

Bravo on a Phenomenal Eagle Council!

By Lu Rivera, First Time Eagle Council Attendee

Congratulations to Eagle Forum for conducting an exceptional Eagle Council 2018! During my years in corporate life, I attended a multitude of conferences around the country. Without question, this Council surpassed them all, in interest, education, pertinence, passion, and action.

The conference was chock full of informative, entertaining, and relevant speakers and panelists. Among the speakers, with more credentials than space allows here, were U.S. Representative Jim Jordan, Alabama's own director/producer Andy Erwin of the box-office hit, "I Can Only Imagine," Attorney and Fox News Contributor Joe DeGenova, the Federalist's Mollie Hemingway, Eagle Forum's own Anne Schlafly Cori and Eunie Smith, and many others. I encourage you to make time to view the video clips of the individual discussions at www.eagleforum.org. An extensive list of speakers and their expanded bios is found here: [https:// eagleforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Bios2018.pdf](https://eagleforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Bios2018.pdf).

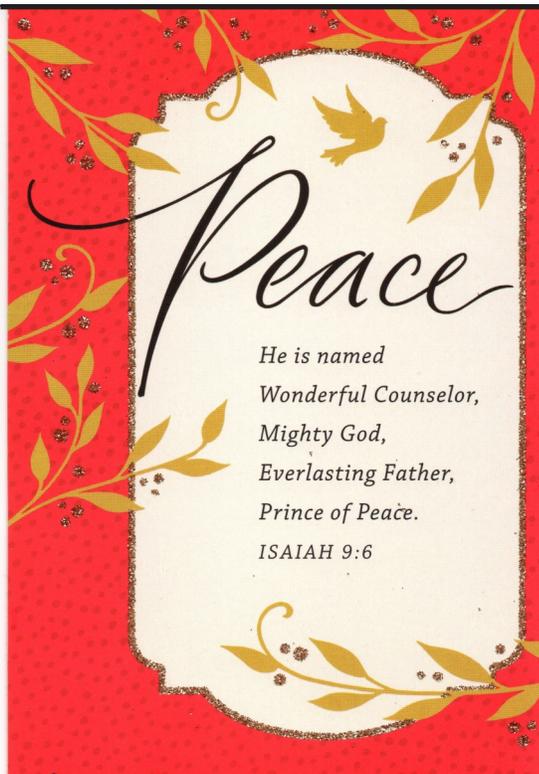
Panelists' topics during the conference included Dr. Peter Pry's discussion of the Electromagnetic Pulse Threat to our nation's electrical grid, Dr. Michael Pillsbury's information



on our relationship/situation with China, Lindsey Burke's explanation of the Heritage Foundation's opposition to the proposal to merge the federal Education and Labor Departments, Dr. Michelle

Cretella's "The Dangers of Gender Ideology," Anne Schlafly Cori's "What's Wrong with Socialism," and so many urgent-action topics, (mass migration, legislative protection for college campus free speech, ERA's deadly impact on the Pro-Life cause, the case for classical education, the effects of technology in the classroom, the defense of capitalism and the Constitution, too many to list here, but so worthwhile to hear). The links to each one are found on the Eagle Forum site at

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*Best Wishes
for a Blessed
Christmas
Season and a
Wonderful
New Year*

*Eagle Forum of
Alabama*

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<https://eagleforum.org/events/eaglecouncil/ec2018/info.html>.

Simply click on the ones you'd like to hear. On the right side of the site's screen are links to different events during the conference.

The Eagles themselves led informative breakout sessions late into the p.m. hours which were largely attended in spite of the late hour, as these women shared information and political battles in their own states which other states are certain to face. My favorite was the session on the push against an Article V Constitutional Convention and the continuing fight against the passage of ERA which is sure to rear its head in Alabama as the progressives reevaluate their dependency on a changing U.S. Supreme Court.

Speaking of the U.S. Supreme Court, the day Eagle Forum leaders lobbied their Senators and Representatives was the day Christine Ford came to the microphone and Justice Brett Kavanaugh responded to the accusations against him. As if this well-done conference needed any more electricity, attendees walked those historical halls amidst the protests, support, conversations, and flat-screen TV coverage of that event. The meetings with seven of our nine senators and representatives were beneficial. We left with renewed relationships, action plans, and even one promise of sponsorship of a bill.

Well done, Eagle Forum! Get the next one on your calendars!

Pro-Life Neurobiology Professor Nominated to National Science Board

President Trump has nominated Dr. Maureen Condic, an associate professor at the University of Utah, to the National Science Board. She specializes in neurobiology and is known for her work on spinal cord repair. She has been helpful in the pro-life movement by testifying before Congress in 2003 that unborn babies have the capacity to feel pain as early as eight weeks. She asked Congress to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act from what she called the "cruel" and unnecessary pain of abortion.

She is quoted by *LifeNews.com* as saying, "Imposing pain on any pain-capable living creature is cruelty. And ignoring the pain experienced by another human individual for any reason is barbaric. We don't need to know if a human fetus is self-aware to afford it the same consideration we currently afford other pain-capable species. We simply have to decide whether we will choose to ignore the pain of the fetus or not."

Of course, the usual critics are opposing her nomination. Utah abortionist Leah Torres accused Condic of being willfully ignorant or not up to date. But, she fails to mention that she performs abortions and advocates for them politically and is thus biased in the matter.

Condic defends her position by saying, "I'm not reporting bad science. I'm reporting an interpretation of science that's open to discussion."

Source: *LifeNews.com* Nov. 19, 2018

Book Review

The Great Utopian Delusion

The Global Rise of Government and the Destruction of Liberty

Authors Paul A Cleveland and L. Dwayne Barney based their writing upon the original book by Clarence Carson entitled *The World in the Grip of an Idea*. They explain that socialism is not just an failed economic system, but one that promotes the notion that paradise on earth can be achieved by coercive means.

Proponents of the "Idea" often argue that freedom promotes the worst kind of human behavior and must be rejected. They argue that liberty in general and free enterprise in particular promote jealousy, envy, and greed.

The authors explore how such an idea is totally at odds with human nature and why socialism fails whenever and wherever it takes hold. The only way to totally implement true socialism is to destroy the norms of society and the will of the individual. Of course, this can only be done by the force employed by a strong dictatorial government. They show that even in the midst of the total Communism of the USSR, individuals openly followed the rules while they daily found ways to circumvent them to pursue their own self-interest and the interest of those they loved.

They argue that we need to soberly consider the fallacy of this idea in light of the rapid growth of socialist thought being promoted more today than ever. The great socialist task is one of "disorganization" of education, health care, banking, etc. in our nation.

Publisher: Boundary Stone
www.boundarystone.org

Alabama Today reported that Gulf States are getting an additional \$280 million in restoration grants from the BP oil spill on 2010. Nearly \$49 million will go to Alabama, including \$22.5 million for artificial reefs, along with other restoration projects along the Gulf Coast.

November 20, 2018

Rep. Gary Palmer, R-AL 6, has been chosen by the Republican caucus as the Republican Policy Committee chair for the 116th Congress—the 5th highest ranking leadership position among Republicans. The RPC is a place for Republicans in the House to generate quality legislative proposals and serves as an advisory committee to House Republicans. We commend Palmer for his selection to lead this important committee.

More than 15 million Americans are looking for full-time work but can't find it, and yet, the United States continues to admit more than 1 million legal immigrants each year. Some Members of Congress would have Americans believe that this level is necessary and is typical of the number of people America has historically allowed to immigrate. These Members of Congress are wrong.

For the first 200 years of our existence, the United States admitted about 250,000 immigrants each year. However, since 1990, this number has skyrocketed to more than 1 million each year! Congress' refusal to reduce the number of immigrants allowed to legally work and reside in the United States is taking a devastating toll on America's unemployed and underemployed.

Source: NumberUSA.com

On November 7, 2018 the Trump Administration issued a rule to protect Americans from being forced to pay for abortions under Obamacare. It directed insurers selling Obamacare plans that cover elective abortion to collect a separate payment from enrollees for that coverage. Under the Obama administration, insurers were allowed to collect these payments together in violation of clear statutory language, thus many Americans have unwittingly purchased plans without knowing about the hidden abortion surcharge. President Trump is to be applauded for enforcing the law as written and seeking to uphold the principles of the Hyde Amendment to prevent the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion coverage.

Lifenews.com 11/7/2018

On June 11, 2018 the Department of Justice led by Attorney Jeff Sessions filed a statement of interest against the University of Michigan in a lawsuit alleging the school's speech policies violate students' free speech rights. The statement said that the policy, which is much like those of schools here in Alabama which prohibit harassment, bullying, and bias, is unconstitutional because it offers no objective definitions of the violations. The University of Michigan is the fourth school to receive a statement of interest from Sessions' Justice Department.

We applaud the DOJ taking a strong stand against the attacks on free speech on campuses, which should be the bastions of free speech.

Source: Daily Caller, 6/11/2018

Telling it like it is: The Islamic leader of Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said it best when he was Prime Minister: "There is no 'moderate Islam.' Islam is Islam! Democracy is the train we ride to achieve our ultimate objective, which is a world dominated by Islam."

"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone' it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."

Patrick Henry, speech to the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of the his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Thomas Paine, The American Crisis, No. 1, December 19, 1776

"Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

Thomas Jefferson, Autobiography, 1821

"When all government, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another."

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Charles Hammond, August 18, 1821

"Religion in a family is at once its brightest Ornament and its best Security ."

Samuel Adams, letter to Thomas Wells, November 22, 1780

New Evidence Reveals Full Extent of Common Core's Historic Failure



**By Jane Robbins, an attorney and senior fellow with the American Principles Project
She is also a special friend of Eagle Forum in the battle against Common Core
*This article was first published at TownHall.com on November 20, 2018***

Most public schools are still afflicted with the Common Core national standards. Paid advocates such as the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation continue to push Common Core despite overwhelming evidence of the slow-motion train wreck that has resulted – reduced student achievement by almost every metric. Fordham refuses even to acknowledge the bad news, much less try to rationalize it.

That's why it was refreshing to hear the blunt truth proclaimed at a Heritage Foundation event last week entitled "Rethinking Federal Intervention in K-12 Education." At this program the authors of a new Pioneer Institute [study](#), "Common Core, School Choice and Rethinking Standards-Based Reform," explained how Common Core has not only damaged public education but also threatened the independence of private schools. How? By imposing government strings on the curricular autonomy of the schools that accept government funding via school-choice mechanisms such as vouchers.

Study authors Ted Rebarber of Accountability Works and Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute advocate restoring genuine diversity in education models by removing centralized government control over K-12 school standards. But the prelude to that argument came from Rebarber, who minced no words in describing the doleful effect of Common Core on education.

"In my view," Rebarber observed, "[Common Core] is really the worst large-scale educational failure in 40 years."

Unlike Fordham and its allies, Rebarber offered actual evidence to support his thesis. He demonstrated that U.S. students' math scores on the National Association of Educational Progress (NAEP) had long been creeping up ever since reliable test results became available in the 1970s. But after release of Common Core in 2010 and full implementation in the fall of 2014, NAEP scores plateaued and then began to decline.

Rebarber focused on scores of the bottom quartile of students, those who were already behind – "the students that were touted as the target for improvement." Under Common Core, these students' performance has fallen.

According to Rebarber, "That's never happened at a consistent multi-year scale [on] the best test instruments we've had since we've been able to measure in the 1970s. And so that is historic." Higher-performing students have been hurt as well. Rebarber's graph of recent ACT scores showed that the modest upward trend line flattens upon Common Core release and then begins a decline which accelerates with full implementation.

What about U.S. students' performance in comparison with students in other countries? Rebarber showed another graph illustrating the percentage of 8th-graders internationally who are sufficiently proficient in math to tackle a high-school curriculum that will prepare them for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) studies in college. The graph showed that high-performing Asian countries prepare about one-third to one-half of their 8th-graders to reach this level, while the U.S. prepares only about ten percent. That places the U.S. in the middle tier of tested nations, along with Kazakhstan, Russia, Hungary, and Great Britain.

"Middle of the pack doesn't sound that bad," Rebarber said, "but Singapore gets five times as many of its students at that level. So being in the middle of the pack is not really acceptable." He also pointed out that the

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lower-tier countries are just a few percentage points below the U.S.

Why has Common Core math failed so abysmally? Rebarber observed that rather than increasing the rigor of the math standards as promised, Common Core “just calcified the existing [deficient] rigor of the math program” – teaching algebra I and geometry content two years later than do the top-achieving countries. In addition, the standards “ended up pushing some progressive educational methods or dogmas . . . delaying introduction of standard algorithms and other methods that are enforced through the tests.”

The deficiencies that have made Common Core math a punchline are, by this point, well known. But the Pioneer report goes back further in time, exploring the history of “standards-based reform” that led to Common Core. Rebarber explained that when Congress, in 1994, required states to develop so-called “standards,” that word wasn’t presented to conservatives as “very detailed government regulation of curriculum content, curriculum sequencing, and teaching methods.” But over the years, that’s exactly what happened. “Standards became the blueprint around which schools organize their teaching, their day-to-day academic operations. They’re effectively curriculum central planning by government.”

Rebarber showed that the incremental improvements in test scores predated standards-based reform by many years, and that the reform did nothing to accelerate the improvement. In fact, Common Core developers were able to leverage dissatisfaction with the state-level version of standards-based reform to, as Rebarber put it, “double down” on such reform with national standards.

And here we are – not only treading water, but actually sinking. Historic.

Common Core, the Great Leveler

In another recent article on Common Core, published by *Truth in American Education* on Oct. 17, 2018 entitled *Common Core, the Great Leveler*, the author addresses the latest round of NAEP scores from a national perspective. These scores show either stagnation or decline in reading and math performance on American students. The recently released scores from ACT, a leading testing company for Common Core, also show declines.

The article states that “according to Education Week, ACT correlates scores with students’ likelihood of earning Bs or Cs in credit bearing college coursework. This year, only 40 % of test takers met the benchmark in math—the lowest level since 2004, and down from 46% in 2012.

The average composite scores fell in all racial and ethnic groups except Asian-Americans. So Common Core has been a great leveler—just not the way it was promised. The article goes on to quote ACT’s chief executive officer as saying, “We’re at a very dangerous point. And if we do nothing, it will keep on declining.”

Of course, the progressive education establishment has a lot invested in Common Core and will not change their stance any time soon. They continue to claim that the standards and the endless tests based upon those standards are just wonderful. The article quotes the immediate past-president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, an organization that bears much blame for pushing the Common Core math standards, as saying, “states have made solid progress adopting the good standards, but the ACT results suggest that schools need to focus on improving curriculum and instructional practices to bring those expectations fully to life.” in other words, it is not the standards and endless testing, but the teachers’ fault that students are not doing as well as they should.

Source: *Truth in American Education.com Oct. 17, 2018*

Alabama Supreme Court Unanimously Ruled in Favor of the Unborn

In a case not related to abortion, The Alabama Supreme Court has ruled that an unborn person has equal rights as an adult. The case of *Jessie Phillips v. State of Alabama* upheld the conviction of Jessie Phillips for the murder of both his wife and unborn child. Phillips appealed his conviction arguing that he should not receive the death penalty because his 6-8 week pre-born child should not be considered a person under Alabama law.

The Alabama legislature enacted the “Brady Act” 12 years ago to protect pre-born children. This act states that the definition of a “person” includes “an unborn child in utero at any stage of development, regardless of viability. In affirming Phillips’ conviction, the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed the Brady Act, which is consistent with numerous other sections of Alabama law that protects the rights of the unborn child.

In a separate concurring opinion to the unanimous decision, Justice Tom Parker, who was elected as the new Chief Justice in the recent November 6, 2018 General Election, wrote that the “old law was changed with the expressed intent of addressing just the sort of double-murder that Phillips was convicted of committing.”

In his concurring opinion, Parker stated: “I urge the Supreme Court of the United States to reconsider the Roe exception and to overrule this constitutional aberration.” He recommended that the court return the power to the states to fully protect the most vulnerable among us.”

We commend the Alabama Supreme Court for upholding the Brady Act and ruling in favor of the rights of unborn children to this legal protection.

Source: Pray in Jesus Name.org

HHS Says No to Fresh Fetal Tissue

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on September 24, 2018, that they have terminated a contract with fetal procurement company, Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc. In June of this year, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) signed a contract with them for research into creating mice with human immune systems. The contract used disturbing language, such as the acquiring “fresh” fetal tissue. They promised to use the “highest ethical standards”, however, there is nothing ethical about experimenting with baby body parts.

Three years ago, the Center for Medical Progress released a series of undercover videos that exposed the horror of fetal tissue procurement. Congress then formed the House Select Panel for Infant Lives which found evidence of illegal activity among fetal tissue procurement. Advanced Bioscience Resources was one of the companies that participated in this illegal activity.

Eagle Forum joined a letter with 47 pro-life groups earlier that month to urge HHS Secretary, Alex Azar, for this change. The letter also brought awareness to the same practices of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH spent \$98 million in 2017 and is projected to spend \$103 million in 2018 on fetal tissue research. These facts were so outrageous that 85 House members followed our letter with their own to FDA commissioner, Scott
Gottlieb.

HHS is also looking into alternative research methods to fetal tissue procurement and has promised a review of all acquisitions. Congress also had the opportunity to rectify this problem in the FY19 spending bill, however, they refused to allow the language to remain after the bill went to Conference.

We applaud HHS for terminating this contract, however, we urge them to continue this process. There is so much more that can be done to eliminate this horrific practice.

Source: Eagle Forum Capitol Hill Report, Sept. 29, 2018 written by Tabitha Walters, D.C. Executive Director

Marijuana– Snake Oil Indeed!

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there are many reasons to avoid the lure of revenue increases by legalizing and commercializing marijuana. Quoting their website:

“Research has shown that marijuana’s negative effects on attention, memory, and learning can last for days or weeks after the acute effects of the drug wear off, depending on the person’s history with the drug.⁵³ Consequently, someone who smokes marijuana daily may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time. Considerable evidence suggests that students who smoke marijuana have poorer educational outcomes than their nonsmoking peers.

Pleasant experiences with marijuana are by no means universal. Instead of relaxation and euphoria, some people experience anxiety, fear, distrust, or panic. These effects are more common when a person takes too much, the marijuana has an unexpectedly high potency, or the person is inexperienced. People who have taken large doses of marijuana may experience an acute psychosis, which includes hallucinations, delusions, and a loss of the sense of personal identity. In 2015, about 4.0 million people in the United States met the diagnostic criteria for a marijuana use disorder; 38,000 voluntarily sought treatment for their marijuana use.

Marijuana potency, as detected in confiscated samples, has steadily increased over the past few decades.² In the early 1990s, the average THC content in confiscated marijuana samples was roughly 3.8 percent. In 2014, it was 12.2 percent. The average marijuana extract contains more than 50 percent THC, with some samples exceeding 80 percent. These trends raise concerns that the consequences of marijuana use could be worse than in the past, particularly among those who are new to marijuana use or in young people, whose brains are still developing.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/>





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