

## Another Great Policy Conference

On January 31, 2025, Eagle Forum of Alabama welcomed a capacity attendance to its second annual Policy Conference. We are most appreciative that First Baptist Church of Birmingham again provided the venue for the conference. We had 15 wonderful experts speak with knowledge and authority on numerous subjects important to the protection of children and to family values.



The session started by welcoming Kris Ullman, the national president of Eagle Forum, who came to speak to us from Washington D. C. about important issues the national organization is working on at the federal level. Kris covered a lot of issues. Some of those were the accomplishments of the new Trump administration with the avalanche of Executive Orders that address many of the issues we have worked on such as protecting our youth from transgender ideology, border control and immigration issues, and enforcing the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Protection Act passed in 1974 but relatively unenforced in recent years.

She stressed our work to promote military superiority and to end birthright citizenship. She ended with encouraging us to continue to work with our Congressional delegation to make President Trump's Executive Orders permanent through legislation.

Our own Theresa Hubbard, a retired Coast Guard Commander, updated us on current national security issues. She addressed the latest numbers on the illegal alien problem and the Coast Guard's actions in this area, especially interdiction of illegal drugs. She also addressed the Coast Guard's work in monitoring the polar icecap areas and growing concern about Russia and Chinese activities in that area.

Emma Waters, from the Heritage Foundation in Washington D. C., educated us on the complexities surrounding the IVF issue. She stressed that while we support helping parents create families through this medical procedure, we must address the realities of these procedures as there is little to no regulation. She addressed the need to help couples overcome medical problems that cause infertility rather than jumping to the IVF process first as the overall success rate for a live birth using IVF is only about 2.3%.

Rob Kohler came from Texas to tell of the lessons they have learned about a state lottery. He stressed that money spent on the lottery is overwhelmingly from the poor, often those on public assistance. He stressed that most people buy scratch off tickets because they provide instant highs and bring instant winnings. Very few would drive to another state to buy scratch off tickets so most money spent on gambling does NOT go to other states as with draw tickets. He spoke about the dangers of electronic sports and lottery gambling, which make every smart phone a casino.

*Continued on page 2*



Alabama State Rep. Susan DuBose spoke about her legislative bills. This included the bill, Raising the Medical Age of Consent, “What is a Woman” to legally define male and female in our statutes and her bill to amend the Alabama Abstinence Act.

Rep. Mark Gidley spoke about his bill to require the posting of the 10 Commandments in Alabama public schools. Rep. Phillip Rigsby spoke about the crisis of independent pharmacies closing due to unfair pricing controlled by Prescription Benefit Managers in concert with insurance companies.

Ann Eubank is a leading researcher about the push for Innovation Districts in Alabama. She addressed the numerous bills that are being promoted by legislators and the Governor’s office to facilitate this plan under the banner of economic development. She detailed how the plan is one designed and pushed by the World Economic Forum and the United Nations. It was passed by the Obama administration to promote the socialist agenda to divide states into Innovation Districts controlled by public/private corporations not accountable to the people of Alabama as opposed to letting the free market work without government control.

John Allen Nichols from ALFA discussed the ALFA proposal to establish a Health Plan for its members similar to those provided by many companies. Health insurance costs are a major factor in losing farming families in Alabama. It will require legislation to

allow them to offer this plan, and he stressed to need to promote this legislation.

Following a video presentation by Doug Simon about the Dangers of legal THC, Eagle Forum Board member Christine Carr spoke about this issue also. Christine is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and our expert on medical issues. Christine explained the differences between marijuana (which is illegal) and products from the hemp plant sold in vape shops and convenience stores all around the state. The use of hemp, which contains THC just like marijuana, was made legal under the federal Farm Bill a few years ago. The hemp was intended for industrial use, but refining the legal hemp plant makes it similar to marijuana. The marijuana statute needs to be amended to correct this unintended outcome and remove these products from our stores—especially since they have become so popular with our young people because of their accessibility.

State Auditor Andrew Sorrell spoke about the progress made toward making gold and silver legal tender in Alabama. The metals are not subject to sales tax nor capital gains taxes. The next step is getting a bill passed to actually make the metals legal tender again. A bill has been filed to do this. He also spoke about his experience in being debanked due to the fact that he owns a store that sells guns. Legislation is needed to stop banks from closing the accounts of people for political reasons.

Eric Johnston, head of the Alabama Pro-life Coalition, shared the need to pass legislation to control the shipment of chemical abortion pills into Alabama where they are illegal. He is offering legislation to control this by use of online payment methods to identify and find those shipping these drugs into Alabama.

Rep. Arnold Mooney gave an update on the Harmful to Minors Act to protect youth from obscenity.

Melea Stephens shared about her work to protect kids from online porn by requiring smart phones factory filters to be turned ON for phones and tablets sold in Alabama for use by minors.

The conference ended with a short message of hope and encouragement by our President Eunie Smith.

---

# Transparency and Common Sense in Legislation

By Pat Ellis, Eagle Forum Board Member

With common sense back in the White House, it's time to pass a transparency bill that would benefit all Americans and encourage future generations to be more engaged in their government. Thank you Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)! Thank you Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)! These two legislators know that in order to have a healthy Republic "We the People" need to be able to understand laws that are being passed and if they will or will not be of benefit to "We the People." We also need to be able to hold our legislators accountable. As of December 2024, the approval rating of the U.S. Congress is 17%. Don't they understand if they were transparent with the American public their ratings would improve significantly?

In April 2020, Rep. Biggs introduced the One Bill, One Subject Transparency Act (H.R. 6635). There is so much to love about this bill, including the fact it's only three pages! The bill requires that each bill or joint resolution have only one subject; the subject must be plainly stated in the title. Appropriations bills must be relevant to the subject of the underlying bill. Any bill that does not meet these criteria would be deemed void. Rep. Biggs intends to re-introduce this bill in the current Congress.

In June 2020, Senator Rand Paul introduced the "One Subject At a Time Act" (OSTA). The purpose, as in the Biggs bill, is obviously to restrict each bill to one topic. Jim Babka, President of Downsize DC.org, had this to say about Paul's bill: "...it would end the practice of clustering unrelated measures into one package. Congressional leaders have long used this trick to pass unpopular laws on the strength of the popular proposals to which they are unnaturally joined. OSTA would end this fraud forever. Every bill would have to stand or fall on its own merits." A few examples provided by Mr. Babka are a ban on internet poker in a port Security bill and the Real ID Act which included an Emergency Troop Appropriations bill along with tsunami relief.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/rand-paul-introduces-one-subject-at-a-time-act-232047631.html>.

I have no doubt those of you reading this article could provide an endless number of similar examples.

Biggs and Paul are in good company! Both Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were champions for transparency in legislation sounding the alarm against confusing and complex laws. In his letter to Isaac McPherson in 1813, Jefferson stated: "Laws should be made to be as clear and intelligible as possible." In the Federalist papers, NO. 62, 1788, Madison opined: "It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood." Does this bring to mind the Affordable Care Act and our former speaker, Mrs. Pelosi? She famously told the American public: "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it." This was a 908 page bill (and that's without the regulations that were to follow). It would take the average reader approximately 40 hours to read the bill. Madison and Jefferson must have been rolling over in their graves.

For some comic relief, let's not forget our appropriations bills. I had heard of the \$1.3 million dollar grant for shrimp on treadmills, but not the \$550,000 grant to study Russian cat videos nor the \$25 million for gender programs in Pakistan baked into the covid-19 relief bill. Then there's the all important \$1.7 million on how monkeys gamble and \$765,000 for jazz playing robots. And, for some reason, our government found it necessary to provide \$500,000 to promote bike lanes in Uzbekistan. Do you fear Frankenstein? Maybe with the help of a \$465,000 grant you will get an answer. There's more and if it wasn't such a waste of hard-working taxpayers dollars it would be quite humorous. I wonder if Congress has seen the National Debt Clock on 44th Street in the Big Apple? Hopefully, Elon Musk and his DOGE operation can stop this foolishness!

We know transparency is the victim when bills have more than one topic. Multi-topic bills are more often than not long and complex.

Is the time ripe for a transparency bill to pass? I believe it is, but only if "We The People" rise up and demand it; if not for ourselves, let's do it for our children and grandchildren. Contact your representative and ask him/her to support the Biggs bill. If they can't support it, I'd love to hear the rationalization.



On day one of his new administration, President Trump officially created the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The scope of the task force's work became clear immediately. According to the Federal Register, a staggering 441 different federal agencies are listed. However, a total of 75 of those agencies listed are defunct, many for decades. It is unclear whether or not any of these agencies still receive appropriations, but that will certainly be addressed by the DOGE experts. By repurposing the U.S. Digital Services, which is already part of the Office of Management and Budget, it does not need to follow the regulations of an outside advisory committee. The USDS, created under the Obama administration, recruits people from the tech sector to do "civic tours of duty" to help solve technical issues and modernize government websites and databases. The brilliant move has allowed Elon Musk to set up shop to find and end the waste and abuse we are starting to see in the news. *Based upon information from OpenTheBooks.com*

The Idaho National Guard is facing a federal lawsuit after they removed an officer from his command because he is a Christian. He has expressed Christian beliefs, such as there are only two sexes, and his opposition to drag queens in public libraries, while campaigning for public office. A complaint was filed that he had created a hostile work environment. Liberty Council is defending Major David Worley, saying that all that he said was protected speech. The Governor, Brad Little, a Republican, has refused to get involved.

*Source: Todd Starnes podcast*

On February 5, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order to end the practice of allowing males who identify as female to participate in traditionally female sports. This is a necessary step to protect women and girls in sports competition. This needs to be codified in law to provide lasting protection, so Senator Tommy Tuberville has introduced the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. He stated that such practices compromise sports, and his bill protects females.

As you are likely aware, George Soros, the billionaire who funds all things hard-left and radical, bought a large stake in more than 200 Audacy radio stations. It appears that some of the stations are working to undermine the work of the Trump administration's efforts to deport criminal illegal aliens. In San Francisco a station is now being investigated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for broadcasting the locations of undercover Immigration and Customs agents as well as specific information about the agents. It seems that the station was actively working to not only thwart the work of the agents but to also endanger them.

*Source: RedState.com 2/4/2025*

Alabama is now ranked 11th for education freedom by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) after the Choose Act was signed into law. This was a gain of 11 points from the previous ranking. The state so far has received almost 7000 applications for over almost 12,000 students in the first year showing that parents want to control the education of their students.

*1819 News 1-29-2025*

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

*Samuel Johnson*

"I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts."

*John Locke*

"For it is fixed principle with me that whatever is done should be done well."

*George Washington*

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving."

*Albert Einstein*

"There can be no merit in speaking, unless what is said is thoroughly understood by him who says it."

*Cicero, Roman Statesman*

"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."

*William Shakespeare in "As You Like It"*

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

*Thomas Edison*

"The reading of good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries."

*Rene' Descartes*

"The safest road to hell is the gradual one...the gentle stone, soft underfoot, without sudden turning, without milestones, without signposts."

*C. S. Lewis*

---

## Eagle Forum supports Positivity Project as a social emotional program that will not corrupt our students



### What is P2:

P2 is a K - 12 Character/SEL education curriculum. P2 was founded by two West Point graduates, Jeff Bryan and Mike Erwin. Their goal is to improve the long-term quality of life for all students to be their best selves! As stated in The Federalist: P2 is one of four SEL programs that "won't corrupt your child."

#### Why Parents Support P2

- P2 believes in 100% transparency for parents and guardians. Their corporate policy proves it!
- P2 does not promote political or woke social agendas unlike programs already in many Alabama schools.
- P2 is not funded by or beholden to any globalist organizations. (Many states require alignment with the Colloaborative for Academic and Socal Emotional Learning. P2 aligns w/o the negative aspects.)
- P2 does not collect or share data on students other than to track program effectiveness.
- P2 offers resources, such as P2 for Families, strengthening school-family relationships while giving parents additional insight to P2 curriculum.

#### Why Educators Support P2

- Flexible, 15 minute lessons delivered through Google Slides makes implementation easy for teachers.
- P2 lessons cover the academic school year giving teachers the opportunity to review the curriculum in advance.
- P2 Partner Schools report improved behavior, relationships, school culture and academic achievement.
- P2 provides a free trial and highly encourages educators to participate. **(Visit <https://posproject.org/free-trial/> for your free 14 day trial.)**



- For Parents, Educators, School Board Members and Legislators: Learn about P2's proven effectiveness. Visit [www.posproject.org](http://www.posproject.org)
- For Testimonials: <https://posproject.org/about/>
- For Research Articles & Impact: <https://posproject.org/impact>

*While Eagle Forum Supports P2, schools will want to perform their own due diligence.*

**P2: Proven Results Alabama Students Deserve!**



---

## *What's Good About America?*

# Oath to the Constitution

*By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor*

The record of the Twentieth Century is stained with the rise of Adolph Hitler and the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust. All of our hearts join with our Jewish friends in crying “Never Again” to the unspeakable actions of Nazi Germany.

Honest people, especially those of us with German ancestry, remain puzzled at how the erstwhile noble German people tolerated the despotic rule of Hitler? How did he remain in power? Why didn't the intelligent Christian people depose Hitler?



President Donald J Trump takes the oath of office as the 47th President of the United States of America, January 20, 2025

What many miss is that forty attempts were made on Hitler's life.<sup>[1]</sup> However, the best-known plot involved the July 20, 1944, plot of Nazi officers, led by Claus Von Stauffenberg who planned to place a briefcase under the table where Hitler was meeting with officers. German officers across Europe stood ready to seize the government upon Hitler's death. However, the July 20 plot failed and those ready to seize power backed away. How was Hitler able to reinforce his authority? Because those officers had sworn allegiance to the Fuhrer and these men felt duty-bound to honor that oath.

What if a despot controlled these United States? What if somehow a Hitler-type was elected President? Our country is blessed and protected because of the safeguards of our United States Constitution. Article II,

Section 1, Clause 8 declares, concerning the presidential oath:

*Before he enters on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: – I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.*

As he swore this oath, our first President George Washington added the phrase “so help me God.” While this addition is not in the official oath, this phrase has normally been stated by those who take this oath.

The oath of those taking office or joining the military is an oath of loyalty to our Constitution. Our Constitution is based on principles of limited government with checks and balances. Our country is not a system that can change with the whims of influence by those who gain sway of the public. No, Americanism is a principle-based ideology that has withstood worldwide trends since 1776, and since the adoption of the United States Constitution in 1783.

May we ever live to defend the principles of our Constitution and may each citizen determine to do his part.

---

## ***Legalized Gambling:*** **An Invitation for Increased Crime**

By Col. John Eidsmoe

Would you legalize murder to crack down on illegal murders? Would you legalize shoplifting to crack down on illegal shoplifters? Common sense would compel us to answer “no.”

Yet, some Alabama legislators say they want to legalize gambling for precisely that reason—to crack down on illegal gamblers.

The obvious solution is to increase the penalties including forfeiture of the machines as instrumentalities of crime, and then to enforce the law rigorously. But instead, some legislators want to legalize gambling in the hope that illegal gambling will then go away.

Their reasoning is that they think people will not go to illegal gambling establishments, but the universal experience of states that have legalized gambling is this: ***When gambling is legalized, both legal and illegal gambling increase.***

- When gambling is legalized, the moral stigma around gambling diminishes.
- The illegal gambling establishments offer the gambler better odds. They can afford to do so because they do not pay taxes on their illegal earnings.
- The illegal establishments do not keep records, and therefore they enable gamblers to avoid paying taxes on their winning.
- Unlike the legal establishments, the illegal establishments offer credit—and they have their means of “enforcement” if the gambler's debts are not paid.

The Congressional study “Gambling in America” concluded that the mere presence of more opportunities to gamble increases the amount of gambling done.

The Organized Crime Section of the U.S. Department of Justice confirms that “the rate of illegal gambling in those states which have some legalized form of gambling was three times as high as those states” which do not have legalized gambling.

The link between gambling and organized crime also must be considered. Dr. Craig Zendzian, a former New York City police detective who spent much of his career investigating organized crime, explains, “Anyone who goes into gambling should recognize, particularly in an urban center, that organized crime will be attracted to it like sharks to a bloated body.”

Legislators, before you gamble with Alabama’s future, please answer this question: How can you assure us that Alabama’s experience will be different?

*This article is from 1819 News published in their 1819 News- The Magazine Vol. 1 Issue 11. It is based upon Col. Eidsmoe’s book, Legalized Gambling: America’s Bad Bet, and was reprinted with the authors permission. Eagle Forum of Alabama also has permission from Col. Eidsmoe to use his writing.*

**Note: While some are calling for a lottery only bill, it is evident that if our state constitution is amended to provide for a state lottery, it will also open the door to all Class 3 gambling, including casinos. SO there is no such thing as “lottery only” in Alabama.**

4200 Stone River Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213

Return Service Requested

*Eagle Forum of Alabama  
Education Foundation Newsletter*

4200 Stone River Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35213

Eunie Smith, Managing Director, Elaine Little, Editor

*To subscribe to this newsletter, please visit our website,  
[www.alabamaeagle.org](http://www.alabamaeagle.org), and join Eagle Forum of Alabama  
or call (205) 879.7096.*

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

*First Quarter, 2025*

- **Another Great Policy Conference**
- **Transparency and Common Sense in Legislation**
- **Positivity Project**
- ***What's Good About America?* Oath to the Constitution**
- ***Legalized Gambling:* An Invitation for Increased Crime**