

2022 AL LEGISLATIVE SESSION: **“THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY”**

The regular session of the Alabama legislative session adjourned at midnight on April 7, 2022. Eagle Forum was actively involved in lobbying both for bills we supported and against those that we thought would not be best for Alabama and its families. Our Executive Director, Becky Gerriton, did an outstanding job in both lobbying and leading our members in contacting their legislators to make their voices heard. She wrote a great summary of the session that covers the bills we were most concerned about. As Becky explained in her summary of the session, the session was a mix of the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

THE GOOD:

Good Bills That Passed

VCAP: The Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act (“VCAP” SB184 Shelnett)

Bans puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and sex reassignment surgeries until age 19. This was a major win because Eagle Forum was involved with writing the bill and getting sponsors. We have written extensively about this bill in past issues. We worked faithfully for 3 sessions before it passed on the last day of this session. We commend Senator Shay Shelnett and Representative Wes Allen for their long and hard work to get this bill across the finish line this year. Update: A federal judge has given an injunctive ruling against the part of the bill that prohibits providing transgender drugs to minors. He upheld other parts of the bill. We expect the ruling to be appealed.

Bathroom/locker room bill (HB322 Stadthagen)

Protects girls from sexual assault (those incidents have happened in AL). Students must use a bathroom of the sex listed on their birth certificate.

It also prohibits teachers from discussing sexual orientation or gender identity. The state of AL has an obligation to protect the hearts and minds of kids. The state has an interest in making sure kids receive an age-appropriate education.

Election Bill-Prohibits "Zuckerbucks" (HB194 Allen)

HB194 passed 72-28. “Today is a great day for Alabama voters,” Rep. Wes Allen said. “No individual or group should be able to purchase the equipment that operates our elections. Nobody should be able to buy the ballots or to pay the salaries of election officials. Today’s vote was a major step to ensuring that never happens in any future Alabama election.”

Tax Extension bill (SB152-Roberts)

This bill provides for exclusion of enhanced federal child tax credits from American Rescue Plan Act from calculation of federal income tax deduction for tax year 2021, to provide an extension of the due date for certain taxpayers.

Bills that died and we are glad they did!

Gambling and Lottery Bills

State Health Officer bill: (SB255 Orr)

SB255 would have ensured that the State Health Officer’s orders could not be issued until a state of emer-

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gency was declared by the governor. The State Health Officer has not issued mandates outside of the Governor's emergency orders thus far. This bill did not address the fundamental problem of the State Health Officer having too much power over citizens and business in Alabama. There needs to be a thoughtful, systemic overhaul of the public health establishment in Alabama.

The State Auditor's Office (SB38 Jones)

SB38 was a bill to eliminate the Constitutional office of the State Auditor. The state auditor is charged with maintaining inventory of state property and making appointments to each county board of registrars. We believe that this is an important office that provides transparency and accountability to the people, and we are glad to see that the bill failed.

THE BAD:

Bad Bills that passed that we tried to kill

The Numeracy Act (SB171 Orr)

\$114M will NOT change the current math content and methods used in Alabama government schools. It just builds a bigger bureaucracy and pays for coaches to help teachers write lesson plans and determine testing data, etc. It does NOT put coaches in the classrooms with kids. So long as the state continues to use the 2019 math standards that are based almost solely on failed Common Core methods, we think the children of Alabama will continue to struggle to achieve in math.

Mental Health Counselors in the Schools (HB123 Ledbetter)

HB123 requires each local board of education and independent school system in the state to employ a mental health service coordinator. We opposed this bill. Schools should be places for students to learn academics and not be subjected to mental health indoctrination. Social emotional learning (SEL) is introduced to students outside of parents' knowledge or permission under the guise of "mental health". Sen. Givhan was successful in getting an amendment added that requires permission from parents to opt their children into the program. However, in the Conference Committee, the sponsor Rep. Ledbetter watered down the amendment so that children 14 or older do not need parental consent. He also added a provision that would allow counselors to bypass parental consent at any age.

THE UGLY:

Bills that died that shouldn't have:

- Banning Critical Race Theory (HB312 Oliver)
- Banning female genital mutilation (HB170 Scott)
- Protecting the unborn from marijuana (SB324 Stutts)
- Protecting doctors treating COVID patients with HCQ or Ivermectin (SB312 Orr)
- Ensuring "porn filters" are enabled or turned on at time of purchase (HB43 Sells)
- Banning online censorship (SB10 Orr)

Hillsdale College's Barney Charter Schools Expanding

Hillsdale College is expanding its number of classical charter schools. Since 2010, Hillsdale has helped open 21 charter schools and partnered with 33 others in 27 states through its Barney Charter School initiative, offering classical education focusing on civic virtue and moral character. "Its curriculum brings the best methods of reading instruction, mathematics instruction, cursive writing, sentence diagramming, all of those things that we know really work, with the best that Western civilization has produced," according to Kathleen O'Toole, the colleges assistant provost for K-12 education.

While progressives work against such schools in order to maintain their control and enable their indoctrination, parents are joining Hillsdale in fighting back and looking for other ways to protect their children.

Source: RedState.com article by Jeff Charles

According to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, more than 1 million excess deaths — that is, deaths in excess of the historical average — have been recorded since the COVID-19 pandemic began two years ago, and this cannot be explained by COVID-19. Deaths from heart disease, high blood pressure, dementia and many other illnesses rose during that time.

Across the world, death rates have also risen in tandem with COVID shot administration, with the most-jabbed areas surpassing the least-jabbed in terms of excess mortality and COVID-related deaths.

U.K. government data show the all-cause mortality rate is between 100% and 300% greater among people who got their first COVID shot 21 days or more ago. *The Defender, Children's Health Defense News & Views*

Gov. Ron DeSantis first led his Education Department to completely rewrite their education standards to remove all vestiges of Common Core. Now his Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran has led the rejection of 54 (41%) of the 132 textbooks submitted for review because they did not fulfill Florida's new standards or contained forbidden themes. These included references to Critical Race Theory or unsolicited addition of Social Emotional Learning. "The highest number of books rejected were for grades K-5, where 71% were not appropriately aligned with Florida standards or included prohibited topics and unsolicited strategies" according to Commissioner Corcoran.

Epoch Times April 22, 2022

Nonprofit "Open the Books" CEO Adam Andrzejewski held a press conference on May 9, 2022, saying that his organization estimates that up to \$350 million in royalties from third parties has been paid to the National Institute of Health (NIH) and hundreds of its scientists, including its past director, Dr. Francis Collins, and Dr. Anthony Fauci between 2010 and 2020. Most of this went to various scientists whose patented work was then licensed to companies for manufacture. The NIH says its staff are entitled to royalties from these firms. Of course, this is while they are on the government payroll.

Epoch Times, May 9, 2022

The coronavirus pandemic ushered in what may be the most rapid rise in homeschooling the U.S. has ever seen. Two years later, even after schools reopened and vaccines became widely available, many parents have chosen to continue directing their children's education themselves.

Families that may have turned to homeschooling as an alternative to hastily assembled remote learning plans have stuck with it — reasons include health concerns, disagreement with school policies and a desire to keep what has worked for their children. In 18 states that shared data through the current school year, the number of homeschooling students increased by 63% in the 2020-2021 school year, then fell by only 17% in the 2021-2022 school year. Around 3% of U.S. students were homeschooled before the pandemic-induced surge.

Associated Press

Adam Smith wrote in the *Wealth of Nations* that a proper tax system would be as follows:

FAIRNESS

"I. The subjects of every state ought to contribute towards the support of the government, as nearly as possible, in proportion to their respective abilities; that is, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state."

CERTAINTY

"II. The tax which each individual is bound to pay ought to be certain, and not arbitrary. The time of payment, the manner of payment, the quantity to be paid, ought all to be clear and plain to the contributor, and to every other person."

CONVENIENCE

"III. Every tax ought to be levied at the time, or in the manner, in which it is most likely to be convenient for the contributor to pay it."

EFFICIENCY

"IV. Every tax ought to be so contrived as both to take out and to keep out of the pockets of the people as little as possible over and above what it brings into the public treasury of the state."

How does our tax system compare?

"Freedom of speech is a principle pillar of a free government. When this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins. Republics and limited monarchies derive their strength and vigor from a popular examination into the action of the magistrates." *Benjamin Franklin*

National Eagle Forum Announces New President— Kris Ullman



Eagle Forum, the pro-family, conservative organization founded by the late Phyllis Schlafly in 1972, is pleased to announce that it has selected Kristen Ardizzone Ullman as the organization's new president.

Kris Ullman served as Executive Director of Eagle Forum's Washington, D.C. office from 1995-1998 and is currently serving on Eagle Forum's Board of Directors.

"Kris has been an effective advocate for conservative principles throughout her entire career. And, she is an engaged mom, who has experienced first-hand the dangers the woke agenda pose to our children," said Eagle Forum Board Member and outgoing President Colleen Holcomb.

"As mothers and concerned Americans throughout the country look to Eagle Forum for leadership in fighting the liberal agenda that threatens our children, our economy, and the very foundations of our civilization, we are thrilled to have a leader like Kris whose unique experience and insight equips her so well to lead this battle effectively," Holcomb concluded.

Mrs. Ullman is a graduate of Virginia Tech and earned her law degree from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Upon completing her studies, she worked as a Program Instructor with The Close Up Foundation before joining Eagle Forum in 1994. Kris served as Legislative Director for Senator John D. Ashcroft (R-MO) and as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the Office of Legal Policy in the U.S. Department of Justice.

Kris left outside employment to be a full-time homemaker and the mother of three children who are now young adults. During this time, she continued to serve in a variety of roles in her children's schools and community organizations. She has been a regular conservative debater for The Close Up Foundation for over 25 years, and taught a summer course with The Fund for American Studies. She formerly appeared as a regular commentator on the *Thom Hartmann Show* on RT-TV.

Eagle Forum Files Amicus Curiae Brief in Free Speech Case Margaret S. Clarke, Esq

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022, Eagle Forum of Alabama (EFA) filed an amicus curiae brief with the Supreme Court of Alabama in the case of *Young Americans for Liberty v. St. John, University of Alabama at Huntsville*.

In 2019 the Alabama Legislature enacted the Alabama Campus Free Speech Act (ACFSA) to provide robust protections for free speech on all public institutions of higher education in Alabama. The Act required the board of trustees of each institution to adopt specifically delineated free-speech policies by January 1, 2021. Each college was required to re-publish their free speech codes to reflect the trustee's new policies.

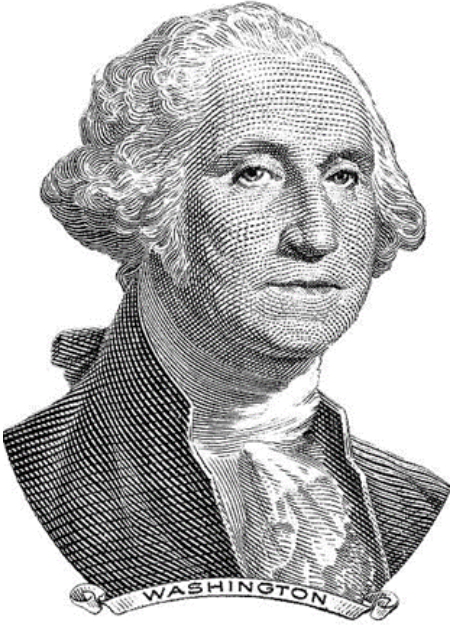
The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama failed to adopt free speech policies in conformity with the Act by January 1, 2021, and the University of Alabama campus at Huntsville (UAH) re-published a code governing the outdoor use of the campus which violates free expression protections under the ACFSA.

The Alliance Defending Freedom is representing Young Americans for Liberty, a campus organization, in a lawsuit against the college for violations under the Act. UAH's regulation requires registration three days prior to free expression in the outdoor areas of campus - this is a prior restraint. The regulation also includes free-speech-limiting zones which directly violate provisions of the ACFSA. Eagle Forum of Alabama was involved in writing the Campus Free Speech Act and was privy to the legislative development, so EFA was asked to file an amicus curiae brief discussing the legislative intent and purposes of the Act.

What's Good About America?

Jewish Impact on American Revolution

By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum



At a most crucial moment in the American Revolution, General George Washington's troops had cornered the British troops under General Cornwallis at Yorktown. This occasion was the moment to crush the British forces and force a surrender of Cornwallis' army. The French allies were willing to march with Washington to accomplish the deed.

However, Washington's coffers were empty. Without food, uniforms and supplies, the Continental troops were threatening mutiny. Opportunity for American independence would be lost without decisive action. In desperation, General Washington said "send for Haym Solomon." Solomon took quick action to raise the needed \$20,000 through the sale of bills of exchange. Washington's forces were able to move in and defeat Cornwallis in the final battle of the War.

Haym Solomon raised funds and personally loaned \$650,000 (over \$16 million in today's money) to the American cause in the War for Independence. When the War ended, Solomon personally assisted a number of individuals whom Solomon considered unsung heroes of the Revolution.

For all of his personal effort and sacrifice, Haym Solomon died in poverty. His life-ending poverty came although Solomon had been responsible for raising a majority of the funds for the American cause. While Solomon had financially cared for Revolutionary War veterans in their poverty, Solomon himself lived out his last days in financial hardships.

Haym Solomon was only one of many Jewish Americans who supported the cause of independence for the Colonies. By the time of the American Revolution, 2,000 Jewish citizens lived in the colonies with active Jewish communities in Charleston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, Savannah and Baltimore.

The first Jewish combatant killed in battle was South Carolina planter Francis Salvatore. Other prominent Jewish warriors for the patriot cause included Colonel Mordecai Sheftall and General Moses Hazen.

One might wonder the tolerance of an overwhelming Christian culture to the Jewish minority in the infant country. The charter of South Carolina gave express freedom for Jews in practicing their faith. In a letter to the Newport, RI Touro Synagogue (oldest operating synagogue in the US), General George Washington wrote:

"May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit safely under his own vine and fig-tree and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy."

Jewish-American heritage is a vital part of American history. American Christians have a history of respect for the children of Abraham and have seen the necessity of protecting religious freedom. Following God's Covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12, our country has known blessing as we have blessed Abraham's seed.



Empowering Parents

Know Your Rights

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Eagle Forum has been in the forefront of the battle to protect the rights of parents to control the education of their children, especially in the areas of social, emotional, mental and sexual information. Pat Ellis, Vice President-Issues, has led the effort to provide a guide for parents in confronting schools relative to issues of instruction with which they disagree. The complete guide is on our website at www.alabamaeagle.org. We will also have a brochure with this information in the future. The guide explains in part:

All public schools in Alabama receive federal funding. Consequently, parents (and legal guardians) are entitled, under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) 20 USC subsection 1232h, to review curriculum and all materials used to instruct their child at school. The PPRA also requires that schools obtain parental consent before specific surveys can be administered to their child.

Parents **MUST** request the information they want in writing and send the request directly to their school district. A certified letter is recommended. This is the first step in working with schools that are unresponsive to parents in these areas.

The guide provides a sample letter that can guide parents in using the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U. S. Code subsection 1232h. They can request all curriculum/instructional materials used in the classroom of concern. They can request all surveys and related documents given to the child during the past school year, and copies of the opt-out notification provided to parents, asking for permission concerning the objectionable instruction.

Then the guide covers what parents can do if the school refuses their request for the information. You may file a complaint with the U. S. Dept. of Education. Parents and legal guardians options include:

- *Consulting an attorney.
- *Suing the Department, the offending school district and the individuals involved.
- *Filing an administrative petition asking the Department to stop funding the offending school district.
- *Asking your congressman or senator to investigate.
- *Asking your state attorney general and/or your state representative to investigate.

The guide includes resources for free legal assistance to parents and guardians and gives contact information for these organizations.

Non-profit Alliance Defending Freedom and First Liberty Institution have committed to providing free advice and council to parents or guardians. See our website for further information on how to contact these organizations.

Mental Health Counselors in AL Schools-HB 123

“Opt-In Program”

On April 7, 2022, Governor Ivey signed into law HB123 that requires all public schools to employ a mental health services coordinator. Parents and guardians need to know that this is an “opt-in” program. A child under 14 may not participate in mental health counseling without the prior written consent of the student’s parent or guardian. “Mental health counseling” includes services, treatment, surveys, or assessments relating to mental health. As part of mental health counseling, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) can be introduced to students outside of parents’ knowledge. If parents believe their child needs mental health services; it would be prudent for parents to choose their own trusted mental health professional.

Securities & Exchange Commission Wants to Mandate Climate Related Disclosures

In our First Quarter newsletter, we wrote about the growth of private companies being encouraged to establish their Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) scores as it relates to their efforts to be “socially responsible” regarding climate change. Now the Biden Administration’s Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed changes in regulations to **compel** public companies to disclose their ESG scores. According to a report in *The Epoch Times* dated May 13, 2022, this proposed change is being pushed by a “small but powerful cohort of environmental activists and institutional investors, mostly index funds and asset managers, promoting climate consciousness as part of their business models.” These are funds managing other people’s money, not their own, and many investors would likely not agree with their activists opinions on the earth’s climate.

Law and finance professors from across the country have criticized the SEC proposal as exceeding the SEC’s authority and reflects the outsized influence of “institutional asset managers.” They say in their statements that climate models are imprecise and were not designed for the purpose of measuring financial risk exposure. They also take issue with the proposal’s emphasis on global financial consortia organized by the United Nations, saying that the United Nations is neither a business nor an investor and lacks any relevant expertise in either domain.

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has had statutory authority over climate-related issues since the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1974, which is one reason the SEC is overstepping its authority to compel companies to disclose their ESG scores. The SEC initiated a 60 day comment period on the proposed rules in late March, but it has extended the comment period until June 17, 2022.



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***Eagle Forum of Alabama
Education Foundation Newsletter***

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Eunie Smith, Managing Director, Elaine Little, Editor

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