

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XIX No. 2

March/April 2010

Pro-family efforts again have success in the Senate, but are stonewalled in House

Not one significant family-friendly law passes the House. But the GOOD NEWS is that expanded gambling is stopped once again.

Though the 2010 General Assembly was mostly a 60-day, “do-nothing” event, the one bright spot is that the expanded gambling, pushed by the Governor in his proposed budget, died quickly. And similarly, a second gambling expansion effort saw a bill introduced only to gain no traction. But that was the end of the pro-family highlights – everything else went down hill.

All-in-all, there were nine good pieces of pro-family legislation that died in the House, most without so much as a hearing. (See related stories right and on page 2)

The biggest disappointment of the Session for pro-family citizens was the demise of Senate Bill 38 – The Ultrasound Bill. This was the fourth year in a row that ultrasound legislation had been passed by the Senate, only to die in the House. Worse, this was the sixth year that no pro-life bill has passed the House even though each year the Senate has initiated a bill, passed it overwhelmingly

with bipartisan super-majorities and sent it to that Chamber. This logjam is particularly grievous given the fact that over 80 percent of Kentuckians want restrictions on abortion.

This year’s failure was stinging because Rep. David Floyd (R-Bardstown) had introduced a bill in that Chamber (House Bill 373) that was identical to SB 38. It easily could have been given a hearing and the House would have been given the credit for passage when the Senate passed it. But most suspect his proposal was ignored because he is a Republican in a Democrat-controlled chamber.

But there were even more opportunities for passage



when Rep. Tim Moore (R-Elizabethtown), Rep. Joe Fischer (R-Ft. Thomas) and Floyd amended the essence of The Ultrasound Bill into nine other House Bills so that it could have passed as an “attachment.” But House Leadership decided to let

each of the bills die rather than risk the possible approval of the ultrasound language.

Finally, 25 Republicans pursued a “discharge petition,” a parliamentary maneuver designed to pull a bill straight from committee and place it on the House Floor so all members could debate and vote. But the petition was pronounced “out of order” by Speaker

Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg), so the effort fell short.

Two other bills had second chances in the House after Leadership had allowed them to die there: HB 63, authorization of Charter Schools, and HB 413, The Public Decency Act. These two bills were amended in the Senate onto HB 109 and HB 219, respectively, in hopes that the House would vote to pass them. HB 109 had passed the House 94 to 1 and HB 219 had passed 97 to 0, but again the House Leadership failed to respond to the Senate’s efforts.

Why the difficulties? **Answer: Political leverage**

It is really very simple and very legal . . . but very wrong.

There are 100 members of the Kentucky House of Representatives and 65 of them are Democrats, making the Democrats the Majority Party of the House. (Republicans make up the Majority Party of the Senate.) Those 65 House Democrats decide who will be in the five “seats of power” in that Chamber: the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Majority Floor Leader, the Majority Caucus leader and the Majority Whip.

Here’s where it gets interesting because it only takes 33 votes from the 65-member caucus to install someone into one of the Leadership positions. Enter the “liberal Democrats.” Originally made up of 8 very liberal women representatives, some of whom have moved on and some of whom have been replaced by very liberal men, this “caucus within the caucus” of about 10 representatives wields unusual power over the Chamber. For example,

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Political leverage

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imagine if you were running for a Leadership position, say for Speaker, and your opponent (from within your Party and your Caucus of 65) had secured 32 votes while you had only 23 – all you would have to do is *make a deal* with the “liberal caucus” and they would commit as a 10-vote block and secure your needed 33 votes to become Speaker. They actually control who is elected into Leadership!

What would it take to be awarded their 10-vote block?

Sources around the House Leadership tell us that it is simply a promise not to let “right-wing” legislation come to the floor where it would likely pass. This includes bills that would limit or shed light on abortion; bills that would frustrate the pro-gay/pro-lesbian agenda; and bills that would promote that old-fashioned concept of decency.

Let’s test the validity of this “rumor”: Well, there has been no pro-life legislation passing the House in the last six years even though the Senate has passed such each year with overwhelming votes (like 32-4 – this year’s Ultrasound Bill) and sent it to the House. Yes, there have been several Committee hearings, but always *so carefully orchestrated* (by none other than House Leadership) so that the bill cannot get out of Committee in order to go to the House Floor.

A partial listing of pro-family bills that died in the House this year

*Senate Bill 38, listed below, not only passed the Senate with a large bipartisan majority, but was also later amended into several House bills in order that it might have a second chance of passing when the House went through its concurrence process.



The Ultrasound Bill – Senate Bill 38*

This bill requires that abortionists offer to turn the ultrasound screen around so that the woman could see her unborn child as well as offer face-to-face counseling instead of the tape recorded messages that some use.

Passed Senate (32-4), then died in House Com. with 7-7 tie vote.



Religious Freedom Amendment – House Bill 440

A Kentucky state constitutional amendment that would re-establish the primacy of religious freedom for all citizens in the face of the heightened judicial encroachment demonstrated by court rulings of the last two decades.

Died in House without a hearing.



Gambling Amendment Resolution – House Concurrent Resolution 180

Requires the General Assembly to follow the Constitutional Amendment process in order to expand gambling. This includes allowing all the people to ratify or reject any new gambling policy proposal the legislature advocates.

Died in House without a hearing.



Public School Academies – House Bill 63

This bill creates an alternative for parents who want another public school option for their children. As it is, 45 percent of Kentucky’s college bound seniors are taking remedial classes. Supporters believe this would raise standards.

Died in House without a hearing.

Similarly, there has been no “anti-gay” legislation *even heard* in a House Committee since the state passed the Marriage Protection Act in 2004. Remember how House Leadership resisted that Amendment until the very end? Remember how the rank-and-file Democrat representatives paid a huge price at the polls that Fall because the “liberal ten” held control until the last moments of the Session?

AND, there has not been a single House Committee hearing on the Public Decency Act, even though it has been introduced in the House in five of the last 10 years . . . and passed to the House through the Senate in *each* of the last four years.

But the problem is actually even larger: Since legislation must pass *both* Chambers to become law, then those “liberal ten” control not just the House, but the entire legislative process.

Yes, as said before this is all very legal . . . but it is also very, very wrong. Why? Because the will of the people is being thwarted by a handful of ideological elite. Kentuckians are not experiencing democracy in the Commonwealth, or even a republic form of democracy – they are experiencing a form of tyranny . . . and right now it appears that the rest of the caucus is content with this kind of “arrangement.”



The Public Decency Act – House Bill 413

This bill simply bans total nudity in sex businesses and prevents patrons from groping/touching performers. Already 116 of Kentucky’s 120 county governments have implemented such standards.

Died in House without a hearing.



Resolution Honoring Pregnancy Care Centers – House Concurrent Resolution 43

This bill simply honored the state’s pregnancy resource centers and encouraged Congress to grant centers assistance for medical equipment and abstinence education.

Died in House without a hearing.



The Intellectual Freedom Act – House Bill 397

Using language similar to that approved in Louisiana last year, HB 397 would encourage local school officials to foster an environment that promotes objective discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories such as evolution, the origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.

Died in House without a hearing.



Taxpayer Transparency Act – Senate Bill 40

This bill requires state agencies to provide their budgets on the Internet. If passed, the bill would bring about more accountability and transparency in government. SB 40 passed the Kentucky Senate on Feb. 2 by a vote of 37-0.

Passed Senate (37-0), then died in House without a hearing.



The Bible Literacy Bill – Senate Bill 142

Establishes a public school social studies course that familiarizes students with the content, characters, poetry, and narratives of the Bible, recognizing that such exposure is essential to a proper understanding of contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy.

Passed Senate (37-1), then died in House without a hearing.

Lexington church hosts “Hope Gathering 2010”

The purpose is to convey a deeper understanding of Gender Identity Disorder in a Christ-centered environment.

The Church of the Savior, located at 1301 Brannon Road, is hosting “Hope Gathering 2010,” a conference designed to offer greater understanding for those whose lives have been touched by someone with Gender Identity Disorder (GID). The conference, scheduled for May 22, features a number of highly experienced counselors and speakers who have engaged the issue and have insights to share that will strengthen others who seek wisdom and help.

Denise Shick, founder of Help 4 Families, initiated the conference and has secured David Maynard to be the keynote speaker. Maynard, who studied at Asbury Theological Seminary

and is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, will present “A Place of Refuge” and a workshop entitled “Is It My Fault?”

Dr. Jim E. Phelan will offer “Learn about Gender Confusion and How to Respond to this Issue.” He will focus on the contributing factors of Gender Identity Disorder, which he will assert can be detectable in early childhood.

Shick herself will present “Understanding the Impact of GID. Shick wrote the book “My Daddy’s

Secret,” which shares her story and the pain of living with someone who was hurting deeply with

“There is too much wrongful information being disseminated throughout the culture to miss something like this with so much hands-on experience and insight.”

*– Kent Ostrander
Executive Director of
The Family Foundation*

Gender Identity Disorder.

“If you desire to learn how to minister to those with GID or if you have a family member who suffers with GID, I would highly encourage you to attend this conference,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “There is too much wrongful information being disseminated throughout the



Hope Gathering 2010

Saturday, May 22

For a deeper understanding of Gender Identity Disorder

Church of the Savior

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

1301 Brannon Road - just south of Lexington

For more, www.help4families.com or call 814-598-4952

culture to miss something like this with so much hands-on experience and insight.”

National Day of Prayer to be observed on May 6

Franklin Graham is the 2010 Honorary Chairman and this year’s theme is “Prayer for Such a Time as This.”

The 59th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer is scheduled for Thursday, May 6. The theme “Prayer for such a time as this” is based on Nahum 1:7 which states: “The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”

Betsy Meadows is the Kentucky state coordinator for the National Day of Prayer. “Our beloved Commonwealth needs a mighty move of God: Our leaders need wisdom, our families need healing, our churches need revival,” said Meadows. “The hour for all of God’s people to rise up and seek Heaven on behalf of Kentucky is now!”

There will be a program on the State Capitol steps at noon, but if you are unable to make it to Frankfort, there is a good chance there may be an observance in your area. Several gatherings will take place in local churches, on steps of courthouses and in public parks in

cities throughout the state. [To locate a May 6 National Day of Prayer event in Kentucky near you, visit: www.nationaldayofprayer.org]

Franklin Graham is the 2010 Honorary Chairman.

“Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world,” said Graham in his

Prayer for the Nation. “May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this.”

“Our beloved Commonwealth needs a mighty move of God: Our leaders need wisdom, our families need healing, our churches need revival.”

*– Betsy Meadows
State Coordinator
National Day of Prayer*



Interested in continued prayer for Kentucky?

- 1. Join the “People Praying for Kentucky” group on Facebook.**
- 2. Sign up to receive Let Us Pray, a 30-second, daily e-mail from The Family Foundation. E-mail tffky@mis.net to sign up.**

Analysis: The passage of Obamacare is the largest tax increase in American history

\$1.2 trillion in new federal spending, mandatory participation or fine and abortion coverage raises alarm in Kentucky.

Ever since health care reform was introduced last summer, President Obama has insisted that individuals “who like their plan can keep it.” But after reading the fine print in the 2000-page bill, critics call it empty rhetoric used to pass the largest tax hike in history, which shackles future generations with an additional \$1.2 trillion in national debt over 10 years.

According to Sen. Jim Bunning, “This bill relies on accounting gimmicks to hide the real cost of reform, and breaks President Obama’s repeated pledge not to raise taxes – not even one dime – on the middle class.”

Lawmakers across Kentucky denounced the legislation signed by President Obama on March 23, which gives the federal government monumental control over personal health care decisions. “My heart is heavy

with grief tonight at this turning point for our nation,” said 4th District Con. Geoff Davis (R-Hebron). “This vote will define the America we will have in the future. Massive tax burdens, rationed care, and intrusive bureaucracy.”

Davis joined six other Kentucky Congressmen and voted against the bill, which will require the hiring of 16,500 IRS agents to enforce it. It is so complicated it will take up to two years to write regulations, leaving opponents wondering how anyone can say for certain it will give the consumer a real choice in the end.

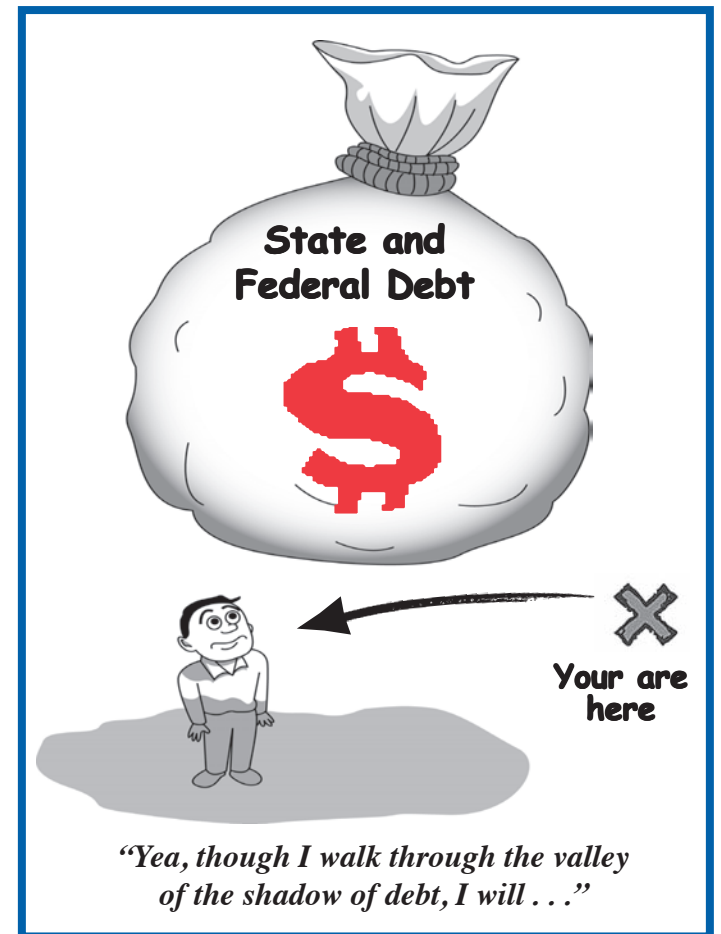
The bill narrowly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 219-212 on March 21 only after Bart Stupak (D-MI) and a handful of

pro-life Democrats abandoned their objections over mandatory abortion coverage and tipped the balance in the bill’s favor. Republicans objected to a rarely used procedural tactic that amounted to “an abuse” according to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Hatch called it “one of the worst grabs for

power in the history of the country.” Altogether, 34 House Democrats joined Republicans to oppose it.

Fifth District Con. Hal Rogers objected to taxpayer-funded abortions and the impact it will have on rural areas by making it difficult for doctors to provide care. “I believe insurance premiums will skyrocket, quality of care will diminish and bureaucrats will dictate your personal health care decisions,” Rogers said.

Second District Con. Brett Guthrie said that an “overwhelming majority”



of his constituents opposed the bill. “Beginning in 2014, Americans will be required to buy health insurance or pay a penalty; so, families who were hoping to lower their health care costs will see higher taxes and insurance premiums,” Guthrie said.

Third District Rep. John Yarmuth was the lone Kentucky delegate to vote for the bill.

According

to the latest Rasmussen poll, 55 percent of Americans want the bill repealed and scores of Congressional candidates agree. A total of 18 state Attorneys General have filed lawsuits specifically targeting the mandatory insurance provision as unconstitutional, which gives concerned citizens plenty of reasons to believe that the battle for Obama’s health care plan is not over.

“This bill relies on accounting gimmicks to hide the real cost of reform, and breaks President Obama’s repeated pledge not to raise taxes – not even one dime – on the middle class.”

– Sen. Jim Bunning

Controversial provisions:

- **\$1.2 trillion in new costs over the next 10 years (largest tax hike in history)**
- **\$52 billion in new taxes and fines on employers with 50 or more workers who cannot afford to pay their employees’ health insurance**
- **Seniors will face \$500 billion in Medicare funding cuts—they will pay more *and* see their benefits reduced**
- **By 2014, every American will have to buy health insurance or pay a fine**
- **An estimated 16,500 new IRS agents and staff may be needed to collect the hundreds of billions in new taxes and penalties**
- **Tax filers will have to check off a box on their tax returns indicating whether they have health insurance. If not, they will be fined.**

Kentucky has “Been there, done that!”

It is important for others to learn what Kentucky can teach the rest of the nation about health care reform

When the Kentucky legislature passed health care “reform” in 1994, they intended to make health insurance more affordable and available, but just the opposite happened. Excessive government mandates sent insurance companies packing, and the two that remained in 1996 (there were 45 companies before the “reform”) had to dramatically increase their premiums.

The results were predictable according to Stephen Spruiell, who high-lighted Kentucky’s experiment in *National Review Online* on April 5. “The problem with such regulations is that healthy people make the rational decision to drop their coverage and wait until they get sick to renew it,” Spruiell said. “As healthy people stop paying into the risk pool, premiums for those who remain skyrocket. If insurance companies are forbidden from increasing premiums to keep up with costs, they leave town or close down.”

According to Spruiell, Kentucky insurance premiums after the reforms. Instead of paying higher prices, many people dropped their coverage. By 1996 only two health insurance companies remained, including the state-run plan called Kentucky Kare, which went bankrupt in 1999.

Auston McCay, former president of the Kentucky Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, worked to reverse some of the damage done to the Kentucky insurance market in 1994 and is skeptical about ObamaCare because similar trials in “10-12 states have not been considered successful,” McCay said.

The purpose of insurance is to cover a high-cost, low-frequency event – in essence it is a hedge against

risk. but Kentucky’s 1994 reforms prohibited insurance companies from denying coverage or charging more to customers with pre-existing conditions, thus undermining the intent of insurance.

ObamaCare does the same things with the exception that it requires healthy people to have insurance or face a fine. Proponents argue this will limit premium increases and insurance company flight. According to Spruiell, “The penalty for evading this requirement is relatively small; its constitutionality is suspect; and it might not even be enforceable.”

It took an entire decade to repeal health care reform, and competition has finally returned to Kentucky. “We have problems with our health care system, no question about it,” said Jim Waters of the Bluegrass Institute for Policy Solutions. “But what Washington has done is the

equivalent of taking a sledge hammer to problems that require a rubber mallet . . . If the rest of the nation is wondering what ObamaCare will do, they can just look at us. We’ve already tried it in Kentucky and it doesn’t work.”

Is there a “Road to Reversal”?

At present there are three general courses of action:

- **Currently, 18 state Attorneys General have filed suit against the health care bill. Their suits could reach the U.S. Supreme Court where some provisions could be overturned.**
- **If the control of Congress changes hands during the 2010 Fall elections, a Republican-controlled House could simply not fund various provisions in the bill, thus “starving it to death.”**
- **If the White House changes hands in 2012 and large majorities of Republicans are elected, Obamacare could be fully repealed.**

Candidate survey to be ready for primary races

Kentucky Candidate Information Survey, serving Kentuckians since 1993, should be available at the website after May 1.

The *Kentucky Candidate Information Survey (KCIS)* is available once again to provide Kentucky citizens with reliable information on where the candidates stand on various issues. This year’s primary edition will include information on all contested congressional and state legislative races within Kentucky. The U.S. Senate race features a busy field, with five candidates vying for the Democrat nomination and five for the Republican nomination. There will also be Republican primaries for the 3rd and 6th congressional seats, as well as a Democrat primary for the 5th congressional seat. State legislative primaries include 84 candidates.

Sarah Roof, project coordinator for the *KCIS*, is encouraged by the opportunity the survey allows both candidates and voters. “We use the survey not only as a tool to assist candidates in getting their message

out in their own words, but also as an effective resource to educate voters,” said Roof. “Without doubt, it’s important for Kentuckians know where the candidates stand so they

can make an informed decision when they head to the polls on Tuesday, May 18.”

The *KCIS* is a non-partisan, educational project. The survey will be made available for use by community newspapers and posted on the *KCIS* website after May 1. Citizens are encouraged to visit the website and download survey responses, which can then be distributed to friends, co-workers, relatives and fellow church members. Other voter resources are also available, including sample ballots and voter registration cards.

“We’ve set up the website to be a one-stop resource for citizens to get the voter materials they need,” said Roof.



**Kentucky
Candidate
Information
Survey**

*Primary Vote
Tuesday, May 18!*

After May 1, get information on races at:
www.votekentucky.us

State universities were not assigned the task of social engineering

When the Murray State University Board of Regents adopted a sexual orientation, non-discrimination statement in 2008, I testified against the idea, noting that it would be a stepping stone to domestic partnerships. Now, two years later, Professor Kevin Binfield cited that statement as impetus for change, and on April 6, MSU's Faculty Senate took the first step by voting to extend health benefits to domestic partners. Is it farfetched to now make the case that widespread sanctioning of domestic partners will eventually open the door to gay marriage?

Professor Binfield, a philosopher himself, defines domestic partners as "people who have entered into long-term committed relationships comparable in duration and commitment to marriage." But he and others in the marriage deconstruction movement fail to consider the long-term implications of domestic partnerships. In fact, they've neglected to answer several important questions . . .

Why use traditional marriage as a reference point for domestic partnerships?

Why limit partnerships to two people? Why have a minimum age requirement? And why shouldn't relatives qualify as domestic partners? The answers, of course, are elusive because when the core definition of marriage as one man and one woman is dismantled, then lesser requirements will tumble shortly thereafter.

It's one thing to get a definition wrong in an academic setting. It's quite another to impose a wrong definition on all of society and expect taxpayers to pick up the tab. University of Kentucky's "Domestic Partner Benefits Committee" estimated in 2007 that extending the marriage-like benefits to domestic partners will cost UK an additional \$633,000 per year.

Dr. Randy Dunn told *The News* (MSU's student newspaper) that this is a recruiting issue. If that's the case, why not just increase the salaries of prospective hires? Why the need for dramatic social engineering?



With such a bold proposal coming from Murray State's elected academia, one would expect a more thorough analysis of the costs involved, not just economic costs (which is a real issue as state universities are facing 1-

1.5 percent budget cuts over the next two years), but the price our culture will pay when bedrock relationships are manipulated by political interest groups.

In a day when marriage is struggling and four out of every 10 children in America are born out of wedlock, the last thing the traditional family needs is another hit. Giving marriage-like benefits to unmarried, sexual partners does just that. It sends the message that marriage is just another type of sexual relationship. It puts heterosexual marriage and non-marital, sexual relationships on the same plane, which clearly they're not. And it's an



Richard Nelson is the western policy analyst for The Family Foundation

incentive to sexual relationships outside of marriage – something the state and federal government have been discouraging for years.

When domestic partnerships are legitimized, marriage becomes marginalized. Fewer people are likely to marry so long as they're treated *like they're married*. In fact, the University of Louisville – Kentucky's first public university to adopt domestic partnerships in 2006 – required a relationship of only 180 days in order to get the benefits. But do we really need more short-term relationships? Shouldn't governing authorities promote stronger, more durable marriages and life-long commitments?

Most would agree that society needs healthier families with both fathers and mothers devoted to raising their children. Mere partnerships between adults don't accomplish this. Marriage – not "marriage-lite" – is the relationship that deserves *exclusive* support from our university leaders. To do anything less is cheating our children in the long run.

Murray State Board of Regents is facing its biggest cultural test this year. Hopefully, they'll choose to shore up the relationship which is foundational to society. If they don't, marriage may become just another subject studied in history class.

Richard

Special Pro-Life *CITIZEN* distributed

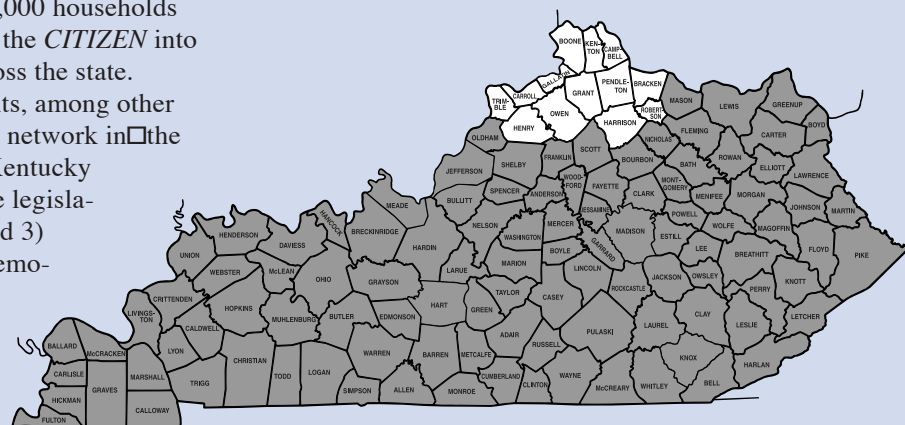
Kentucky is a key pro-life state, so it has a special role in serving the entire nation.

After working for more than seven months on the special Pro-Life *CITIZEN* Project, The Family Foundation is reporting that geographically more than 80 percent of the Commonwealth has received the publication. Very practically, that means more than 750,000 households have been reached by the insertion of the *CITIZEN* into local and community newspapers across the state.

The Pro-Life *CITIZEN* highlights, among other things: 1) The Pregnancy Care Center network in Kentucky – 46 Centers; 2) The fact that Kentucky is ranked 12 in the nation for pro-life legislation by Americans United for Life; and 3) The progress with the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn effort.

"Our goal is to encourage every Kentuckian with the fact that we are doing well, but that we can even do better," said Kent

Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "We've been given much regarding the issue of the sanctity of human life, so much more is required. We can lead this nation."



With millions of dollars on the line, we should not blink on Charter Schools

It was sort of like a Shakespeare play: Charter school legislation in Kentucky was dead, and then it was alive again, and then it was dead again. But it may come back. Again.

The saga of the new and innovative way to set up a

public school began with the effort to convince state lawmakers that it was simply a good idea: allow parents to charter a school that would be funded by public money, but that would be free of many of the burdensome regulations placed on other public schools. Charter schools are increasingly popular across the country, and Kentucky is one of the few states with no charter school legislation.

It's an idea that parents love – and teachers' unions hate, since it results in less control by the unions of the process. Teachers' unions want total control of public schools for their own political purposes, and unfortunately, our public officials listen to them more than they listen to parents – or actual school teachers in the classroom.

Enter the Obama Administration.

When President Obama appointed Arne Duncan, a charter school advocate, to be his Secretary of

Education, the federal press for charter schools began. The Administration, through the Race to the Top program, began dangling millions of dollars in front of states to push education reform.

One of the things they got money for was charter schools.

In March, state senators moved ahead with

charter school legislation, anticipating that Kentucky might have trouble receiving Race to the Top grants because of Kentucky's lack of charter schools. A group of Republican senators

met and agreed to vote for the bill, but when the meeting of the Senate Education Committee actually happened, one of them balked and changed her vote, killing the bill.

When Race to the Top grants were announced in early April, sure enough, Kentucky lost out, and only two states received money: Delaware (receiving \$500 million) and Tennessee (receiving \$100 million). And when state officials started looking at the numbers, they realized that if they had received the points for charter school legislation, they would have been the number two state in the nation,

right after Delaware, and would have received at least what Tennessee had received.

The price tag for kowtowing to the teachers union had cost the state over \$100 million.

Lawmakers quickly rethought their position. At a time of tight budgets, hundreds of millions of dollars was looking pretty good. The State Senate met promptly and passed a charter schools bill and sent it to the House before the General Assembly recessed in

early April. They were to meet on April 14 and 15 to finalize a

budget. At press time, the fate of the bill still wasn't clear, but State Commissioner of Education Terry Holiday had

The price tag for kowtowing to the teachers union had cost the state over \$100 million.

Charter schools are increasingly popular across the country, and Kentucky is one of the few states with no charter school legislation.



Martin Cothran is senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

become a convert, calling on lawmakers to pass the bill.

We may get this legislation this year, simply because the federal government dangled millions of dollars in front of us. But there is going to have to come a time when state education officials start thinking less about the teachers' unions and start thinking more about parents.



We are making the effort to trim our mailing list to be good stewards. So, if you don't really care to be on our mailing list, please take a moment to return the enclosed envelope requesting that you be dropped if the *CITIZEN* is not a helpful publication for you and your family. Or email us at tffky@mis.net [We do want you to stay!]

But if you appreciate our work, please consider supporting us in some way at this time.

Thank you!

*Because you're maxed,
our goal is to ask only
twice each year . . .*

We know you're supporting many worthy causes, and though we believe our work is crucial, it's not the only effort that's changing the earth for the better. So we're not interested in badgering you for support.

But **NOW** is one of those times. Without doubt, this is a pivotal year for Kentucky and for America. And, at the same time, the recession continues to bite into our support (as well as yours). Kindly give, if you can.

For your information, a \$10 gift covers the cost of our **CITIZENS** coming to you. A \$25 gift or more helps us do the extra work in Frankfort and around the state.

The Kentucky **CITIZEN**

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OPINION: In times like these, it is the faithful that triumph.

Still standing

It truly is important that none of us grow weary in well-doing, even in the face of all the discouraging things that have come our way. In fact, we must remember that it is he who endures to the end who ultimately triumphs. Our issues are too important for any of us to fade in this crucial hour of American life and Kentucky life.

We – you and I – literally have the opportunity to walk in our forefathers' shoes because, as everyone knows deep within, the decisions made now, both in Washington and in Frankfort, are likely to change the course of history forever . . . certainly those decisions will change the future in the "short run" – for our children and grandchildren.

Fortunately for us, we are the "salt of the earth." It is *WHO WE ARE*. Like it or



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

not, our values and our perspectives, though perhaps not perfect, are far better than most articulated by our Washington or Frankfort "public servants" and their media cohorts.

No, it's not my intention to simply "bash the establishment" – there is no purpose in that. But I can say that 10 percent of America engaged in the American Revolution . . . the rest simply watched. And yet those 10 percent changed the earth and the future of hundreds of

millions of people worldwide as the United States came into her own.

Our problem is, given the fact that we are indeed the salt, *will we release our savor – our flavor?* Putting it simply, will we continue to stand after the 2010 General Assembly Session is over, through the summer into the Fall campaign season and beyond?

If we don't, we are worthy only of being thrown out and trampled under the feet of men . . . because we know that salt without flavor is worthless.

That puts us exactly where we want to be – answering the classic philosophical question "Why are we here?"

Our answer, because we were created to change the earth for the better and we

are not going to self indulge or be disheartened, is that we are going to finish our course! There is something wonderfully American about that . . . and wonderfully spiritual.

So, when this current political time frame comes to a close in the next few years, we will still be standing for the things that are more important than ourselves.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Standing firm must be our focus – it is the service our generation can offer to the generations to come. Please do all that is in your heart in these days – let us not be slack.

And please consider contributing to the work of The Family Foundation if you can. I'm sure you can imagine where we'd be if 1000 people each gave \$25.