

## HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY: Problem Solved, Questions Remain

by Pat Ellis, Eagle Forum of Alabama Vice President- Issues

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, Alabama is one of 40 states that participate in the CDC's State and Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for high school students. The CDC survey is administered every other year and is anonymous. While we cannot find out which schools participated in the survey, we do know that some Alabama high school students participated in the [2019](#) and [2021](#) surveys.

Some questions are reasonable; others are not. The following are a few examples that raise red flags.

- #27 During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?
- #28 During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?
- #41 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours.
- #45 During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?
- #50 During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or free-base?
- #51 During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high.
- #52 During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk or China White)?
- #54 During your life, how many times have you used ecstasy (also called MDMA)?
- #59 How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time? *For this multiple- choice question, one option is 11 years or younger.*
- #60 During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse? *This question gives options of 6 or more people.*
- #62 Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?
- #65 During your life with whom have you had sexual intercourse? *Some options are gay, lesbian or bisexual.*

These questions BEG the question; who vetted and approved this survey for use in Alabama classrooms; or was the survey even vetted?

Through our research, Eagle Forum learned that another survey was scheduled in the forty states for 2023. While many of the questions were the same, the 2023 survey included the following:

- #64 Which of the following best describes you? Choices were heterosexual, gay or lesbian, bisexual, I describe my sexual identity some other way, I am not sure about my sexual identity (questioning), I do not know what the question is asking.
- #65 Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

Eagle Forum began researching this issue in the fall of 2022. We were genuinely concerned that the 2023 CDC Survey would be administered to students without parental notification. The questions on suicide were especially troubling in light of the suicide rate among teens. The manner in which the questions asked normalize the behavior.

*CDC Survey continued on page 2*

The CDC is a federal agency, consequently, we contacted Congressman Palmer's office. His Chief of Staff, William Smith, was very prompt in responding to our inquiry regarding which schools in Alabama have given this survey. Following is the reply he received from his congressional contact at the CDC: "The YRBS is an anonymous survey and CDC does not maintain a list of schools that conduct the survey."

We then contacted the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). Their response on October 28, 2022, was that their team did "extensive research and they cannot even locate those questions in any survey in the country. Neither could they find any evidence of such a survey in the past."

Eagle Forum followed up on October 31, 2022, by sending ALSDE the links to the survey with the list of participating states. Here is a link to the 2023 Survey [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2023/2023\\_yrbs\\_national\\_hs\\_questionnaire.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2023/2023_yrbs_national_hs_questionnaire.pdf)

On December 12, 2022, the Alabama State Department of Education sent a letter to Dr. Nancy Brener at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. This is an excerpt: "Regarding Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention federal award #5NU87PS00429805000/18NU87PS004298 for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Profiles, the Alabama State Department of Education is submitting this letter as official notification of the intent to terminate the above noted grant effective immediately. All work related to this grant agreement and all communication with any Alabama school or district will be expected to cease forthwith." Eagle Forum appreciates the letter sent to the CDC cancelling this grant.

Lesson learned: Alabama needs to pass legislation to provide transparency in education.

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## Department of Education: LGBT's over ABC's



In June of this year, the U. S. Department of Education released the disastrous results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores. Ironically, this was the same day they released guidance encouraging school districts to mobilize students for left-wing political action based upon their sexuality. The NAEP scores showed that 13 year olds are nearly a grade behind in math compared to 13 year olds 3 years ago.

We remember GSA's as "Gay-Straight Alliance" clubs that encouraged solidarity against homosexual bullying. But today, according to the DOE, this stands for "Genders and Sexualities Alliances" that are intended to "empower and train trans, queer, and allied youth to advocate, organize, and mobilize an intersectional movement" for "racial and gender justice" and "intersectional liberation."

The Department of Education guidance also encouraged schools to adopt more "inclusive language." For example, removing the words "mother and father" from school forms.

On that same day the Department of Education announced its intent to force schools to punish students who don't use preferred pronouns. It also chose to insist that so-called "book bans" could violate students' civil rights, which most reasonable people know is not true. We are seeing major revolts by parents all across the nation about the sexual nature of books in school and public libraries. (see article on page 4 for update on this subject here in Alabama).

But the timing here is actually a bit galling. The Department of Education could have picked any day of this month — of this four-year term, really — to release this "toolkit" on "creating inclusive and nondiscriminatory school environments for LGBTQI+ students." It chose to do so on the day that NAEP scores, which any reasonable observer expected to show horrible results, were released.

*Based upon an editorial published on June 25, 2023 by Max Eden in the Washington Examiner*

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Rep. Gary Palmer, R AL introduced a stand alone bill called the Citizen Ballot Protection Act in June. He called the bill “common sense.” The ban on checking citizenship is the No.1 problem with the Motor Voter Act. The Public Interest Legal Foundation has said that there were 1334 foreign nationals on the registration lists in Virginia alone. Registration also does not include Social Security numbers, so it is not possible to use E-verify to check status. The bill has now been added to an omnibus election reform bill called the American Confidence in Elections Act although it could still be considered alone.

We are hearing a lot these days about lab grown meat being better for the environment than natural meat. Results from a study by the UC Davis Department of Food Science study say that the amount of energy needed and the greenhouse gases emitted to create artificial beef shows that the global warming potential of lab-based meat using present pharmaceutical methods exceeds that needed 4 to 25 times greater than the average for retail beef. The study says that if the “lab grown” meat continues to use the ‘pharma’ approach, it is going to continue to be more energy intensive. The study’s lead author, Derrick Risner, stated: “My concern would just be scaling up too quickly and doing something harmful for the environment.” Lab grown meat, which is cultured from animal cells, has been lauded by activists as being more environmentally friendly than beef, as it uses less land, water, and produces no greenhouse gases, compared to raising cattle. *Epoch Times*, 7/20/23

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit has decided that the Food and Drug Administration must restore the safeguards to chemical abortion drugs used to end the life of a human baby. The court found that the federal government, under former President Barack Obama’s administration, improperly loosened regulations on the abortion drugs in 2016 to make it easier for women to access the drugs. The court said it was not lawful for women to use the drugs later than 10 weeks and that it was unlawful for non-doctors to prescribe abortion drugs or for providers to mail the abortion drugs directly to women. The drugs will still be available while the litigation continues.

*The Daily Signal*, 8-16-2023

The Sound Money Defense League (SMDL) released its annual Sound Money Index report for 2023 earlier this year. The report measures states’ friendliness to precious metals, considering policies that define what is and isn’t legal tender, tax gold and silver holdings and sales, and facilitate the storage of gold and silver in the state.

According to the SMDL, Alabama’s policies about gold and silver are mediocre at best. Out of all 50 states, Alabama ranked 28. Though states are authorized by Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution to make gold and silver coins “a tender in payment of debts,” Alabama fails to recognize gold and silver coinage as money like it does the U.S. dollar. With the likely advent of a digital currency soon, this should be a priority of the Alabama legislature to help protect Alabama citizens, *Source: 1819News 7-29-23*

“I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society. One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of Common Law. There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as laying its foundations.”

*Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, Harvard Speech, 1829*

“The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.” *U. S Flag Code Sec. 7 as quoted by Tom Fitton, President of Judicial Watch when President Biden displayed an LGBTQ+ flag from the balcony of the White House between two American flags.*

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest, of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” – *John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1816*

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” *Colossians 2:8*

“Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.” *Mark Twain*

“To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions.” *Thomas Jefferson*

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## Major Step to Final Victory for VCAP

On August 21, 2023, a three judge panel of federal judges in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals removed the injunction on enforcement of Alabama's law that bans the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. This law, called the Vulnerable Child and Compassion Protection Act (VCAP) was passed and signed into law in May, 2022. The bill, written and promoted by a coalition of conservative groups lead by Eagle Forum of Alabama, is designed to protect children from the ravages of experimental and extreme measures to push the transgender agenda. The bill protects minors up to the age of 19 years old. The full provisions of the bill will go into effect immediately.

Portions of the act were upheld by the trial judge during the first round in court. These included a ban on surgical procedures to change the outward appearance of a person's sex or as the progressives like to say, "to make the person's body agree with his or her self-identity." Such surgeries include what is called "top surgery", the removal of female breasts and "bottom surgery" to change the appearance of external genital organs. While doctors who practice "transgender affirming" care assured the court that such surgery is not taking place in Alabama, this law will ensure that it does not happen in the future. The bill's provisions also require that schools and teachers must inform parents if a child expresses desires to socially transition at school.

As reported by 1819 News on August 21, 2023, the Appeals Court used the Supreme Court Decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, which overturned federal protection for abortion rights, when it ruled that the right to the interventions did not meet Dobbs' standard for rights granted in the Due Process Clause. The opinion stated: "But the use of these medications in general—let alone for children—almost certainly is not 'deeply rooted' in our nation's history and tradition."

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall called the ruling a "significant victory for our country, for children, and for common sense." We are thankful for Marshall's effective defense of this bill to this point and in the day's ahead. The bill still faces a trial on the merits of the case scheduled for April of 2024 in Federal District Court. But as Epoch Times reported on August 5, 2023, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on July 31 that Kentucky's ban on access for cross-sex procedures for minors can continue. This same court recently ruled that the Tennessee ban on cross-sex procedures for minors will continue as well. Both of the state laws had been blocked by a lower court. Given the success of these cases on merit, it is possible that this factored into the Eleven Circuit Court's decision to override the injunction on Alabama's law. Each such victory bodes well for final outcome of Alabama's law as well as all such laws around the country.

We rejoice in this latest decision and pray that full protection to the children of Alabama will be upheld in the coming trial court in 2024.

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## Alabama Battle Against Library Pornography Continues

Parents in Prattville have approached the Prattville City Council multiple times about books containing explicit material available to minors at the Prattville Public Library. They have also attended meeting of the Autauga County Commission about the same issue. Since the parents were reading portions of the books to those bodies, the City Council adopted a new policy that banned the reading of books that were not on the meeting agenda. Eagle Forum wrote a letter to John Wahl, Chairman of the Alabama Republican Party and a member of the Alabama Library Services Board, asking him to look into this matter. Parents have also met with the ALSB which has now agreed to request a opinion from the Attorney General's office as to what their authority is relative to controlling what books are to be available to children. This opinion has not been announced as of this writing. A similar battle is ongoing in Foley, Alabama where parents and other concerned citizens have complained about the sexual nature of books available to children of all ages. The Library Director has not budged on his position that libraries offer "intellectual freedom" for people to read what they wish to read, making no distinction regarding age appropriateness of reading material. This is also the position of the American Library Association, an extremely leftwing organization led by Emily Drabinski, a self proclaimed "Marxist lesbian." Efforts continue in Auburn, Madison and other cities in Alabama and across the nation to get libraries to disassociate from the ALA. In July, Eunie Smith sent a letter calling for ALA disassociation.

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## *What's Good About America?*

# **The Generosity of the American People**

Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum Newsletter

MarketWatch is a website that closely watches investment and trends in the world economy. Investors rely on MarketWatch to perceive trends and directions in the flow of worldwide currency and the growth in wealth around the world.

MarketWatch reported on a study on generosity commissioned by the Charities Aid Foundation on giving to those in need. The survey found that citizens of the United States rated #1 in charitable giving among the nations of the world. In 2021, Americans gave a record \$471 billion. While need is everywhere, no nation of people respond to disasters, care for orphans and give to those in need as do the people of the United States of America.<sup>1</sup>

Why is our country motivated to part with personal income to help others? Are Americans innately more generous than other nationalities? What reasons spark American giving to charities?

\* Americans are powerfully influenced by our Judeo-Christian heritage. Throughout the Old and New Testament, believers in God are urged to give to those in need, to give toward our houses of worship and to give to causes that benefit causes in which we believe.

\* Americans come from a heritage of private charity and not a dependence on government bureaucracy. Our help has traditionally come from churches, synagogues and private interests.

In his first inaugural address, President Ronald Reagan spoke of the superiority of personal giving to that of government assistance. Reagan said "We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your makeup. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen, and loving them, not reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick and provide opportunities to make them self-sufficient so that they will be equal in fact and not just in theory?"

During the Reagan years, charitable giving rose twenty-five percent.<sup>2</sup>

Our forebears did not envision a system where government answered every plea for help and took responsibility for needs. We care for our fellow countrymen and we open our wallets and give to those in need.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-us-is-the-most-generous-country-but-americans-say-debt-is-keeping-them-from-giving-more-to-charity-2019-10-18>

<sup>2</sup><https://theimaginativeconservative.org/2023/02/remembering-ronald-reagan-compassion-barbara-elliott.html>

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## **Claims of Record Setting Temperature Just Hot Air**

We have all heard that July 4, 2023, was the hottest day in history or at least for the last 125,000 years. This was based on a computer model speculation using a wide range of disparate types of data. This study was done by the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, not an official government source of data. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said that surface temperature data does not confirm that global high-temperature records were broken.

There were no weather satellites even 50 years ago, few ground-based measuring stations more than 150 years ago, and certainly no such data from 125,000 years ago. Climate analyst Paul Homewood told Cornwall Institute: "The idea that we know the global temperature today is absurd in itself. But the idea that we actually know what it was on a given day 100 years ago, or 1000 years ago, never mind thousands of years ago is sheer fraud." Heartland Institute President James Taylor said, "Historical temperatures derived from ice core samples leaves current temperatures well below temperatures that have predominated during most of the time period that human civilization has existed. The media should be ashamed of itself for hyping yet another big climate lie. *From Cornwall Institute based upon an article first published at heartlanddailynews.com*

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## World Health Organization and Our Future Food Systems

Have you heard of the “One Health” approach? This is the World Health Organization’s approach to the world’s food systems, and their plans to meld them into the health insurance and medical fields. It appears that the goal is to provide food tokens and medically tailored meals and prescription food programs.

What better or more effective way to control people than to control their food and their money? With food tokens and digital currencies and other electronic means, total control over the population could be a breeze. In October 2022 the WHO announced its One Health Joint Plan of Action group. The includes:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- United Nations Environment Program
- World Organization for Animal Health

The WHO says that a transformation of the world’s food systems is needed based on a One Health approach that protects and promotes the health of humans, animals, and the planet. This appears to be one more big push to control every aspect of human life with the goal of “protecting the mother earth.” Of course, the Biden Administration is in full agreement with this “food as medicine” agenda.

With food tokens, people will fall into the trap of the government controlling what you can buy for food as well as medicines. The White House has laid out a Fact Sheet detailing its “transformational vision for ending hunger and reducing diet-related disease by 2030, while closing disparities among communities that are impacted the most,” i.e. socialism.

As the plan is rolled out, we can expect to hear more about bioengineered food, lab-grown meat and insects for “good” human health and to protect the planet. As with most of what comes from the United Nations and the WHO, it sounds good at first but will lead to total control. *What if you refuse to eat bugs?* Will you not receive proper health care? Just think of the wonderful way the WHO handled the Covid pandemic! *Based on an article posted on Dr. Joseph Mercola. Com Eagle Forum supports exiting the WHO.*

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## Abortion Views One Year After Dobbs Decision

One year after the *Dobbs* decision, **new polling** reveals that Americans overwhelmingly agree with pro-life protections for unborn babies and mothers and reject abortion extremism:

- **77% of voters agree with at least some limits by 15 weeks when the child can feel pain.** Only 15% believe abortion should be allowed throughout pregnancy without any limits.
- **Nearly six in 10 voters would support Congress passing legislation to protect pain-capable babies after 15 weeks** (with exceptions for the life of the mother, rape and incest), while allowing states to pass more protective laws. This includes majorities of Democrats, Independents, women and self-described pro-choice voters.
- **Seven in 10 voters** agree that there should be a requirement to notify parents when a minor child seeks to have an abortion. This includes 54% of Democrats, 65% of Independents and 54% of pro-choice voters.
- **Three fourths (76%) support pregnancy centers** that do not perform abortions but instead offer support to people during their pregnancy and after a baby is born.

The polling includes 68% of Democrats, 70% of Independents and 77% of women. The poll of 1,000 voters nationwide was conducted by **Tarrance Group** for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. It has a  $\pm 3.1\%$  margin of error. SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser gave the following response to the poll results. “When it comes to protecting life and supporting women, Americans agree far more than the media will report. We believe the science that shows babies in the womb have a beating heart at six weeks, can suck their thumb as early as 10 weeks and feel pain at least by 15 weeks.

We believe parents have a right to know if their daughters are considering abortion. And we believe women deserve all the compassion, support and resources the pro-life safety net provides to genuinely empower them – not to be sold an abortion and sent off to figure out how to cope on their own.” Eagle Forum totally agrees!

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## In Support of Senator Tuberville

By Becky Gerritson, Eagle Forum Executive Director



There is the assertion in Washington DC recently repeated by President Biden that Sen Tuberville is holding up Department of Defense nominations because of his prolife stance. To the contrary, it is the administration itself which is holding military promotions hostage. Following is the whole story!

In 1984, 10 U.S. Code 1093 was passed with bi-partisan support to prevent using Department of Defense funds to perform abortions. On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the *Dobbs* case which reversed *Roe v Wade*. Shortly after that, the Biden Administration began to defy that decision. In October 2022, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin tried to circumvent the 1984 law via memo. His new policy would fund extra time off, travel, and additional expenses for service members and dependents seeking elective abortions. In America, CONGRESS makes the laws! Secretary Austin's policy would use taxpayer funds without Congressional approval. This move by Secretary Austin violates the spirit of the 1984 law.

The media is reporting that Sen Tuberville is singlehandedly stopping promotions and nominations of approximately 250 military officials. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has lumped all these nominations together and asked for one voice vote by unanimous consent.

Sen. Tuberville met with Sen. Schumer to tell him that he could not consent to a unanimous voice vote unless Secretary Austin rescinded his unlawful pro-abortion policy. To date, Secretary Austin has refused. However, this move by Sen. Tuberville does NOT prevent the nominations from going through.

Sen. Schumer has the option (and duty) to call these nominations up for a vote one-by-one any time he wants. No one can prevent him from doing that. Yet, Sen. Schumer is trying to fool the public by blatantly refusing to bring them up for a vote individually and blaming it on Tuberville. Eagle Forum applauds Sen. Tuberville for boldly standing up for the rule of law as well as the sanctity of the life of these unborn babies.



A Major  
reason  
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