration Form.
- Call or write to the library's board members.
- Talk to your elected officials about your concerns.

Be sure to encourage your friends to take these steps as well. The more people make their voices heard against inappropriate material in the library, the more likely it is that the material will be removed.



## Arkansas Ranked Fourth in Election Integrity Laws

In December the Heritage Foundation ranked Arkansas fourth in the nation on the group's Election Integrity Scorecard. The scorecard evaluated election laws in all 50 states based on things like voter ID requirements, accuracy of voter registration lists, rules for absentee voting, vote counting practices,

and other election procedures. Overall, Arkansas scored 78 out of 100 possible points on the scorecard. The scorecard did identify a few areas where Arkansas' election laws could be improved. However, it seems Arkansas has excellent safeguards in place to ensure that our elections are fair and honest.

### HELP US GROW!

We need your help expanding our network in 2022! Please share this letter with your friends and family, and encourage them to join our mailing list and email list at [FamilyCouncil.org](http://FamilyCouncil.org).

### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FAMILY VALUES IN 2022

You helped us make 2021 our best legislative year ever! We want to carry that success over into 2022. We have so much we want to do this year. The Primary Elections are coming this spring, and we plan to survey candidates for state office and for the Arkansas Legislature. We will publish their survey responses in print and online as part of our Arkansas Voter's Guide. We also intend to oppose critical theory and the pro-LGBT agenda in our public schools. We're going to oppose the expansion of marijuana in Arkansas, and we plan to educate Arkansans about the good religious freedom amendment that will appear on the ballot this November.

Your friendship, your prayers, and your financial support make this good work possible. That's why I hope you will send a generous, tax-deductible gift today if you are able, because there's no way we can do all of this by ourselves. We need friends who believe in what we do and are willing to partner with us in our work as financial supporters.

Thank you for standing with us. **We really would not be able to do this without you.** Please call on us any time if there is ever anything that my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,  
  
Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

**P.S. My team and I have big plans for 2022.** This month will mark Arkansas' very first official Day of Tears, a day set aside to remember the lives lost to abortion. The Arkansas Legislature adjourned its special session in December without taking up a Texas-style pro-life law that could end abortion in our state the same way it has in Texas—but we are working to support introduction of a Texas-style law at next month's fiscal session of the legislature. Your financial support helps us accomplish so much in Arkansas. Thank you for standing with us!



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**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.

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