

## Legislative Session in Review

Eagle Forum was extremely active during this past legislative session,. Executive Director Becky Gerritson reported working Eagles for the passage of good legislation and working to stop bills that do not reflect the values of Alabama citizens. Below is a rundown of many of the bills Eagle Forum supported:

- Eagle Forum's biggest disappointment was that the PRICE ACT(SB202) sponsored by Senator Stutts did not pass. This bill to create universal education choice for all Alabama students in K-12 passed two Senate committees, but did not reach the floor for a vote. The bill will return next year.
- SB 261 by Senator Roberts, as originally filed, banned the use of ESG scores to promote a liberal agenda. It passed but was heavily amended to carve out the most egregious offenders within the business community. It needs further action in the future to properly protect the businesses and industries of Alabama.
- HB209 by Representative Keil to ban ballot harvesting in Alabama elections. It passed the House with a strong majority vote of 76-28 and moved to the Senate. It did not reach to Senate floor for a vote.
- HB208 by Representative Keil to provide a tax credit for donations to Pregnancy Resource Centers. It passed the House and the Senate committee, but did not come to a vote in the Senate.
- HB298 by Representative Sells. This bill would require cell phones and tablets sold in Alabama to have the content filter be defaulted to off. This no brainer bill would protect children from the pornography so easily accessible on these devices. It passed the House, but, while passed in committee, was not brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote.
- HB7 by Representative Oliver which would ban divisive concepts (critical theory) in Alabama schools. Again, the bill passed the House and the Senate committee but did not get to the Senate floor for a vote.
- HB4 by Representative Chestnut to ban involuntary microchipping humans. It **passed** the House 108-0 and the Senate 33-0.
- HB261 by Representative Dubose to protect Women's sports. The bill **passed** 83-5 in the House and 26-4 in the Senate.
- SB 113 by Senator Gudger to ensure Hospital Visitation Rights. It **passed** the Senate 33-0 and the House 100-3.
- HB 187 by Representative Brown to require parental permission for vaccines, The bill passed in the House but failed to pass the Senate.
- SB59 by Senator Smitherman to protect non-profit donors identity. The bill **passed** both houses.

*Session continued on page 2*

- HB101 by Representative Shaver related to adoption **passed** the House 105-0 and the Senate 31-0.
- HB401 by Representative Mooney to protect children from drag queen shows. The bill did not move in the House of origin but will be reintroduced next session.
- HB473 by Representative Givens to provide Baby Boxes in fire stations and other emergency centers to facilitate the surrender of unwanted babies in order to prevent harm to the babies. This pro-life legislation **passed** the House 100-0 and the Senate 31-0.
- HB348 by Representative Faulkner to amend the Universal Commercial Code. Such bills are passed by the various legislatures every few years to control the way business is conducted in the United States. Eagle Forum was able to get this bill amended to help protect Alabama from the push for a Central Bank Digital Currency by stating that digital currency would not be acknowledged as money in Alabama. The bill **passed** both houses.
- SB330 by Senator Roberts. This bill **passed** and will prohibit AL from being a testbed for CBDC's which is scheduled to take place this summer.
- HJR104 and SJR57. These resolutions would have rescinded all Alabama calls for a convention of states to amend the U. S. Constitution. Eagle Forum has long opposed such a convention, now more than ever with the political climate in the country. Such a convention could very likely be the demise of our Constitution. Due to the heavy lobbying by the proponents of such a convention, the leadership of both Houses did not bring the resolutions for a vote.

We opposed the following bills:

- HB319 by Representative Drummond to regulate vaping. We totally agree with the purpose of this bill. However, we think the bill needs important amendments prior to passage. The bill passed the House and a Senate committee, but was not voted on the Senate floor.
- HB319 by Representative Warren that would allow 4 year olds to attend kindergarten. We do not agree that parents of 4 year old children should be encouraged to enroll their children in public kindergarten due to their immaturity at that age. The bill passed the House and a Senate committee, but did not come to a vote in the Senate.
- SB 334 by Senator Smitherman to legalize gambling in Greene County. This bill was presented as a local bill. These are generally passed as a courtesy to the local representative or senator. However, this was a stealth bill which could have opened up such gambling to all other counties. Thankfully, the true impact of the legislation was recognized. While it passed the Senate, it did not receive a vote in the House. However, we expect such legislation using the avenue of local bill to be pursued in the future.

This was a very busy session, with both good and bad work going on. Eagle Forum appreciates all those who helped lobby and those who helped by reading our weekly reports and calling their legislators when needed on the various bills.

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### **Worth repeating:**

“You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity. What one person receives without working for another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend is the beginning of the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.”

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*Adrian Rogers, a former Southern Baptist convention President (3 times) and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church*

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## What's Good About America?

### In God We Trust

By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum Newsletter

On September 13, 1814, American hopes looked dim as the Capitol had been burned and occupied by the invading British troops in what is now known as the War of 1812. Just North of Washington D.C., some British soldiers straggled in from DC and were arrested by local authorities for pillaging homes near Baltimore. British authorities imprisoned Dr. William Beanes whom they deemed responsible for the arrest of the British soldiers.



Francis Scott Key was a prominent attorney in Baltimore and went aboard a British ship to negotiate the release of Dr. Beanes, an effort in which Key was successful. But before Key and Barnes could leave the ship, the British began to bombard Fort McHenry. Key was forced to remain on the ship and through a window watch as the British fired mercilessly upon the American fort.

For a while, all seemed lost, but Key would watch and hope "O, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" Key wrote this wonderful poem, later put to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" to become the marvelous Star-Spangled Banner. But in his writing Key told of the glorious defense of Fort McHenry and gave praise to God saying "and this be our motto, In God is our trust." The term "In God we trust" became an unofficial motto.

During the War Between the States, Rev. Mark Watkinson of the First Particular Baptist Church in Ridleyville, PA contacted Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase and asked the Secretary to add recognition of Almighty God on coins. In 1864, Congress voted to add the words "In God We Trust" on the two-cents coin.

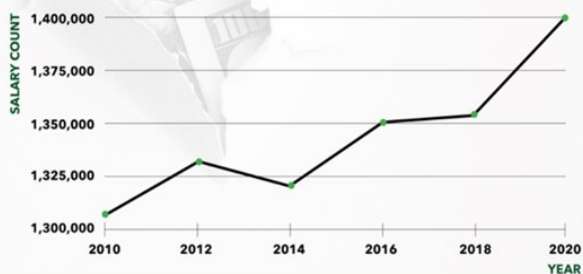
In 1907, the slogan was omitted from a newly designed coin, bringing a public outcry. On May 18, 1908, Congress voted to include the motto on coins which had previously used the slogan. On July 11, 1955, Congress passed a law mandating that all coins bear the slogan "In God We Trust." On July 30, 1956, Congress passed a law that "In God We Trust" would be our national motto and the legislation was signed in to law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The historical precedent of this motto does demonstrate that the United States recognizes God as the authority over our country. While our Constitution does not establish any set religion, our founders recognized the authority of God in all matters.

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MAPPING THE SWAMP

### TOTAL EMPLOYEES

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES (FY2010-FY2020)



Source: OpenTheBooks.com FOIA via OPM

### The Administrative State i.e. (The Swamp)

We pay Beltway bureaucrats in the federal executive agencies outside of the Defense Department and the U.S. Post Office some \$576 million per day as of 2020.

That's more than \$210 billion per year for the 1.44 million employees of 125 rank-and-file general administrative, civil enforcement and federal law enforcement agencies.

In 109 of the 125 federal agencies in Washington, the average employee salary is more than \$100,000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average real median wage for the average employee was \$54,339 in 2021.

Information from [OpenTheBooks.com](https://openthebooks.com) 4/28/2023

The Electric Research Institute's report titled "Net Zero 2050: U. S. Economy-Wide Deep Decarbonization Scenario Analysis" was issued in September 2022. The report says, "Today the United States derives 84% of its primary energy from fossil fuels. In the net-zero scenarios, between 9% and 53% remains fossil-based by 2050. No amount of wind turbines, solar panels, hydropower, nuclear power, battery power, electrification of fossil-fuel technologies or energy-efficiency technologies will get us to net zero by 2050."

U. S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Independent from Arizona, introduced Senate Bill 884, the Improving Digital Identity Act on March 21. It was ordered out of committee on March 29. The bill calls for the formation of a public-private partnership to implement this system. The bill is vague and left open for bureaucrats to require a digital ID to perform any function considered "high-risk, high-value online services."

Globalists with ties to the United Nations and the World Economic Forum have advocated for such an ID system as a way to control so called "disinformation" from the internet. Once established, it becomes easy to restrict everyday human movement and activities based on a social credit score similar to that used in Communist China.

Senator Sinema said, "We are supporting innovation and enhancing privacy by improving digital verification to combat identity theft, fraud and cyber-crime." Sounds so good! But over time it will likely require us to show our digital papers to perform ever more functions in society.

*Source: Leo Hohmann.com*

Left wing politicians are bowing to environmental extremists who want to rid the world of petroleum and its products. Their short sighted view would rid us of most of the products we use every day. Besides the obvious things—gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, kerosene, butane, etc., all plastics are derived by petroleum. Just to name a few, construction materials, linoleum flooring, furniture, appliances, home décor items, house paint, sports equipment all contain materials from petroleum. Let's not forget soap, shampoo, and toothpaste. We cannot survive in our modern world without petroleum, which we have in abundance in our country. It's about so much more than driving electric cars.

*Source: Cornwall Alliance*

The 1819 News reported that Alabama is no longer required to follow the 2023 Waters of the United States rule which was the Biden administration federal government's authority to regulate water in streams and ponds under the Clean Water Act. A federal judge in North Dakota halted implementation of the rule. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall joined 24 other attorneys generals to file the suit. Marshall said, "The Biden Administration's latest power grab has been brought to a halt ...with the court's injunction against the rule." The Biden administration claimed authority over even isolated ditches and ponds. He said that these local matters are reserved to the States and that local farmers and landowners are best able and have the most incentive to properly manage their land.

*1819 News 4-14-23*

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

*George Washington*

"The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the Holy Scripture must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth."

*John Quincy Adams*

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."

*Abraham Lincoln*

"Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic, expression of Americanism."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"The rights of men come, not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."

*John F. Kennedy*

"The Truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, Ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is."

*Winston Churchill*

"Wisdom implies more than merely being able to process information in a logical way. Wisdom is the ability to assimilate factual learning with life experience and then filter the result through Biblical principles and implement a decision using God-directed good judgement."

*Dr. Sherri Tenpenny*



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# Poisoning the Minds of Our Youth

Perhaps you have heard of the parents in Prattville who are working to get LGBTQIA+ books removed from the children's area of the library their children frequent. So far, they have managed to have some of the offending books removed from the children's area and placed in an area less available to their children. But, they have managed to identify many others which need to be removed. We applaud the efforts of these parents to protect their youngsters impressionable minds and hearts

Have you ever wondered why librarians put LGBTQIA+ books in both public and school libraries? You need go no further than the America Library Association.

Of course, the problem is not limited to a small conservative town in red state Alabama. These books are likely present in many libraries around the state and certainly around the nation. That is because of a list of books "recommended" by the Rainbow Book List Committee published each year by the American Library Association. The 2023 Rainbow Book List was published to members throughout the nation in early 2023 as it has been each year. Here is the link to the 2023 List. <https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/archives/1444>



As their announcement says in their own words, they are "honored to announce this year's list" of 190 books for young readers from birth to age 18. They go on to say the following which clearly states the purpose and goal of the list:

"The importance of this list (and others like it) cannot be understated, especially in a time when we are seeing a record number of efforts to ban both materials and support for LGBTQIA+ young people and their families. It is our hope that our efforts to identify appealing and high quality queer books for youth will help young people, librarians, educators, and caregivers of all kinds to connect our readers with information and stories that are critical to their well being and growth."

They also say,:

"...we offer this carefully curated list to the multitude of youth advocates working in our communities to connect young readers to the books that they so desperately need. This collection of titles is an invitation for all readers to create a more welcoming future for everyone."

"It has been encouraging to see the increase in quality queer titles being published each year, and with that in mind, the 2023 committee has continued to offer two top ten lists. The *Top Ten Titles for Young Readers* are intended for young people from birth to middle school, and the *Top Ten Titles for Teen Readers* are for a young adult audience. Within the annotated list, an asterisk (\*) indicates that a title has been selected for one of the top ten lists."

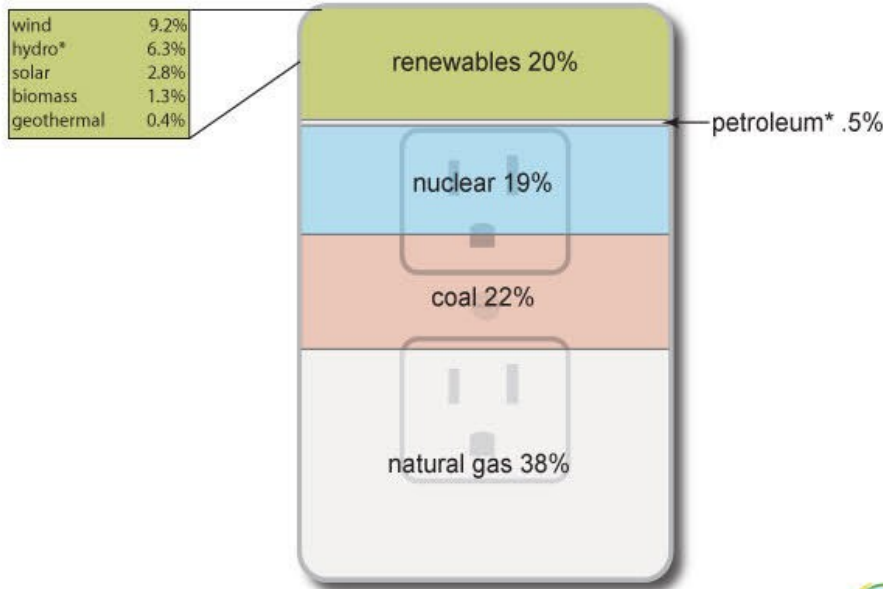
We encourage concerned parents and grandparents to check out the books in your local public libraries and school libraries. Most libraries have on-line catalogs of their collection that members can access. With a list of the books on the Rainbow Book List, hopefully books on the list can be identified that are in your libraries and you can take appropriate action to have them removed or, at the least, removed from the children's area.

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## Biden Energy Department Data Shows We Need Fossil Fuels

### Sources of U.S. electricity generation, 2021

Total = 4.12 trillion kilowatthours



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*, February 2022, preliminary data

Note: Includes generation from power plants with at least 1,000 kilowatts of electric generation capacity (utility-scale).

\*Hydro is conventional hydroelectric. \*Petroleum includes petroleum liquids, petroleum coke, other gases, hydroelectric pumped storage, and other sources.



## Alabama's Low Labor Participation Rate

On April 30, 2023, an 1819 News report by Jeff Poor said that while the state continues to have a low unemployment rate, it also continues to have a low labor participation rate. In other words, there are too many able bodied people who are not in the labor force and are not actively seeking jobs.

In an interview with Mobile radio FM Talk show, The Jeff Poor Show, Senator Katie Britt suggested that “federal benefits kept some parts of the able-bodied workforce on the sidelines.”

She explained that while the state unemployment rate is 2.6 %, Alabama's labor participation rate is just above 56%, among the lowest in the nation and 6 points below the national average.

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## More Important Than Dobbs Decision?

An article in PJMedia.com by Mark Tapscott makes the case that the *Shurtleff v. City of Boston* that won a 9-0 victory from the U.S. Supreme Court is as important, or more important, than the Dobbs decision returning abortion law to the states because it restored the right of every American to practice and express their religious beliefs, as guaranteed by the 1st Amendment. As Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver stated:

“This 9-0 decision from the Supreme Court involving the Christian flag continues to have an impact across the nation. The clear message from the Supreme Court is that government must not discriminate based on viewpoint. The government cannot favor one viewpoint and censor another and cannot censor religious viewpoints under the guise of government speech. Any governments that are ignoring this ruling are setting themselves up for potential lawsuits.

“The facts of *Shurtleff* were simple enough: Boston city officials barred the display of a flag bearing a Christian message in a square that for decades had welcomed the flags of a wide spectrum of causes, movements, and organizations. They did so because the application submitted by the sponsoring group referred to it as a ‘Christian flag’.”

The justices also laid the groundwork for reversing the “Lemon Test” the Court had established way back in 1971 in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* which was used for decades by the Court to decide if a law or practice will pass constitutional muster or not. Then in the Court's *Kennedy v. Bremerton* decision, the court affirmed that high school football coach Joseph Kennedy had the right to pray in public at the 50-yard line after games in which his players competed.

In the Kennedy case the High Court finally buried the “Lemon Test,” citing Liberty Counsel's 9-0 decision in *Shurtleff v. City of Boston* involving the Christian flag. In their opinion in the Kennedy case, the Justices wrote: “In fact, just this term, the Court unanimously rejected a city's attempt to censor religious speech based on Lemon and the endorsement test.”

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# Get the USA Out of WHO

On May 17, 2023, National Eagle Forum announced that it was joining the Sovereignty Coalition along with like-minded Congressmen (including Rep. Barry Moore, AL2) to call on our nation's leaders to pull the United States out of the World Health Organization (WHO). As the WHO moves forward with its plan to make itself *the* global health authority, Eagle Forum members are prepared to fight to retain our American sovereignty and freedoms. Alabama Eagle Forum strongly supports this position.

As expressed in the press release by the Sovereignty Coalition, "The World Health Organization (WHO) is a supranational United Nations agency that is effectively controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), as evidenced, among other things, by the manner in which the WHO's Director General, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, has relentlessly accomplished Beijing's bidding. That includes advancing the CCP's interest in bringing about a post-constitutional America and "global governance" dominated by the Party.

"These factors make it hardly surprising that, in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO lied about the nature, origins and effective responses to the Wuhan Virus. It endorsed the 'China Model' of lockdowns, masks and vaccine mandates and digital enforcement mechanisms. And the WHO approved the use of expensive and inadequately tested experimental and dangerous gene therapies as 'vaccines' and the suppression of readily available, effective and inexpensive treatments. Thanks in part to such misconduct, the pandemic has resulted in the deaths of over a million Americans and many more elsewhere around the world, an untold number of whom perished needlessly.

"Given the WHO's appalling record, it is outrageous that the Biden administration is working to give the WHO and its Director-General more power over sovereign nations, including the United States. Yet, U.S. government officials are actively negotiating amendments to existing International Health Regulations and a new treaty governing future 'public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC)'. These accords would effectively repose in Dr. Tedros the authority unilaterally to dictate what constitutes an actual or potential PHEIC and to '*order how affected nations must respond*'.

"The United States must end its membership in, cease funding of, and submitting to the World Health Organization before the WHO is granted the authority effectively to compel compliance with the public health dictates of Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus or any other unelected, unaccountable international bureaucrat."

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## Alabama Public Health Officer

Alabama Eagle Forum has been concerned about the fact that the Alabama State Health Officer is not accountable to anyone in our state government. Unlike other states, the position is hired by an unelected board made up of members of the Medical Association of Alabama. No one in Alabama government has the right to hire or fire the person holding this position. This position manages the entire State Health Department and consequently all the county health offices. Our present State Health Officer is Dr. Scott Harris. During the COVID pandemic, Dr. Harris slavishly followed the CDC recommendations regarding business closures, school closures, social distances and mask wearing, beyond health issues. We now know these were not effective and severely damaged our people and our economy. Under state law, this position has the sole authority to order such things. No one person in government should have such unchallengeable power.

SB171 introduced this last session by Senator Givhan would have made this position appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The bill was "gutted" in committee, likely due to heavy lobbying by the medical leadership, so that during a general emergency, orders issued by the State Health Officer would have to be approved by the Governor. This is a far cry from having the position appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The "gutted" bill passed the Senate, but was indefinitely postponed in the House on 5-31-2023, thus killing the bill for this session.

Such emergency orders should be issued by the Governor, taking the recommendation of the Health Officer into consideration, as well as the overall impact of the orders on the state as a whole.

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

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Birmingham, AL 35213

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