



Merry Christmas!



**PRO LIFE.
PRO MARRIAGE.
PRO FAMILY.**



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**



It is easy to become angry, disheartened, and perhaps even fearful about the cultural trajectory of our nation and the world. In light of the seismic upheavals in cultural norms, how much should we be concerned for the difficulties the future holds for our children and grandchildren?

Thanks be to God, Scripture provides both answers and reassurance.

In his letter to the church at Philippi, St. Paul instructs the Philippians and *us* “not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6). Likewise, in the 12th chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus exhorts all who follow him not to be anxious about the worries of the day, but rather to store up treasure in heaven, for where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. Both of these passages call us to reorient our perspective.

It is undeniable that our culture has become more secular, and a large portion of society holds to a minimal or nonexistent biblical worldview. Yet, if we think that our great-grandparents lived in a world where all was right, we are fooling ourselves. We live in a fallen world. From Eden until the end of history, we are told “there is nothing new under the sun” (Eccles. 1:9).

The fact that our culture is hostile toward Christians and Christianity is not a new development. Throughout history, we have seen the ways that our brothers and sisters have been discriminated against, oppressed and persecuted because of their faith in Jesus, and by God’s grace, how they were able to persevere and even thrive in unfriendly environments. We must trust that God will strengthen and bless us to withstand and prosper in spite of the attacks from our culture.

For years now, biblical sexual morality has been rejected, culminating in the decimation of the institution of marriage. The consequences have been devastating for children, singles, couples and families. Still, we stand firm in the hope rooted in Scripture that in due time the biblical standards of marriage and family will be honored in the culture.

Writing to Titus, the Apostle Paul reminds Christians that the grace of God has enabled believers to “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:21). If today we will soberly hold to the biblical standards of sex, marriage and family, the outcomes will stand in stark contrast to those of the world around us. In other words, living counter-cultural lives will be a witness for the Christian faith and biblical truth.

The pro-life community has certainly taken a counter-cultural stand. Consider the enormous strides it has realized over the past four decades. Thanks to their dedication and willingness to be mocked and reviled, it is no longer widely acceptable to claim that a pre-born baby is just a clump of cells or a disposable part of a woman’s body.

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Pro-Life Citizens Descend on Springfield to Pray and March Against Planned Parenthood



State Representative Tom Morrison (R-Palatine) speaks to the crowd about the effort to defund Planned Parenthood in Illinois. Rep. Morrison has introduced House Resolution 689 in the Illinois General Assembly to defund Planned Parenthood in Illinois.



More than 200 citizens from across the state joined Illinois Family Institute and the Christian Emergency League at the executive mansion in Springfield on Saturday, October 24th to pray, march and witness against abortion — and more specifically — to pray for the end of taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood.

The focus of the prayers that morning were for Governor **Bruce Rauner**, that he would be persuaded to cease all Illinois government business with Planned Parenthood.

The Jericho Prayer March was part of a larger nationwide response to the undercover videos which have exposed the truth about Planned Parenthood. They

engage in the barbaric practice of dismembering tiny human beings and in the illegal trafficking of their organs and body parts.

“Since the Planned Parenthood scandal erupted, nearly a dozen governors have initiated investigations into Planned Parenthood, while at least 6 states have already cut off funding. Yet Illinois remains silent,” said Pastor John Kirkwood, Associate Director of the Christian Emergency League. “We march and pray for our unborn neighbor. We rally for the sanctity of human life!”

“Because Planned Parenthood receives millions of dollars from both federal and state governments, it has made every taxpayer in America complicit in its bloody and indefensible acts,” said David E. Smith, executive director of Illinois Family Institute.

“There are 57,000,000 babies who have been denied the blessings of life that you, your wife and your six children now enjoy.”

“Governor Rauner, we’re pleading with you to help defend the right of all little ones to live, including physically and cognitively impaired little ones. You can do that by taking executive action to cease all state government business with Planned Parenthood, an organization that harms both pre-born babies and women,” concluded Smith. *

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Marriage Matters



A recent *Washington Post* article highlights new research that shows “states with a high concentration of married couples experience faster economic growth, less child poverty and more economic mobility than states where fewer adults are married.” According to the study, married men are more likely to work more hours, retain jobs, forgo unproductive activities (such as visiting the bar) and make wiser expenditures. *

(Read more: <http://wp.me/p1Sa6H-3RI>)

Polling Supports Our Concerns. Are the Politicians Listening?

by Micah Clark

Yet another national poll is out finding that Americans are increasingly concerned about what is happening to religious freedom. This concern is seen in all demographic groups and ages.



The Barna Group did their polling even before Kentucky clerk **Kim Davis** was jailed for her religious beliefs. Their research reveals the tension more Americans are feeling over the topic of religious freedom. The poll finds a significant

rise in the belief that religious freedom is worse today than just three years ago.

Even among the younger millennial age group, their concern about religious freedom eroding has increased by 9 points since 2012. Gen-Xer's say religious freedom is worse today by 13 points over the previous survey three years ago.

Eight out of ten evangelical Christians, those most likely to feel the squeeze on religious freedom, say that things are worse today for people of faith. This group also has the highest level of concern over the

restriction of religious freedom in the next five years.

Surprisingly, even among the more non-religious, atheists, agnostics and the religiously unaffiliated, there is an increase in those who believe religious freedom has gotten worse since 2012. That increase has gone from 23% three years ago to 32% today.

A near unanimous 90% of those polled agreed with the statement, "True religious freedom means all citizens must have freedom of conscience."

The Barna Group concludes the following from their new research:

"Based upon the fact that millions of Americans see an escalating threat to religious freedom, we anticipate that more people will feel the need to stand up for their religious convictions in a public manner. So, we likely haven't seen the last of events like Kim Davis. Christian leaders have an opportunity and responsibility to help coach people toward a biblical response to the faith challenges of an increasingly post-Christian society." *

Micah Clark is the executive director of the American Family Association of Indiana.



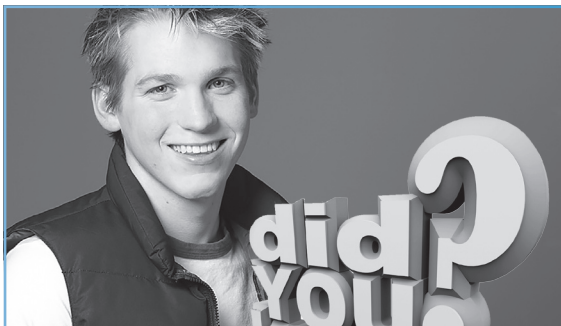
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Our choice is simple:
either we actively involve ourselves in standing for truth and fighting against evil and injustice, and thus earn the honor of future generations, or we continue the path of apathy and let our cowardice earn their scorn.



— Dr. Jeff Myers
of Summit Ministries

“



Illinois law now allows your 17 year-old child or grandchild the privilege of voting in the **March 15, 2016** Primary Election if they are going to be 18 on or by **November 8, 2016**.

Voter Registration Drive

With the Primary Election fast approaching, consider holding a voter registration drive in your church.

Voting is a Christian responsibility and is part of our calling to be "salt" and "light."

The last day to register to vote is **February 16, 2015**. However, Grace Period Registration & Voting begins **February 17th** and ends on election day, **March 15th**, at a limited number of locations.

Voter registration drives are easy!

Please contact IFI for an information packet with everything you will need.

708-781-9328

**Register
to VOTE**



The Incoherence of “Transgender” Locker Room Policies

by Laurie Higgins, Cultural Analyst

Early last year, a high school student in Palatine-Schaumburg District 211 who wishes he were a girl and his parents filed a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to force the district to treat him in all contexts as if he were objectively female.

The Office of Civil Rights—an intrusive, dictatorial, de facto bastion of “LGBTQ” activism—has ordered the district to allow this boy full, unrestricted access to the girls’ locker rooms “for changing during physical education classes and after-school activities.” The district is rightly refusing to comply, which will likely result in expensive litigation and the potential loss of millions of dollars of federal funds.

IFI’s opposition to this policy or any policy that allows a boy in a girls’ locker room is not based on fear that he may rape a girl—though that, of course, is a possibility. Rather, our opposition emerges from the fact that physical embodiment per se has meaning. The fact that a gender-rejecting boy **IS** a boy has meaning for

both him and the girls whose privacy he seeks to invade.

Privacy and modesty about one’s body and intimate bodily activities are related to one’s physical embodiment (i.e., one’s maleness or femaleness), which is why we have separate restrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms. We separate those areas by



objective biological sex—not by subjective wishes about one’s objective biological sex.

When a gender-dysphoric boy demands to use the girls’ facilities, he is at once acknowledging the importance of privacy and modesty, which derive from physical embodiment (i.e., maleness or femaleness), and at the same time and incoherently denying the importance of privacy and modesty for the girls whose privacy he seeks to invade.

The desire for separation in locker

rooms and restrooms grows out of objective biological and anatomical differences. Those differences are meaningful, and the desire for privacy and separation should be respected. The fact that a man thinks he feels like a woman (he can’t really know if he feels like a woman because he’s *not* a woman), or wants to be a woman, or thinks he was born in the wrong body does not change the fact that he *is* a man, and women shouldn’t have to change their clothes in his presence or engage in showering or toileting in his presence.

There is no difference between being forced to change clothes in the presence of a man who accepts his body and being forced to change in the presence of a man who rejects his body—none.

Not deep desire; cross-dressing; name-changes; puberty-blockers; cross-sex hormone-doping; universal compulsory misuse of pronouns; or even mutilating surgeries can turn a boy into girl. And both privacy and modesty, which derive from immutable, meaningful differences in physical embodiment, must be respected.



Religious Freedom vs. Sexual Expression



In an paper soon to be published in the *Journal of Law and Religion*, **Helen Alvare**, a professor of law at George Mason University, examines the inevitable clash between new legal rights to sexual expression and our constitutional right to the free exercise of religion. According to Alvare:

“Claimed rights to sexual expression unlinked to the creation of children, are among the strongest challenges facing the free exercise of religion in the United States today... Laws and regulations protecting and promoting sexual expression detached from children are powerfully affecting religious institutions that operate health care, educational, and social services available to all Americans.”

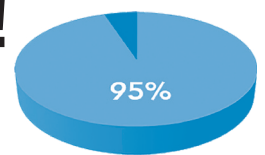
Though lengthy, the paper will help people of faith understand the profound significance of cultural trends and legal decisions such as the Supreme Court’s legalization of same-sex marriage in the Obergefell case. While professor Alvare’s paper is written primarily with the Catholic church as the subject, her observations are true for all Christians and could even apply to non-Christian faiths.

To read the article, visit <http://wp.me/p1Sa6H-3OG>. ❄



SB 1564 ALERT!

ALERT! We are still fighting to stop **SB 1564**, which



has already passed in the Illinois Senate and is pending in the Illinois House. This bill would diminish rights of conscience protections for medical personnel by forcing them to violate their beliefs, such as referring patients to abortion providers.

According to the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, **95 percent** of physicians would quit their practice rather than violate their conscience. **95 percent!**

SB 1564 could come up for a vote anytime. Call your state representative and ask him/her to vote NO! ❄

First Amendment Going, Going...

by Laurie Higgins,
Cultural Analyst

Irony o' the Year? Christian bakers lose their business and are fined \$135,000 for exercising their religious liberty by declining to bake a wedding cake for a homosexual anti-wedding, while Muslim truck drivers in Illinois win \$240,000 for exercising their religious liberty by declining to deliver alcohol.

As sure as darkest night follows day, liberal legal eagles will start parsing legal language and cherry-picking precedents to explain why the Muslim case is *soooo* different and the result *soooo* constitutionally justifiable. But reasonable people using common sense and a dollop of wisdom know that spiritually blind people are doing what spiritually blind people have been doing since Adam and Eve made a really bad snack choice: rejecting truth.

This blindness has resulted too in the suspension of Bremerton High School football coach **Joe Kennedy** for praying on the football field after games. Meanwhile, gender-dysphoric, cross-dressing teachers like "**Karen**" **Topham** at Lake Forest High School or "**Dane**" **Fox** at Glenbrook North High School get to keep their jobs.

So in public schools today, the voluntary post-game prayers of a coach are wholly unacceptable, while the cross-dressing and cross-sex hormone-doping of gender-rejecting teachers is acceptable.

It's even more outrageous, though. Public school faculty members and administrators actually **expect** students to lie. They expect students to refer to these gender-rejecting teachers by opposite-sex pronouns, something theologian **John Piper** has said Christians *must not do*. If Christian teachers and students in public schools truly want to be salt and light, they will refuse to refer to gender-rejecting students and teachers by opposite-sex pronouns.

Who would have thought we would come to a day when teachers—who are government employees and who used to be role models—would encourage students to reject God's created order, reject reality, reject truth, and participate in deception?

First Amendment religious liberty and speech protections are under assault, and the target is orthodox Christianity. Don't let the arrogant mockery of liberals dissuade you from publicly asserting this reality. Liberals, who have burnished their rhetorical weapon to a blinding glow, dismiss as outlandish and paranoid claims that Christians are increasingly persecuted in America. While Christians should "count it all joy" when we "meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:2), we should also remember that we are part of "We the people." Our Christian forbears fought for the freedom to exercise their religion unencumbered by an oppressive government. Let's not relinquish that freedom without a fight. *

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." — John 15: 18-20



Gosnell Movie Starts Filming



The story of **Kermit Gosnell**, the abortionist convicted in 2013 of first-degree murder, is finally being made into a movie that will release in early 2016, thanks to a highly successful crowdfunding campaign that has brought in \$2.3 million and donations are still coming in. **Earl Billings** stars as the lead role, while **Dean Cain** stars as investigating detective **James Wood**. *

Why States Should Think Before Legalizing Marijuana

While the Rocky Mountain State might be "high" on the fact that that the sale of marijuana brought in more tax revenue than alcohol last year and Manitou Springs gets to rebuild their small city due to sales of the drug, a new Colorado report shows that there has been a 28-percent increase in traffic fatalities, a 36-percent increase in hospitalizations, and a 72-percent increase in poison control calls since the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state.

Colorado Springs Mayor **John Suthers** is especially concerned with the increased use of marijuana among school students and with the little-known fact that marijuana users abuse the Americans with Disabilities Act to get disability payments. Despite the research, President Obama, the National Organization for Women, and the ACLU are for the legalization of the drug. *

Marijuana
is ordinarily thought of, and I think ordinarily used, as a mood-altering or mind-altering drug that creates a pleasant euphoria. It is not generally thought of as making one more **attentive** to reality, but more **oblivious** of reality.

— Pastor John Piper

“ The ABCs of legalized gambling — addictions, bankruptcies and crime. — Prof. John W. Kindt



from the Executive Director — David E. Smith

(continued from page 1)

Such assertions are outlandish in the face of modern medical advances, especially as doctors now routinely perform life-saving surgical procedures *in utero*. More recently, the despicable actions of Planned Parenthood (harvesting and selling baby parts) make it extremely difficult for the left to deny the humanity of the pre-born child.

In our lives, each of us will encounter people — family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers — who have been damaged by the seductive lies of our culture. As believers, we have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to point these vulnerable refugees to the truth and to the Author of Truth, so they will find hope and healing through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must understand that *God has sovereignly placed us here*, at this exact time, in this specific place, and *He has given us everything we need to serve Him and our fellow man*. This reality is humbling and ought to cause us to fall to our knees in gratitude. In spite of the wickedness of our culture, I praise God that I am privileged to live during this period of human history, in a state and nation that is blessed beyond measure.

Yet there is much work to be done! As we faithfully roll up our sleeves, serving as ambassadors of another kingdom, may we bring honor and glory to the name of the LORD. ❄️

HONOR AND GLORY

Please Note:

IFI's executive director David E. Smith is available to speak to your group, church, school, civic organization, and other events.

Call the IFI office for more information: **708-781-9328**

Election Judges & Poll Watchers Badly Needed in IL *by John Biver*

A favorite past-time for many politicians is tampering with voting and election results. This isn't to indict one party over the other since both D's and R's have been caught playing illegal games.

This is why one of the most important jobs on election day is that of the election judge — and you get paid to do it.

According to the Illinois State Board of Elections, election judges are officers of the Circuit Court and have the sole power to allow or disallow a challenge to a voter, to cause removal of unauthorized pollwatchers and to limit the number of pollwatchers in the polling place. All persons present in the polling place, or within the campaign free zone, must obey a lawful order of the election judges. Only the election judges may handle election supplies and materials.

Voter fraud is rampant in Illinois because election judges are at such a minimum.

Here is just one of the cited examples of Illinois voter fraud mentioned in the Heritage Foundation's list of 300 cases:

63 Individuals CONVICTED: 2005 False Registrations

A DOJ investigation of the Illinois election in 1982 estimated that 100,000 fraudulent ballots were cast in the gubernatorial primary. The investigation was tipped off by a party worker from Chicago's 39th Ward who was upset by his precinct captain's broken promise to award him a city job for his participation in the vote fraud scheme. The conspirators cast ballots for people who were elderly and disabled. The investigation resulted in 63 individuals being convicted, the largest voter fraud case in DOJ history.

You many have noticed people hanging around the polling place on election day. There's a good chance that those individuals have been sent by candidates, the local parties, or other "qualified organizations" to keep an eye on things.

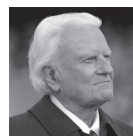
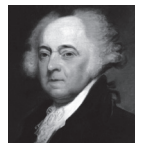
These are **poll watchers**.

According to the State Board of Elections, they may observe all set-up procedures, compare voter signatures, observe ballots deposited in the ballot box, report back to their party or candidate those who haven't yet voted, and be present at the tallying of the votes, to name a few.

Maintaining our Democratic Republic takes a lot of work — and we all know that both our government and the political arena are in much need of repair. While it might be an obvious statement, neither will occur without more honest people stepping into the fray to help keep things like Election Day honest.

Serving either as an election judge or poll watcher can help deter bad behavior that can lose an election for a good candidate. Contact **Illinois Family Action** for more information: **708-781-9371**. ❄️

“Public service, my son, must always be done by somebody... If wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it, others will not. — John Adams



If America is to survive, we must elect God-centered men and women to public office — individuals who will seek Divine guidance in the affairs of state. — Billy Graham, Evangelist

WE NEED YOU!

To Be An Election Judge

Rewarding Opportunity To Serve Your Community

- ★ Earn extra income
- ★ Perform an important civic function
- ★ Opportunity to meet your neighbors
- ★ Play a vital role in election history

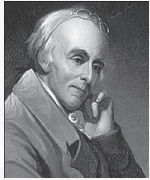
All in a day's work!

Illinois Family Action
illinoisfamilyaction.org

The Importance of Worldview by David E. Smith, Executive Director

Millennials and many of their parents in the church today are largely biblically illiterate. What will this ignorance of Scripture produce in our culture? How will this affect the church?

Most of our colleges and universities were started by Christians for the advancement of Christianity and focused on the Bible. Schools used the Bible, and even subject-matter books included many biblical quotations and references. **Dr. Benjamin Rush**, signer of the Declaration of Independence, penned in 1791 an impassioned defense of the use of the Bible in America's schools:



“The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty; and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments....and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity, by means of the Bible; for this divine book, above all others favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws.”

But 21st century America is not 17th century America. The 1960's saw the U.S. Supreme Court take Bible-reading and prayer out of our public schools. Today we can't post the Ten Commandments in our schools and they're being removed from public buildings.

Biblical literacy and a solid Christian worldview are vitally important. Biblical illiteracy will contribute to an increase in corruption of every sort, including sexual immorality and lawlessness.

Christian parents and grandparents must commit to ensuring that their children and grandchildren grow up with a fluent knowledge and understanding of God's Word. Teach it, memorize it, meditate on it, and live it.

The great Christian leader **Chuck Colson** affirmed the importance of firmly establishing a Christian worldview:



Why is it so important to have a Christian worldview? Because Christianity gives us a map to reality, an outline of the world the way it really is: God's moral and physical order. And if we want to make our way effectively through life, to live in accord with reality, we have to follow the map.

A Christian worldview also helps us defend our faith, giving us the language to explain why Christian ethics is good for society, or why a biblical view of human nature is essential to sound public policy.

In the service of helping families in their efforts to firmly establish and maintain a biblical worldview, IFI is hosting worldview conferences. How do we think about the issues of the day? Do we think clearly and biblically about the issues, or is there something clouding or contaminating our understanding? Are we buying into lies and distortions of the culture, or are we able to discern fact from fiction, truth from deception?

Having a consistent Christian worldview has never been more important than it is now as our culture is rapidly embracing a secular, non-biblical value system.

Join us for a wonderful opportunity that will enhance your biblical worldview and better equip you to effectively engage the culture. ❄️

WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

Biblical Training for Today's Culture

February 20, 2016

Village Church of Barrington
1600 E. Main St., Barrington, IL

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Featuring
DR. WAYNE GRUDEM

Dr. Grudem is Research Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies at Phoenix Seminary in Arizona and taught at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, for 20 years.

He's written more than 20 books, including *Politics According to the Bible*, *Systematic Theology* and *The Poverty of Nations*.



Contact Us: 708-781-9328
www.illinoisfamily.org





Prayer Requests

— Deuteronomy 13:4 **It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.**



Please Pray...

... for the Church

- Pray that the Bride of Christ will awaken from her slumber and take her God-ordained responsibility seriously to be salt and light in every area of our eroding culture. Pray the pastors and church leaders will boldly address the issues of the day.

... for Illinois Families

- Pray for God's wisdom and understanding for parents who seek to instill godly values in their children. Pray for God's protection of children from the schemes of the enemy whose goal is to destroy them. Pray that parents and grandparents will intentionally teach their children about the sanctity of life, the institution of marriage and other issues of morality.

... for Schools

- Pray that teachers would be emboldened to refuse to indoctrinate students with Leftist ideologies and unproven theories.

...for Life

- Praise God that Planned Parenthood has been exposed. Pray that taxpayer funds for this wicked organization will cease altogether. Pray for David Daleiden and others who are actively exposing the heinous practice of abortion. Pray that Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner would decide to end all state business with Planned Parenthood.

... for Marriage

- Since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, many legal scholars and religious leaders have stepped forward to denounce their participation or acceptance of the decision to legalize same-sex marriage. Pray that many more would stand against it.

... for the Military

- Pray for God's protection over the men and women that serve in the armed forces. Pray that any threat against them or innocent civilians would be exposed and eradicated. ✨

*If you fully obey the Lord your God
and carefully follow all his commands
I give you today,
the Lord your God will set you
high above all the nations on earth.*

— Deuteronomy 28:1

Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



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Visit our website: illinoisfamily.org



“ For under the smooth legal surface of our society there are already moving very lawless things. We are always near the breaking-point when we care only for what is legal and nothing for what is lawful. Unless we have a moral principle about such delicate matters as marriage and murder, the whole world will become a welter of exceptions with no rules. There will be so many hard cases that everything will go soft. — G. K. Chesterton

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the Alliance Defending Freedom, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Liberty Counsel and Thomas More Society.

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