



**FAMILY
COUNCIL**

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**AUGUST 2022
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

A famous joke that has circulated on the Internet for the past 25 years goes something like this:

This is the transcript of a radio conversation of a U.S. naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995.

American war ship: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

American war ship: This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans war ship: This is the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States' Atlantic fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that YOU change your course 15 degrees north, that's one five degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

One point people often make when they tell that story is that it's important to understand what's going on around you. That lighthouse wasn't going to move—it couldn't move—it was right where it had always been. That mighty U.S. warship was on a collision course with the truth because the commander didn't understand the full situation. No matter how much information you have, you can still be ignorant if you lack understanding.

Twenty-first century Americans are awash in information and drowning in ignorance. As a boy I often heard my dad refer to, "Educated Fools." How much more true is that saying today! Look at how many are on a collision course with the truth. It is frightening to watch them ignore God's truth and go full steam ahead at their own peril.

For these people, there is no shortage of information, but there is a great shortage of understanding and wisdom.

How do we make sense of information? How do we know what's true, what's false, what's important, and what's not? Family Council remains committed to sharing the truth and helping people gain understanding. That means sharing the timeless truths of God's Word regarding human life, marriage, and family. It also means explaining laws and policies, stories in the news, and problems facing our state. I know you join me in praying that God will grant us all the wisdom to navigate these perilous waters and give us sense enough to change course when God puts the beacon of His truth directly in our path.

And now let me tell you a little more about how we have been spreading the truth and understanding—and about our plans for the coming months.

**Family Council
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Executive Director Jerry Cox

MY THOUGHTS: MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR COMMUNITIES TO AFFIRM THEY ARE PRO-LIFE

By Jerry Cox, Executive Director

After the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, someone asked me if it was still important for cities and counties in Arkansas to pass resolutions affirming they are pro-life. My answer was simple: Not only is it still important. It's actually more important for communities to pass pro-life resolutions now that the court has overturned *Roe*.

When the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade*, the court made it clear that abortion policy now rests squarely with governing bodies—like city councils, quorum courts, state legislatures, and Congress. *Roe v. Wade* put unelected judges in charge of America's abortion policy. Reversing *Roe* lets voters and elected officials decide what our abortion laws should look like. City councils and quorum courts in America now have more say over abortion than at any point in the past 50 years.

Before the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe*, pro-life resolutions showed where communities stood on abortion. The same is still true today. Now that the court has ruled that voters and elected officials can set abortion policy, it's important for our communities to make it clear that they are pro-life.

Before the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe*, pro-life resolutions showed where communities stood on abortion. The same is still true today. Now that the court has ruled that voters and elected officials can set abortion policy, it's important for our communities to make it clear that they are pro-life.

Family Council estimates that more than 1.3 million Arkansans live in a city or county that has declared itself to be pro-life. If you would like information on passing a pro-life resolution in your community, call our office at (501) 375-7000.

At Least 463 Home Schoolers Utilized Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" Law Last Year

Based on data obtained via the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Family Council estimates at least 463 home schooled students took part in interscholastic activities alongside public and private school students in 2021. Nearly ten years ago the Arkansas Legislature passed a "Tim Tebow" law letting home schoolers participate in interscholastic activities—like football, choir, and other extracurricular activities—at public schools. The law is named after former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow who was able to play football as a home schooler thanks to a similar law in Florida.

Interscholastic activities are important for students applying to colleges, seeking scholarships, and entering the workforce. Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" law gives home schoolers the opportunity to try out for sports and participate in extracurricular activities just like any other student. It's a good law that Family Council has been pleased to support.

If you are a home schooler who wants to know more about participating in interscholastic activities under Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" Law, call Lisa Crook at the Education Alliance at (501) 978-5503.

In this file photo from March 26, 2013, Family Council President Jerry Cox and Rep. Mark Lowery testify in favor of H.B. 1789, the "Tim Tebow" law.



At Least 167 Home Schoolers Took Concurrent Credit Courses in Arkansas Last Year

Data from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education shows at least 167 home schoolers in Arkansas took advantage of concurrent credit programs during the 2021-2022 school year. Concurrent credit courses let students earn high school credit and college credit from a single class. Students typically enroll in a college-level course—such as college algebra or Composition I—that can double as a high school course. The student's grade counts toward both high school graduation and a college degree.

In 2019 Family Council and the Education Alliance worked with the Arkansas Legislature to pass laws making it easier for home schoolers and private school students to access these programs. Home schoolers can earn concurrent credit by enrolling directly in a college course or through concurrent credit programs at public high schools. Going through a public school may provide discounts on tuition for the course. We look forward to expanding these types of educational opportunities for home schoolers in the future.

If you are a home schooler who wants to know more about concurrent credit programs, call Lisa Crook at the Education Alliance at (501) 978-5503.

Here's a Snapshot of Our Vision and Goals for the Coming Months

Distribute 30,000 Voter's Guides. We are helping voters reshape the face of politics in Arkansas by empowering them with information about where candidates stand on abortion, school choice, guns, critical race theory, vaccine mandates, and other important issues. Family Council plans to distribute at least 30,000 voter's guides by mail and online for the November General Election.

Fund Pregnancy Resource Centers. In 2022 we worked with Gov. Hutchinson and leaders in the Arkansas Legislature to budget \$1 million for state grants to pregnancy help organizations such as Arkansas' pregnancy resource centers. By the end of April 2023 we hope to see all this money in use, and we plan to work with lawmakers to secure a larger appropriation for the 2024 budget cycle.

Support Religious Freedom. We are spreading the word about the Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment between now and November. This proposed constitutional amendment would prevent the government from burdening the free exercise of religion in Arkansas.

Oppose Recreational Marijuana Amendments. Marijuana growers have pooled their resources to legalize recreational marijuana. We will oppose recreational marijuana in Arkansas.

Draft Legislation for 2023. We need to improve Arkansas' legal protections for people who are near the end of life. We need to strengthen our laws so loved ones can visit in the hospital or nursing home. We need to address critical

race theory and LGBT programs in public schools. We also need to be ready to continue standing against abortion now that *Roe v. Wade* has been reversed.

Support Home Schooling and School Choice. Home schooling may be the most potent weapon against the cultural decay and immorality that afflicts our society. As a division of Family Council, the Education Alliance goes to the State Capitol and will stand for home school rights. We are serving the needs of over 35,000 Arkansas home-schooled students and their families. We also plan to look for ways to support school choice proposals and prevent extremists from weaponizing public education to indoctrinate your children.

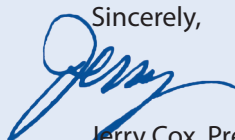
Build a Culture of Life. Between now and the end of April 2023, we plan to double the number of pro-life cities and counties in Arkansas. Arkansas is ranked the most pro-life state in the nation, and abortion is illegal except to save the life of the mother. We intend to keep it that way. We plan to keep working for the passage of laws that protect human life, educate the public, and strengthen Arkansas' pregnancy resource centers.

Empower Citizens of Arkansas. In 2019 we formed the Family Council Rapid Response Team, a network of people in every area of Arkansas. When we ask them to call their lawmakers about legislation, they step up and make their voices heard. By the end of 2022 we want to grow this network to at least 600 people statewide.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I am very grateful that God has blessed us with good friends like you who believe so much in what we do that you're willing to support our work financially. I never want anyone to feel pressured to give. After 33 years of leading Family Council, I've learned that the Lord faithfully meets our needs. At the same time, I realize that He does that through the generosity of good friends like you. If you can give a generous, tax-deductible donation right now, I would really appreciate it. You can send your gift using the enclosed response card and return envelope. If you cannot give at this time, I understand. I hope you will keep us in mind as you consider charitable donations between now and the end of this year. **Thank you for your prayers, your kind words, your friendship, and your support.** Please reach out to us any time if there's ever anything we can do for you.

Sincerely,



Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

Give here



P.S. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has reversed *Roe v. Wade* and Arkansas' laws prohibiting abortion are in effect, **we are turning our attention toward making abortion irrelevant.** We plan to do that by supporting pregnancy help organizations across the state. Our team is gearing up to distribute 30,000 printed copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide this fall. Look for your free copy of the guide sometime in September. Your generous support makes our work possible. Thank you!!