

### **Civics Secures Democracy Act vs. Parents**

By Stephanie Holden Smith, Eagle Forum Sixth District Chair



In Alabama, and across the nation, parents have shifted tactics and are now fighting back by running for office themselves.

In Huntsville, Mountain Brook, Shelby County, and across the state, challengers are running for school board on a platform of common sense solutions, building bridges between parents and administrators, and ending political indoctrination in schools. Despite resolutions and assertions of the Governor and members of the State Board of Education to the contrary, critical race theory and the imposition of gender ideology continue to be promoted by teachers in many Alabama systems. Parents have had enough and they are running for office to be the representatives they now know they didn't have before.

Parents across Alabama are making a difference and putting their money where their mouths are. However, saying "all politics is local" is a truism that is being challenged by the federal behemoth that is the U.S. Department of Education. You might not have heard of it, but the Civics Secures Democracy Act is marching through Congress. It's stated purpose is to provide funding for states and school districts to build foundational civic knowledge, to ensure that schools focus on civic education fundamentals, and let students experience robust civic learning opportunities. Sounds good, right?

Advocates, including former Alabama Senator Doug Jones state that the bill forbids national history/civics curriculum. I've heard that one before. Two words: Common Core. Federal grants invite states to "voluntarily" adopt leftist curricula that Biden's Secretary of Education will approve of as they unilaterally decide which states win the cash. Note: that exact same disclaimer was used in the Obama Race to the Top grants to entice states to adopt Common Core. Toothless provisions like this are regularly inserted into bills meant to expand federal control; it's a political slight of hand with the aim of neutralizing political opposition, while doing nothing practical to impede the power of the pursestrings. It's the old carrot and stick routine.

The Civics Secures Democracy Act is clearly a leftist attempt at a civics coup; it must be stopped.

Proponents say the Act will provide \$600 million in free federal money through a completely optional grant program. I've heard that one before as well. There is no free lunch - especially not in the Biden era where educrats are literally holding poor kid's lunches hostage to further radical political and sexual indoctrination of public school students. The stated goal of the Act is to improve civics education for underserved students but advocates assert that the only way to eliminate achievement gaps is to revolutionize civics education. We're not talking about making sure kids understand how a bill becomes a law: this isn't "School House Rock". Progressive educators in Biden's administration assert that only anti-racist infused critical race theory and action civics (engaging in political protests for credit) will appeal to and improve minority student education.

Make no mistake, this Act is an attempt at the federal imposition of critical theory and action civics. It's federal cash for woke teacher development; it's federal cash to finish the transformation of higher education

*continued on page 2*

teacher training into service centers for equity; it's federal cash for the forced diversification of the teaching community - not of diversity of their academic content, mind you, but only of their melanin content. Jones and other advocates claim ... "the Civics Secures Democracy Act would provide future generations with the tools they need to engage with and care for a constitutional democracy that we must bring back into good health". Interesting. I'm pretty sure we have a constitutional republic. I guess that was an oversight in their civics messaging.

The best part of all of this totally innocuous free money and top-down civics programming from the Feds is the requirement that all grant recipient states participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress in civics and U.S. history. Translation: to get the cash you have to teach and test students on their radical version of history. Biden and his Fed Ed minions have repeatedly asserted that their approved version of U.S. history is based upon critical theory (gender and race) and action civics. Of course, advocates (falsely) claim that the grants aren't tied to student performance but that mandatory NAEP testing and reporting would simply be "to better understand civic progress by state". That doesn't sound simple to me. It sounds Orwellian.

The Civics Secures Democracy Act is clearly a leftist attempt at a civics coup; it must be stopped. The top-down approach to education in both our nation and state deserves the failing grades that we continue to receive. A re-assertion of local and parental control over education with a healthy infusion of basic academics and common sense are what will truly revolutionize our public education system.

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## **Confucius Institutes Rebrand Rep. Rogers, Brooks, Aderholt lead efforts to stop**

According to an report published by the National Association of Scholars on June 21, 2022, colleges and universities continue to host Chinese funded programs, similar to Confucius Institutes under new names. After being criticized by the public, they were under fire by state and federal officials who found them to be sources of censorship, propaganda and espionage.

Out of 118 Confucius Institutes in the U. S. 104 were closed or are in the process of closing. But at least 64 colleges and universities have reopened a Confucius Institute like program under a different name, according the NAS report. In the report, Rachelle Peterson, senior research fellow at NAS, wrote that "despite the demise of Confucius Institutes, colleges and universities have naively signed up for very similar programs under a new name."

An article in 1819 News on July 27, 2022 reported that Alabama U. S. Representatives Mike Rogers, Mo Brooks and Robert Aderholt, along with Republican Study Committee Chairman Jim Banks of Indiana, sent a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin inquiring why federal funds were going to schools with alleged connections to the Communist Chinese government.

According to the article, there are two Confucius Institute locations still in Alabama, one at Troy University and one at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. As we reported last year, the Institute at A&M was scheduled to close, but it is presently unclear if it is actually scheduled to close. Both the 2019 and the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act prohibit DOD funding which goes to schools with Confucius Institutes. Obviously, that should include similar programs that are connected with the Communist Party of China.

The U. S. House of Representatives passed the Women's Health Protection Act in September, 2021. It has not passed the Senate. However, since the Dobbs decision that returned abortion back to the states, a recent poll by the Harvard CAPS Harris Poll found that Americans strongly disagree with the Democratic Party's position on abortion access up to the time of birth. Americans strongly support a state ban on abortion at varying stages of pregnancy according to the poll. In fact, banning abortion access after 15 weeks of pregnancy is supported by over 75% of women polled. The poll also showed that Americans disagree with pro-abortion activists protesting outside the homes of Supreme Court justices homes should not be allowed.

*Source: LifeNews.com 7/6/2022*

Now that Roe is gone and states are allowed to protect unborn babies from abortion again, pro-life advocates are working to expand the support services for mothers of unborn babies. Legislation has been introduced in both the U. S. House and Senate by Republicans entitled the Unborn Child Support Act. This bill would allow mothers to apply for child support payments as soon as she is supporting a child. Other legislation also aims to improve maternal health care and pregnancy and parenting resources. At the state level, many pro-life lawmakers are working to improve maternal health care, including tax code reforms. Mississippi recently passed a bill that provides a tax credit for people who donate to pregnancy resource centers. Georgia is allowing parents to claim the unborn as dependents on tax returns.

*Source: LifeNews.com 7-18-2022*

Yet another life insurance company reveals deaths are up 40% among working age people aged 18-64. CEO Scott Davison of OneAmerica said that they are seeing the highest death rates they have seen in the history of their business. He also said that the data is consistent across every company in the business. This surge is true for all-cause mortality. It is higher than the total of deaths from WWI and WW2 combined. In 2021, Lincoln National reported a 163 % increase in death benefits that were paid out under their group life insurance policies.

*Source: Epoch Times 7-3-2022*

According to Liberty Mass.com, the FDA has issued a critical warning about the use of puberty blockers on minors. Their warning said that the drugs may cause swelling of the brain, loss of vision, and extreme risks for kids injected with the hormones. FDA officials states there is a plausible association between the use of puberty blockers and pseudotumor cerebri, which expresses symptoms the same way as a brain tumor, was found in a group of six young girls ranging from 5 to 12 years old. The symptoms in these patients included headaches, visual disturbances, and vomiting. Other effects that were noticeable included blood pressure spikes, abducens neuropathy, and swelling of the brain. This was labeled as clinically serious and that there needed to be a warning issued and added to all GnRH agonists products for minors.

*Source: Liberty Mass.com 7-22-22*

"The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

SAMUEL JOHNSON

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."

BILLY GRAHAM

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

HENRY VAN DYKE

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"What is liberty without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils...madness without restraint."

EDMUND BURKE, 1791

"Power, like vanity, is insatiable. Nothing short of omnipotence could satisfy it completely....It is, indeed, by far the strongest motive in the lives of important men."

BERTRAND RUSSELL

"There is a lust in power. It can get into a man's blood just as gambling and lust for money have been known to do."

HARRY TRUMAN, 1950

"Of all forms of government, those administered by bureaus are about the least satisfactory to an enlightened and progressive people. Being irresponsible, they become autocratic."

CALVIN COOLIDGE, 1926

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## *What's Good About America?*

### *Roger Sherman and the Constitution*

By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum

Roger Sherman was born April 19, 1721, to William and Mehetabel Sherman. Roger was homeschooled, largely self-taught with a grasp of many subjects. As Sherman built his career in business, he gained a reputation for “common sense and good judgment.”<sup>1</sup> Sherman was vitally involved in the founding of our Federal Republic and was so trusted that he is the only man who signed all of our founding documents including the Articles of Association (1774), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Articles of Confederation (1777) and the Constitution of the United States (1787).<sup>2</sup>



During the debate on the adoption of our country's Constitution, Edmund Randolph of Virginia proposed a bicameral legislature with representation of each state determined by population. This proposal met opposition from William Patterson of New Jersey who proposed that each state elect an equal number of representatives in both houses of Congress. The deadlock over the issue of the determination of a state's representation at the Federal level caused a deadlock in the negotiations to produce the document to govern our country.

Roger Sherman was representing his adopted state of Connecticut. Sherman held that the rights of small states should be protected. Sherman proposed that the state's representation in the House of Representatives be determined proportionately by population and the state's representation in the Senate be equal for every state. This proposal found agreement and broke the deadlock.

Each House has some unique responsibilities. Some of those unique characteristics include the principles that revenue bills must originate in the House, while international treaties and confirmation of Federal Court appointments are restricted to the Senate. Our federal legislative branch operates with the check and balance of the House representing the populace while the Senate represents the interests of the states.

This aspect of our United States Constitution demonstrates how our federal government is a Constitutional Republic, a brilliant system where the law is our governing principle and the rights of the individual are protected as the power of governance is deposited in one place.

With much recent discussion on “democracy,” we must remember that our founders gave us a Republic not a democracy. As citizens of our constitutional republic, may we protect our United States Constitution that has protected our rights since 1787 and will guide us well to shield us from tyranny.

<sup>1</sup>Gregory D. Lucas “Roger Sherman” *The SAR Magazine Spring, 2017, pages 22-23*

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### **API Survey of Local School Board Members**

A recent survey of local school board members by the Alabama Policy Institute shows a lack of transparency in local public schools. Only 16% of board members responded to the survey, however, it shows a lot about the difference in the way they view education and that of parents. For instance, 74% of members oppose school choice, while 80% of Alabamians support it. 68% of members support social-emotional learning (SEL) and 73% of respondents support diversity training. 22% of respondents said that schools should make an effort to equalize outcomes based on either race or gender. 46% said that schools were closed down for the right amount of time during COVID-19.

This information was published by 1819 News on 8-31-2022 and is available at their website.  
<https://1819news.com/news/item/emma-gibney-api-survey-reveals-lack-of-transparency-in-local-public-schools>

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# Eagle Forum Joins Other Conservative Organizations to Urge Red Line Reforms in Year-End Spending Packages

Eagle Forum has signed on to a statement issued on September 6, 2022 by about 30 other conservative organizations urging Congress to adopt substantive measures to protect the American people from the profligate spending of the Biden administration. The letter states that:

The United States is now in the middle of the Biden Economic Recession because of misguided and harmful policies inflicted upon the American people by an administration in thrall to progressive orthodoxy. It is imperative that Congress be the voice of working men and women, families, and the long-suffering taxpayers bearing the brunt of Washington's destructive decision-making.

The statement lists 7 areas of concern that should be addressed:

- **Freeze Discretionary Spending Levels:** The House recently passed a \$1.6 trillion deeming resolution to permit a \$132 billion increase in baseline discretionary spending. Since then, year-over-year inflation has risen to an astounding 9.1 percent. Working and middle-class Americans are struggling to pay for basic necessities driven in large part by profligate federal spending. At a minimum, Congress must freeze discretionary spending at current FY2022 levels.
- **Reject A Lame Duck Omnibus:** Lawmakers should reject any attempt to pass FY2023 omnibus spending bills during a lame duck session of Congress. This would only enable the passage of costly progressive policies inflicting additional and unnecessary pain on American workers, taxpayers, and consumers. Deferring FY2023 appropriations to the 118th Congress increases opportunities to enact fiscal restraints and slow inflation.
- **Unleash American Energy:** Congress must leverage appropriations measures to secure policy changes that unleash American energy and provide relief to the American consumer. This includes repealing harmful renewable subsidies, dismantling costly and unreliable green energy initiatives in federal agencies, initiating rapid deployment of baseload powerplants, and statutorily overturning regulations that inhibit reliable energy production, consumption, and development.
- **Prohibit Taxpayer-Funded Abortion:** Congress should ensure that taxpayer funding of abortion remains prohibited and the conscience rights of healthcare professionals maintained. Federal taxpayers must not be required to subsidize abortion, especially in the aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision. The Biden administration has signaled its radical intentions through the creation of a Department of Justice abortion task force designed to target pregnancy care centers while attacking states that pass laws that protect women and unborn children. Congress must not support any spending measure that funds this authoritarian task force and should instead ensure that such efforts are shut down.
- **Secure the Southern Border:** With some 71,000 Americans dead from fentanyl overdoses in just the last year, nearly 900,000 "got-a-ways" that have entered the United States and disappeared since FY 2021, and apprehensions equivalent to the entire population of Wales in just the last year, Congress must refuse to advance any appropriations measure that fails to enact the policies necessary to secure the southern border. This includes requiring the installation of border barriers, requiring ICE to remove illegal immigrants through interior enforcement, and statutorily reinstating Trump-era border protocols such as Title 42 removal authority and the Remain in Mexico program.
- **End Destructive COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates:** Medical providers and the U.S. military are facing critical labor and recruiting shortages with thousands of our best and brightest terminated or facing discharge for refusing to receive a vaccine in violation of their conscience. This is compounded by recent admissions from top health officials that the vaccine has shown diminished effectiveness at preventing COVID-19 transmission. The hypocrisy must end. Congress should overturn these tyrannical and self-destructive mandates in any funding measure.
- **Dismantle and Defund Recent IRS Spending Authority:** The Biden administration's recent \$80 billion spending binge to hire roughly 87,000 new agents (perhaps even more if the 2021 Treasury Report plan is followed) is just another burden stacked on top of hardworking Americans. It is reprehensible that Congress would compound record inflation and \$30 trillion in national debt by forcing middle-class Americans to fund the very bureaucrats who will target them. This new power and funding must be dismantled.

Congress should not fund government policies that brazenly harm American workers and families. Mandates that curb the freedoms of our selfless first responders and punish the very servicemembers who swore an oath to defend us must also be abolished. We urge congressional lawmakers to stand firm in the funding battles on the horizon and fight for the very people who have entrusted them to lead us out of this cascading policy nightmare.

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# The Great Chinese Landgrab

Chinese companies with ties to the Chinese Communist Party continue to purchase large chunks of land in the U. S. The recent purchase of 300 acres very close to the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota has again raised security concerns. This air base uses some of the nation's most sensitive drone technology. The Chinese company that purchased the land, the Fufeng Group, says that they plan to construct a plant to manufacture synthetic sweeteners, but according to an article published by the Daily Signal on August 12, 2022, the president of Fufeng, Li Xuechun, is an active member and supporter of the Chinese Communist Party and has been recognized by the party as a model laborer.

According to the National Association of Realtors, a recent report said that China is the 3rd largest foreign buyer of U. S. lands, behind Canada and Mexico. They spent \$6.1 billion last year on its acquisitions. An article published on the SaraCarter.com website said that a report issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 2020 indicated that "foreign persons held an interest in nearly 37.6 million acres of U. S. agricultural land." It also said that approximately 14 states have some level of foreign ownership restriction yet there are no federal restrictions on the amount of U. S. agricultural land that can be owned. By 2020, the Chinese owned 194,179 acres.



Senator Tommy Tuberville, Rep. Alabama

Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville, along with Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, has introduced a bill to protect the United States from China ownership. The bill is called the Securing America's Land from Foreign Interference Act. In an interview with the Daily Signal, the news outlet for the Heritage Foundation, Tuberville called for an end to China's purchase of U. S. land because of a security threat.

Tuberville went on to say that "It's important that we start closing the door on that because...we spend billions of dollars on research and development, and millions of taxpayer dollars, by the way, in some instances, and [the Chinese] don't have to do that." He went on to say that they just steal the intellectual property and start manu-

facturing. It puts us at a huge disadvantage..

A similar bill ([H.R.7892](#)) was introduced in the House on May 27, 2022, by Rep. Dan Newhouse, entitled Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act. Newhouse said that Chinese assets in the U. S. have gone up by a factor of 20 over the last decade. Newhouse is quoted in the Daily Signal article as saying: "Why that's important, and people need to fully appreciate this, that having a country like China with a determined goal to increase their control of the United States food production [is] not only an issue of food security for us, but I think this is a huge national security issue, as well."

Newhouse also stated that "We have heard the president of China, President Xi [Jinping], state several times that their goal is to create a "community of common destiny for mankind. That is to remake the world in their image. And what's happening around the globe, what I described, is what's known as the Belt and Road Initiative that China has undertaken."

In a recent Fox News op-ed, Senator Cotton shared the same concerns over the Chinese government potentially controlling the United States food supply. Cotton stated: "By taking our land and food-processing companies for themselves, Chinese communists benefit their own people and gain leverage over the United States in one fell swoop."

Smithfield Foods, based in Smithfield, Virginia, the largest pork processor and hog producer in the world, was sold to Chinese billionaire Wan Long in 2013.

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## Second Annual Student Eagle Conference

In July, we had our Second Annual National Student Eagle-Leadership Institute Leadership Conference in Franklin, TN with students from across the nation, including Alabama students from Huntsville to Dothan. The Alabama groups was led by Mrs. Lori Herring, Alabama Student Eagles Director.

In Franklin the students received training in political activism, leadership, using digital technology and social media effectively, running a recruitment table and networking. The flagship event in this year's conference was the unveiling of our newest nationwide endeavor, Blackstonian Moot Court. In collaboration with Houston Baptist University and led by Dr Virginia Armstrong, the students were taught how to understand and communicate the Judeo-Christian viewpoint on selected landmark Supreme Court cases from the last 100 years. This is a changing event, but the students did a spectacular job! We look forward to further developing and making the program available to students across the nation. Go ahead now and save the date for next year's event which we plan to have in Washington, DC on the last weekend in July 2023. [Submitted by Mrs. Lori Herring, Alabama Student Eagle Director on far right in the picture.]



Alabama Student Eagles at Conference in Franklin, TN. July 2022

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## CRT Isn't in the Curriculum, It's the Language of the Curriculum

Larry O'Conner wrote an insightful article published in Townhall.com where he discussed the continued denial by education authorities saying that CRT is not in the curriculum thus trying to convince parents and others that it does not exist. They think that if they say "it is not in the curriculum" enough times it will be believed by parents who see it with their own eyes. O'Connor wrote that "While there is no course or curriculum that is entitled "Critical Race Theory 101" class in our schools, it is a deception not worthy of the best liars in the media."

CRT has infiltrated public school lesson plans. It is the language used to instruct. A vocabulary might include the words "whiteness," and oppressor," or "privilege" so CRT is introduced to the student through discussion. A reading lesson provides a selection of books all focusing on "racial justice" for a book report. Math problems may contain references to problems with a CRT slant, thus requiring the student to be exposed to the ideology.

Yes, CRT may not be formally taught in a school, but it may be and likely is woven into the very fabric of the curriculum of the school.

It would be easy to opt a child out of the CRT class. It's a lot harder to disentangle the Critical Race Theory ideology from every part of the language and framework in the curriculum used by teachers who may have been indoctrinated through their college instruction and see this as the proper way to teach.

It's there no matter how much teachers, school boards and governors deny it. It is now the language of the schools.

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