

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Ultrasound Bill is the 2011 pro-family focus

House Leadership is again dealing harshly with pro-life bills, but The Ultrasound Bill still has hope as long as citizens are calling.

It has been six years since a pro-life bill has passed the House of Representatives in Kentucky, but pro-life citizens are working diligently to get The Ultrasound Bill passed in this 2011 Session. "It's an uphill battle with the existing power structures in the House," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "But we're optimistic as long as we have citizens calling in and letting their voices be heard."

The difficulty centers on the fact that House Leadership deliberately puts pro-life bills in a committee that is stacked against them – the House Health and Welfare Committee. The chairman, Rep. Tom Burch (D-Louisville), has even said publicly that he will kill pro-life bills sent to his committee. On Feb. 17, his committee heard four pro-life bills and voted 10-6 along Party lines to kill each one of them.

"The pro-life bills used to go into the House Judiciary Committee when Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) was the chair," said Mike Janocik, assistant director of Kentucky Right to Life Association. "But once she left to go to the Senate, they shifted where they placed it to be sure it was in a committee that would still kill them."

From January through early February, staff members of The Family Foundation interviewed 60 representatives who committed to vote for the bill, even though only 51 votes are needed for passage. Last year, one of the pro-choice House Leaders actually admitted privately that the bill would probably get 80 to 85 votes if it came to the House floor. These kinds of numeric realities both create frustration for pro-life citizen lobbyists in Frankfort and, at the same time, generate an outrage that the system can be so abused that the will of the people and the will of the

legislature is being thwarted by a small minority.

In the larger scheme of things, it is no surprise to pro-life volunteers that those pushing abortion rights would take particular interest in stopping The Ultrasound Bill because the bill sheds light into the womb. Clearly, no woman having seen her own ultrasound will believe the "blob of tissue" or "parasite" rhetoric espoused since the 1970s by abortion clinic staff.

Observers recognize the forces against the bill at this stage of the Session are formidable, but they also recog-

nize the power of the people to change legislators' minds if they have the will.

Editor's Note: At press time, Senate Bill 9, The Ultrasound Bill, was likely to be killed in the same House Health and Welfare Committee. However, citizens are encouraged to continue to call in identifying it as "The Ultrasound Bill" because it could be attached to a totally different bill and passed in combination using a different bill number.



"It's an uphill battle with the existing power structures in the House. But we're optimistic as long as we have citizens calling in and letting their voices be heard."

*– Kent Ostrander, Executive Director
The Family Foundation*

Please call the Message Line

The Ultrasound Bill will pass or fail based on whether citizens engage.

Call 1-800-372-7181

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave a message for your Representative with the receptionist. Have your spouse call as well (doubling your impact). Ask the receptionist to convey this message:

"Pass The Ultrasound Bill"

Then ask the receptionist to "copy" your message to House Leadership. You will not have to speak to your legislator; you just leave your message with the receptionist. If you do not know who your Representative is, the receptionist can tell you.

You can call in the evening! The Message Line is open from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm EST Monday thru Thursday. It closes at 6:00 pm on Fridays. It should only take about one minute. Think about it . . . it takes less time and it is easier than ordering a pizza!



We're making a major emphasis on marriage

We've done many public policy projects. This effort goes to the very heart of our nation's problems: marriage and family relationships.

A young Jewish firebrand, who had been trained as a Pharisee, wrote a transcendent truth in his letter to new Christian converts in the region of Galatia. In his epistle he is encouraging the recipients to live by their faith and not by some set of rules of goodness to which they must aspire and achieve, yet he still concedes that law is a “tutor, or schoolmaster, or pedagogue, or *teacher*,” depending on the translation of his original Greek text. Though subtle, that is no small point given the work that The Family Foundation does.

Clearly, The Foundation, as a public policy organization, educates and challenges citizens to get involved and make a difference for good. We have focused on good laws and good regulations for the health of society. Some proposed laws are family-friendly, others hurt the family, but ignorance and apathy toward the good, the bad and the ugly are not the solution. That fact is that good laws need to be passed so that they naturally are *teaching* adults and young people alike what is expected and what is beneficial.

The Family Foundation has been doing its policy work for over 20 years, speaking out and helping lawmakers make good laws that help create an environment in Kentucky for parents to nurture and raise healthy children. But there is even a stronger teacher in any culture than that culture's laws or regulations: it is the parents of that culture's families.

Parents, of course, are bound together through marriage, the foundation upon which

the family is built. And all societies are fashioned out of these family building blocks. Strong, healthy families are a precursor to a strong and healthy society. Unfortunately the opposite is also true; as families disintegrate, so does a society.

Given these realities, The Family Foundation will continue to work

with law and policy, but we have just begun to open a new horizon for our work through the hiring of Greg Williams to head up an ongoing initiative to strengthen marriages and elevate the place of marriage in our culture. For the last eight years, Greg has been the Executive Director of Heritage of Kentucky, an organization that has focused on healthy marriages and healthy relationships. We are asking him to bring his experience and his passion into our burden of seeing a viable and ongoing “Marriage Movement” born in the Commonwealth.

Those of us who are married all know that regardless of how good our marriage is, it can always be better. Sadly, even though we know that fact, we are the same ones who know *experientially* that the marriage relationship can so easily be set aside for any of the myriad of demands that emerge from the task of leading a family. A diet of that neglect can quickly lead into a serious detour away from marital bliss. A portion of Greg's task will be to consistently help focus us all on the prize of a healthy, life-giving marriage.

Through this effort, The Family Foundation is not going to tell people how to run their marriage – we know that we do not have all the answers. And we are not going to “legislate marriage” on everyone. But we are going to help elevate marriage and strive to activate all who realize that America and Kentucky have been on a poor path regarding marriage in recent decades.

We believe that pastors and counselors and couples with healthy marriages have something to say and something to give regarding marriage in their church and in their community. So we are hoping to harness all the resources that are out there and bring them to bear on our national marriage malady.

Our bottom line as an organization? We are going to continue to labor as a policy organization, strengthening the law as a teacher, but we are also going to strengthen that best teaching mechanism for children designed from the beginning of time – parents . . . and the way to do that is help them strengthen their marriage.

Consider helping this effort with what you have to offer in your neighborhood, your church, your ministry group or your community. Let's do it!



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

We are going to continue to labor as a policy organization strengthening the law as a teacher, but we are also going to strengthen that best teaching mechanism for children designed from the beginning of time – parents . . . and the way to do that is help them strengthen their marriage.

CHOOSE LIFE **state license plates**

Go ahead, get one for your car and drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town.



You'll be making a stand for life and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.

THIS is Unbridled SPIRIT in Kentucky!

Editor's Note: Our executive director, Kent Ostrander, was widowed just under 6 years ago, but has met a widow from Pennsylvania and is now engaged to be married there in late March. [It looks like they, too, will be “working on marriage” at the same time The Foundation is. 😊]

Kt

The Family Foundation is initiating an ongoing effort to help strengthen marriage in the Commonwealth.

Just what Kentucky needs!

What if there was one thing proven to improve health, increase wealth and reduce poverty, increase child health, education and well-being as well as make for better relationships in our homes, workplaces and communities? Wouldn't this be something Kentucky needs?

Here's a quote to serve as an ironic lead-in to this need. H. L. Mencken said, "Marriage is a wonderful institution, but who would want to live in an institution?"

I hope you at least smiled. I also hope you understand that while marriage is often the source of many humorous yet negative punch lines, in reality it is *ONE THING* that Kentucky and Kentuckians need.

While The Family Foundation and others did a tremendous job politically with the Marriage Protection Amendment success in 2004, legislation alone can never assure strong marriages and families; it can only protect what we as Kentuckians are willing to value and hold up as marriage. If we hold the standard high, then marriage will flourish and we will reap the rewards of strong communities based in healthy, stable homes and families.

Healthy marriages have been conclusively established as the source for numerous positive social outcomes even as attempts in our society and culture are made to devalue and deconstruct it. *Why Marriage Matters? 26 Conclusions from the Social Sciences* is an excellent report highlighting why marriage is foundational



Greg Williams is heading up a new emphasis on marriage and healthy relationships

for both success and society, as the data overwhelmingly supports healthy marriage and families.

Women and men both do better with regard to health, wealth, finances, stability and parenting. Children have better overall

health, are much more stable and secure, have greater education, jobs, and future financial success, while poverty, crime rates and abuse all fall significantly.

With the state Marriage Protection Amendment, Kentucky is poised to be a leader in moving forward and strengthening marriages.

Why the need and why should Kentucky lead? Maggie Gallagher, president of the Institute of Marriage and Public Policy, makes the point very clearly:

"When men and women fail to form

stable marriages, the first result is a vast expansion of government attempts to cope with the terrible social needs that result. There is scarcely a dollar the state and federal government spends on social programs that is not driven in large part by family fragmentation: crime, poverty, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, school failure, mental and physical health problems."

The American family is the bedrock of, and is reflected in, our society, faith

communities, economy and government. It's the principle reason for Kentucky's stability and greatness. Whatever we encourage

and produce in our homes will be what is reproduced in every other segment of our Commonwealth and culture!

Judeo-Christian values prioritized the institution of marriage and the relationships within it, with Moses writing, "For this reason a man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh." Jesus himself repeated these words and added a strong warning: "What God has joined together, let no man tear apart." We would do well to heed the value of this relationship and note that marriage is the basis for, and the



greatest of, all "institutions."

Yes, marriage is an "institution," but it is one that has stood the test of time, made the greatest contributions throughout time, and the one upon which all others rise or fall. Churches, corporations, communities, and yes, governments fail or succeed on the basis of marriage and families. When we ignore marriage at best, or literally deconstruct or destroy it at worst, we do so at our own peril and risk, for it is the very fabric that makes us what we are.

**Join
with us!
(Please!)**

If you could assist in your area with this marriage effort, please contact us as soon as possible.

- Does your church or group need a speaker regarding marriage?
- Would you like to help get local pastors together?
- Would you like to know more about marriage retreats or conferences?
- Do **YOU** have something to share about marriage?

Call: 859-255-5400 or email: tffky@mis.net

“Instant Racing” case is corrupting the legislative

The Family Foundation expresses serious concerns at two levels: First, the regulations violate Kentucky law and should be deemed deficient

The “Instant Racing” court case initiated last summer has enough intrigue and story lines to become an epic novel or HBO made-for-TV movie. The latest twist is that those pushing video terminals petitioned the Kentucky Supreme Court on Jan. 28 to bypass the Kentucky Court of Appeals and simply rule on the current case emerging from Frankfort Circuit Court. They have even asked The Family Foundation to join them in their petition, even though The Foundation entered the case because, until its entry, the Circuit Court judge was poised to allow the proponent’s uncontested petition to set a government-changing and state-changing precedent.

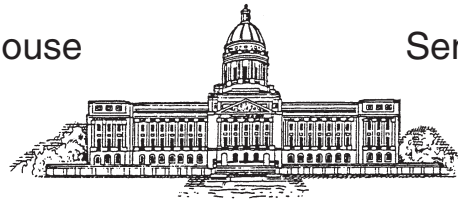
Delaying Tactics

All along proponents claimed the need to go to court in order to rush the decision so they could save the horse racing industry with an influx of money derived from this new type of gambling. At the same time, they have actively postponed the legislative oversight process not for one month, or two, or even three months, but actually four months in a row. So, in essence, *they* are now delaying the

Normal Legislative Oversight Process

House

Senate



House *and* Senate pass legislation. The law is sent to agency to have regulations drafted.



Regulations are drafted by agency and then sent for approval of oversight committee.



By vote of oversight committee, the regulations are approved or found deficient.



If found deficient, regulations can be revised and brought before the committee again.



If approved, the regulations are enacted and the law is carried out via those standards.

The plumb line as to whether drafted regulations properly align with the legislature’s intent is determined by a legislative oversight committee created specifically for that task. It is **NOT** done through the court system.

(See modified, and now corrupted, flowchart on page 5)

implementation of the “Instant Racing” machines, if, in fact, they are found legal. *(See related story below.)*

Questionable Case Substance

Observers are skeptical that they will ultimately be found legal, especially in light of the fact that the statutory requirement of “live racing” cannot be met with videos of previously-run races. Similarly, it is not possible to meet the statutory requirement of “pari-mutuel wagering” (requiring patrons to bet against each other) with a patron standing alone, betting alone, and watching alone a race of which no one else is aware on a video slot terminal.

But it is not just the substance of the arguments made by those who would expand gambling, it is also the process that they have taken.

Questionable Process

Remember, the “plaintiffs” chose to sue in a friendly lawsuit, with no opposing party, hoping that the court would simply rubber stamp their plans. Unfortunately for them, The Family Foundation intervened in the case and quickly discovered that four of the ten affidavits that were used to swear to the activities of those

The “emergency” court case is a sham

They have delayed the normal legislative oversight hearing for four straight months. How can they claim “time is of the essence”?

One of the ironies of the entire “Instant Racing” court case debacle is that those pushing the case claimed that they had to go to court to hurry the process along. Their expressed concern is that the horse industry is in such poor shape financially that they needed to have a ruling quickly in order to get the Instant Racing machines up and running as soon as possible so that there would be some kind of infusion of cash into the horse racing system, primarily through increased purses.

However, their cry for expediency is ringing hollow given the fact that it is those in the court case themselves who have repeatedly postponed their hearing before the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee. Simply said, they specifically asked in writing in each month that their appearance before the November, December, January and February meetings of the oversight committee be delayed. Yet they continue to pursue a court case that very easily could last through 2011 and into 2012.

If their regulations were within the current Kentucky boundaries of law, they

actually could have been approved in November of last year, or in any of the months since. Or next month for that matter. Instead, the push for a court decision is their higher priority.

... their cry for expediency is ringing hollow given the fact that it is those in the court case themselves who have repeatedly postponed their hearing before the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee.

The reason for the court case is much more easily explained by the fact that the General Assembly has repeatedly not moved forward on any of their proposals to expand gambling, including the Gov. Steve Beshear-promised constitutional amendment in 2008, the statutory approach in 2009 with the summer Special Session for gambling and the budget approach which forced a second Special Session in 2010. They apparently believe the Assembly would not act now either.

Most unbiased observers would agree that the court case is not about the immediate need for quick cash for the

horse industry, but rather about bypassing the legislature which has thwarted their efforts to expand gambling for the last four years.

ve oversight process . . . perhaps permanently

ent; and secondly, the entire judicial effort creates a dangerous precedent, placing the judiciary system over the legislature.

creating the regulations were signed on the day *before* the event to which they testified occurred. How can a witness swear that “something has happened *tomorrow*?”

But it gets even more bizarre – when The Family Foundation asked to do discovery on the above-mentioned affidavits and other matters, the court refused, in essence saying you can be in

the case but you can’t ask any questions. Questions, of course, are what bring truth to light. The court’s restraint is

tantamount to saying: “You can go swimming, but just don’t get wet.”

. . . it has become obvious to even the novice court-watcher that this case could literally change the balance of powers outlined in the state constitution.

Balance of Powers

If these things were not enough, it has become obvious to even the novice court-watcher that this case could literally change the balance of powers outlined in the state constitution.

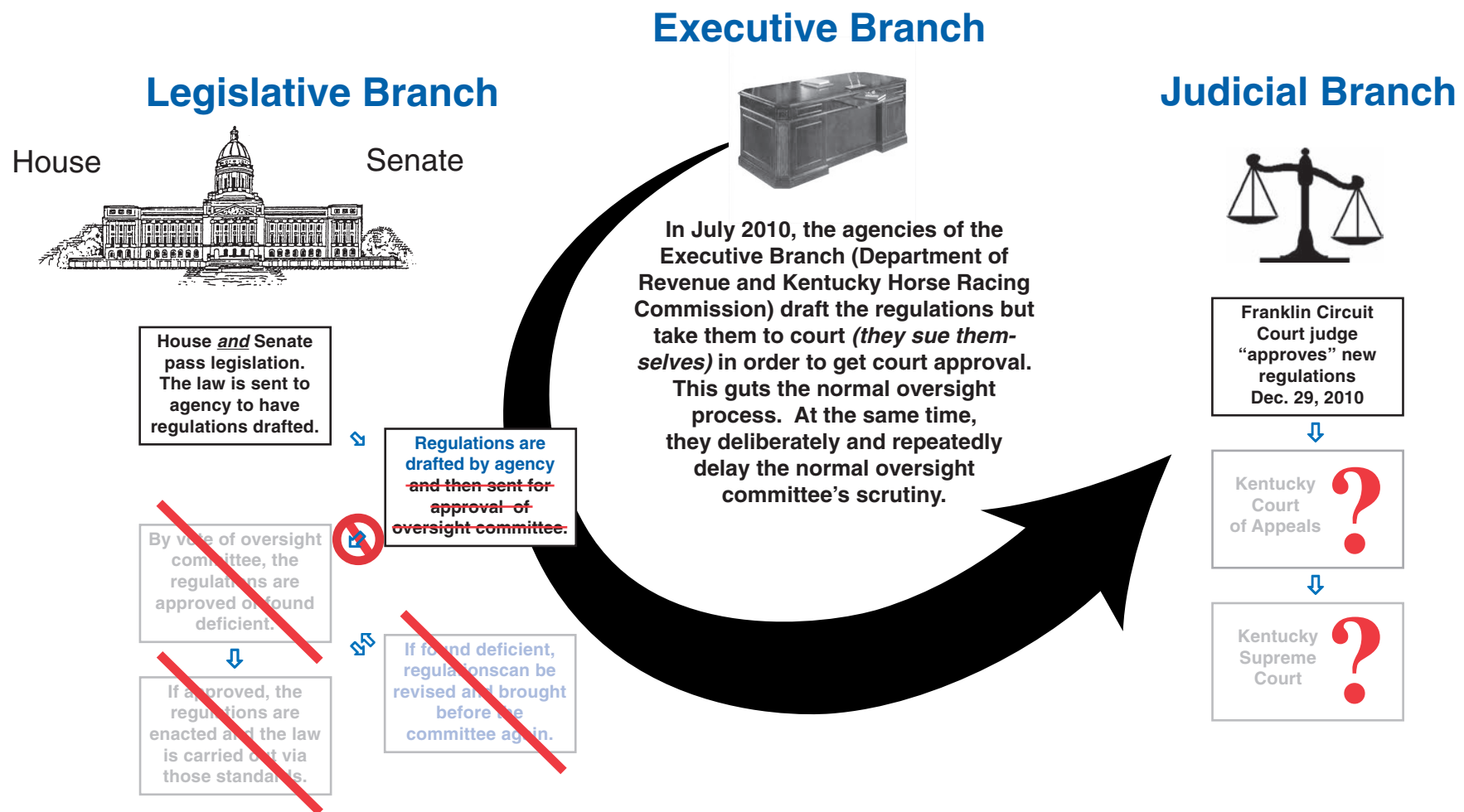
Very simply, if the legislature cannot do its job legislating and then overseeing that which has been legislated to be sure it was properly

implemented (through regulation), then it has lost its power to legislate. In this case, the Governor’s administration has gone directly to the courts seeking agreement with their interpretation of the law, with their regulations and with their process to get them implemented, thus circumventing the legislature.

What happens if the oversight committee of the General Assembly disagrees with the court and its findings? Does that mean we enter some kind of constitutional crisis?

Given these legal questions, some small and some profound, those trying to expand gambling may wish they never went to court to sidestep their problems in the legislature.

The Corruption of the Legislative Oversight Process



The power shift here is dramatic – the Executive Branch is shifting legislative oversight to the Judicial Branch. This entire shift in the balance of powers is not done to remedy a flaw in government, but simply to expand gambling. The problem is that this precedent, if allowed, will alter the balance of powers and diminish the voice of the people through the legislature.

Pro-Life community in Louisville is on the move

Though the city is also Kentucky's "abortion capital," it does have a vibrant pro-life community that is making a real difference.

On any Saturday, West Market Street in downtown Louisville is alive with activity. Here, the most active abortion clinic in Kentucky inconspicuously sits. Labeled "EMW Women's Surgical Center," the clinic performs on average around 3,600-3,900 abortions a year. While those numbers appear staggering, the pro-life movement in Louisville is gaining sizeable momentum as individuals, organizations, and churches play a vital role in unraveling the abortion culture.

Increased numbers of pro-life advocates line the entryway of the abortion clinic maintaining a pro-life vigilance through prayer. As clinic escorts surround women entering the clinic, trained "crisis pregnancy counselors" attempt to lovingly persuade the mothers walking into the clinic to pursue an alternative to abortion. One such alternative is the newly opened *A Woman's Choice Pregnancy Resource Center*. This building, which opened its doors on November 13, is *next door* to the abortion clinic. Its proximity to the clinic signals its intent to provide immediate assistance to women who may be considering abortion.

In this tumult, the last two years, and especially the past few months, have seen greater awareness and advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable population — the unborn. "Recently, we've seen an increased number of individuals and churches engaged in the pro-life cause," remarked one pro-life activist "and more than anything, it's the younger generation that is stepping up. We've also seen a higher number of men out here to help, signaling that abortion is not only a woman's issue."

With statistics indicating that younger generations are proportionately more pro-life than past generations, trends suggest that the abortion industry may be fighting a losing war. Contributing to this sentiment, several local churches have even launched pro-life ministries.

Katy Ferguson, a member of

A Woman's Choice - A pregnancy support center
(502)589-9400

Catholic Charities - Adoption services and other support services for mothers and children (502)637-9786

Lifeshouse Maternity Home - Home for unwed mothers
(502)897-1655

Louisville 40 Days for Life - A prayer and peaceful vigil intervention campaign (502) 897-3982

Necole's Place - Follow-up support for women who choose life and are in need of ongoing assistance (502)569-0494

Pregnancy Resource Center - A pregnancy support center
(502)583-2151

Right to Life of Louisville - An educational and legislative organization (a chapter of KRTL) (502)895-5959

Sisters for Life - Educational and counseling service provider
(502)634-2888

Speakfortheunborn.com - A sidewalk counseling and prayer effort (502)585-2733

Highview Baptist Church, attributes her action in the pro-life movement to the church's mission in Scripture: "As a church body, we are mandated to speak for the voiceless. God's people are always to be found speaking on behalf of the poor, the widow, and the orphan. These are orphans in the womb."

At the clinic, members from Immanuel Baptist Church display a particular glow as they wear reflective vests identifying their group. These vests also serve a secondary role by mimicking the vests worn by clinic escorts. They wear the vests in hopes of steering conflicted women in their direction.

Immanuel Pastor Ryan Fullerton is proud of church members who have a burden for the unborn. Fullerton, a stalwart pro-life individual, commits himself annually to speak up for the unborn in January during Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Most importantly, however, being pro-life is not about being political for Fullerton. "The main thing is not that we're against abor-

tion," Fullerton said. "It's that we're for life. We love moms, dads, babies, and children. We know that abortion will end when moms and dads sacrifice for their children. When a person's orientation is to serve, to bear a cross, we place our priority around children."

Yet, even the modest and noble efforts of such organizations and churches seem to have little impact on reducing abortion. Asked what motivates individuals and organizations in the face of staggering abortion statistics, Ferguson replied, "Results don't matter; faithfulness matters. We want this clinic to close for the glory of God. We believe prayer and faithfulness, not our actions, will close this clinic."

While the pro-life movement has gained traction in Louisville churches, pro-life activists insist that much work is yet to be done here in Louisville and throughout Kentucky. The statistics indicate that abortion was most prevalent in the late 1970's when an average of 13,000 abortions were occurring in Kentucky. Thankfully, those numbers have been drastically reduced.

With faithfulness as the measure of its resolve, the pro-life movement in Louisville is creating a culture of life that seems to be shining brighter each new day.



Louisville: 40 Days for Life

March 9 begins Louisville's 5th "40 Days" campaign and organizers are pleased with the fact that over 40 children have been saved in the previous campaigns, over 1500 citizens have been involved in pro-life work for the first time and numerous men and women have been opened to the reality of post-abortion healing.

To get involved, contact Jenny Hutchinson

Call **502-897-3982** or email **jhutch1216@aol.com**

[Also beginning March 9 are the National and Lexington campaigns. For more on Lexington, call Ida Terrazas at **859-948-0377** or email her at **idaterrazas@yahoo.com**]

U.S. House votes to defund Planned Parenthood

Though the budget cut must still make it through an uphill battle in the U.S. Senate, history has been made!

Human trafficking and statutory rape cover-ups have put Planned Parenthood on the defensive in recent months, but the most serious blow to the nation's number one abortion provider came on Feb. 18 when the House voted to defund them. The unprecedented move, which passed by a vote of 240-185, had bi-partisan support.

Dr. Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life was elated. "De-funding Planned Parenthood should be the most bi-partisan effort on Capitol Hill," Yoest

said. "We know that more than 70 percent of Americans — pro-life and pro-choice — do not want tax dollars going to

abortion. Planned Parenthood gets about one-third of a billion tax dollars each year, and it's time to put an end to it."

Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) sponsored

the amendment that was popular with both fiscal and social conservatives. "... This is not about Planned Parenthood's right to be in the abortion business... This debate is about who funds it... Nobody is saying that Planned Parenthood can't be the leading advocate of abortion on demand in America... but why do I have to pay for it?"

Congressional defunding of Planned Parenthood follows several scandals. A Planned Parenthood affiliate in New Jersey

was recently caught on tape covering up human trafficking of minors. Last year they were caught

covering up the statutory rape of minor girls in several clinics. And a California clinic was caught defrauding the federal government of millions of dollars. With such a

track record, defunding them is an easy step toward fiscal responsibility.

Several Democrats argued that the vote was "anti-woman" and that Planned Parenthood offers vital services.

According to Tony Perkins of Family Research Council, "Organizations do charitable work all the time without the government's help. And unlike Planned

Parenthood, 99.9% of them probably haven't been caught on tape encouraging

child sex abuse. If thousands of nonprofits can perform quality community outreach

without \$363 million in taxpayer funds, so can Planned Parenthood."

The measure is now in the Senate, where its future is uncertain.

"... This is not about Planned Parenthood's right to be in the abortion business... This debate is about who funds it..."

— Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

"We know that more than 70 percent of Americans — pro-life and pro-choice — do not want tax dollars going to abortion."

*—Dr. Charmaine Yoest, President
Americans United for Life*

Kentucky Congressional Delegation:

Voting FOR defunding:

**Ed Whitfield (R) - District 1
Brett Guthrie (R) - District 2
Geoff Davis (R) - District 4
Hal Rogers (R) - District 5**

Voting AGAINST defunding:

**John Yarmuth (D) - District 3
Ben Chandler (D) - District 6**

*The final vote in the House
was 240 to 185 to defund.*

Bill Womack: Cultural critic and citizen-activist

His canvas is the letters-to-the-editor page in the newspaper and his "art" has been considered by thousands.

One is usually not inclined to call a writer an "activist" of sorts. Sure, we are more than familiar with the punditry of the token newspaper columnist. Yet, they're paid to offer their opinions.

In the case of Louisville native Bill Womack, however, frequent bouts of frustration with liberal and secular dominance in the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, awakened him from his cultural slumber; what he calls his former status as a "Lazyboy Christian"—the type of Christian who would complain about the decadence of culture, but then refuse to engage it.

Womack, a businessman by trade, found himself dismayed at the opinions expressed in the daily paper—opinions that denigrated the sanctity of marriage and life and glorified an overly sexualized culture. Feeling that his own Christian worldview was under-represented, he decided to write his own response to the paper in the opinion section. To his surprise, his first column was published the following day. "The *Courier-Journal's* worst mistake was publishing me," Womack said.

A trend was established over time. Since January 2004, 41 of his 89 submitted letters have been published. In fewer than 200 words, Womack would tackle the many grievances he encountered in an all-out battle of worldviews.

"I'm not the first to say it, but ideas have consequences. And some ideas need to be combated," said Womack. "The battle over ideas occurs every day. It's not who has the best idea; it's who can persuade others that his idea is the best."

What he did not expect, though, was the encouragement to turn his 89 letters into book form. Compiling his articles, Womack titled his book *Dear Editor: How to Reclaim our Culture, 200 Words at a Time*. He felt that his book could be an example for others who wish to engage.

Asked why he chose the local newspaper as his public platform, Womack insisted that the newspaper is the most influential source in swaying local opinion. "The *Courier-Journal* believes their ideas are the best. For Christians not to jump into the fray, we're missing a huge opportunity to engage the culture."

The importance of Womack's example cannot be left unstated. In mustard seed-like determination, Womack proves that small acts can pay off large dividends. In his own experience, he not only sharpened his writing skills, but his status in the community as one who stood up for traditional values also brought him a more influential role to play as he still seeks to encourage Christians to let their voice be heard.

He does offer a couple of suggestions: "Don't write angry," he said, "and attack ideas, not people." And most of all, "true irrelevance is refusing to enter the ring." He believes Christians can continue to lament the state of culture, or they can humbly and winsomely enter their own ideas in the court of public opinion.



**To order
Dear Editor**

***Dear Editor: How to Reclaim Our Culture, 200 Words at a Time* is available for purchase at Carmichael's Bookstore, Borders on Hurstbourne Lane, and Living Word Bookstore at Southeast Christian Church. All three locations are in Louisville.**

Analysis: The General Assembly is not working as it was designed.

Leadership gone crazy?

Yes it has . . . because of “political leverage” in the House.

What is going on in the state House of Representatives? Why are House members *not* passing basic pro-family bills that have Kentucky’s traditional values written all over them?

The answer is subtle, but not complex. The bottom line is that about ten very liberal members of the Democrat Caucus

vote as a block and determine who their Leadership will be. That Leadership then controls the House with defer-

ence to those liberal ten, which in turn, since all bills must pass both the House and Senate, control what is ultimately passed through the General Assembly.

More specifically: There are 100 members of the Kentucky House of Representatives and 58 of them are Democrats, making the Democrats the Majority Party of the House. (Republicans make up the Majority Party of the Senate.) Those 58 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 30 votes from the 58-member caucus to install someone into one of the Leadership positions.

Enter the “liberal Democrats.” Originally made up of eight very liberal female representatives, some of whom have moved on and some of whom have been replaced by very liberal men, this “caucus within the caucus” of ten representatives wields unusual power over the Chamber. Here is how: Imagine if you

were running for a Leadership position, say for Speaker, and your opponent (from within your Party and your Caucus of 58) has already secured 28 votes while you had only 20 – all you would have to do is *make a deal* with the “liberal caucus” and they would vote as a 10-vote block and secure your needed 30 votes to become Speaker.

They actually would control who is elected into Leadership!

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

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

Sources close to 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 bipartisan votes (votes like 32-5 on this

**The Kentucky
CITIZEN**

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year’s pro-life bill from the Senate) and sent it to the House. Yes, over the years there have been several Committee hearings, but always *so carefully orchestrated* (by none other than House Leadership) that the bill cannot get out of Committee in order to go to the House Floor.

Similarly, there has been no legislation with a hint of traditional marriage values *even heard* in a House Committee since the state passed the Marriage Protection Amendment 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 days 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 bigger: 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 have not been experiencing democracy in the Commonwealth, or even a republic form of democracy – they have been experiencing a form of tyranny. And it’s time that some legislators courageously band together – Republicans or Democrats or both together – to deliver the Assembly from such coercion and to “set the people and their will free.”

