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### **Eagle Forum Applauds Senate Vote to Protect Families from Intoxicating Products**

When the Senate recently passed the bill to reopen the Federal Government, the bill included passing 3 appropriations bills that had been stalled in the Senate. One of these was the Agriculture Bill which had a provision to close the loophole created by the 2018 Farm Bill that allowed intoxicating hemp-derived drugs such as Delta-8 THC products. This change had been passed each year by the House, but was removed each year by the Senate due to intense lobbying by those making money from these harmful products. The original intent of the 2018 provision was to allow hemp plants to be grown only for industrial use, not to allow “marijuana like” products to be sold in convenience stores and service stations all over the nation, marketing them as gummies, cookies, drinks and similar products.

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***Unto us a Child is born. Blessings to all at this Christmas Season from Eagle Forum of Alabama***

# Hemp Loop Hole Closed

*Hemp continued from page 1*

Alabama news outlets have documented the surge of these products, the spike in youth hospitalizations, and repeated pleas from law enforcement for these products to be either outlawed or strongly regulated. Now the Senate has done what Alabama families have been pleading for: correct the loophole allowing chemically altered intoxicants to masquerade as “hemp” and be sold like candy.

Our Executive Director, Becky Garrison, issued a press release saying, “This is an enormous win for public health and for the safety of our children. For too long, these dangerous products have sat openly on store shelves targeting teens, harming kids, and blindsiding parents. They have also made our streets less safe. Closing the loophole in federal law is essential, and I applaud the senators who stood firm against Big Hemp’s misinformation campaign.” It should also be noted that THC has now outpaced alcohol for impaired driving offenses in Alabama.

Last year Eagle Forum of Alabama worked to get a bill passed in Alabama that would outlaw all these products, but that bill did not get the support needed to pass. A bill was passed, HB 445, that established some regulation of these products. That law is to be fully enforced beginning in January, 2026. The federal prohibition is scheduled to take effect one year from passage, November, 2026. However, we were able to get a provision in the Alabama bill that says that if the federal loophole were ever closed, Alabama law would automatically align with federal protections, This federal action means that Alabama is now positioned to follow suit and finally remove these dangerous products from store shelves.

We must stay alert, however, because the hemp growers and THC product manufacturers and sellers have already begun to lobby the Congress to remove the ban at the national level this next year. The spending package just passed only funds the government through January 30, 2026 which some think would present an opportunity for further negotiations. However, since the provision is in the full year FY2026 Agriculture Appropriations bill, it is for the full year which will not expire when the rest of the CR does. Proponents of these products are arguing that this provision outlaws even such products as seltzers, and lotions, as well as CBD products. This is only true if those products contain intoxicating limits of THC.

Our Health Policy Chair, Christine Carr, was a major part of our efforts here in Alabama to get these products at least regulated. As Christine says about where we, as Eagle Forum, are coming from regarding these products, “We fully support a thriving hemp industry that does not depend on intoxicating and psychoactive variants. Industrial fibers and non-intoxicating CBD are still valuable and profitable commodities from hemp. Let’s be clear, however. If they want you high, the consumable industry should die.”



# Eagle Forum Wins Courage Award



*Becky Gerritson*

Hundreds of attendees packed into the Barber Motorsports Museum and Event Center on November 14 for the 2025 Albert Patterson Gala hosted by 1819 News.

This year the Albert Patterson Courage Award was presented to 1819 News reporter Craig Monger, former Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) commissioner Kent Davis, and the Eagle Forum of Alabama Education Foundation. Executive Director Becky Gerritson accepted on Eagle Forum of Alabama's behalf for its efforts to successfully lobby the Alabama legislature to pass a ban on transgender surgeries for minors in Alabama. Eagle Forum of Alabama also successfully defended against lawfare efforts by the Biden DOJ and left-wing groups like the SPLC. In accepting the award, Gerritson said that Eagle Forum has never been afraid to speak truth even when it was unpopular.

She continued, “Years before most people had even heard the word ‘transgender,’ Eagle Forum was warning about this dangerous trend and how it would harm children and families. Our national conferences featured experts sounding the alarm long before the media took notice, years before COVID, and way before this issue was headline news.

So, when we brought the Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act (VCAP) to the Alabama Legislature in 2020, it wasn't a political move, it was a moral one. We were fighting to protect kids from irreversible harm. And today, Alabama is recognized nationwide for leading that fight!

I want to give special praise to our president, Eunie Smith. When the United States Department of Justice issued its sweeping subpoena seeking our internal documents and fundraising communications in connection with VCAP and demanding years of our grassroots advocacy, some urged us to quietly comply, to avoid confrontation. But Eunie said “no.” She recognized the subpoena was not about law-enforcement, but intimidation. She recognized that citizen-advocacy and peaceful participation in the legislative process are constitutional rights, not privileges to be bullied away. Under her leadership we challenged the subpoena, and we won!

This award is a blessing, and it belongs to all the courageous women and men of Eagle Forum who keep showing up, year after year, to defend faith, family, and freedom in Alabama. I'm deeply proud to stand with them and with all of you who continue to speak truth with love and conviction.”

# Christmas in America

*By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor*



Have you just assumed that we have always celebrated Christmas? Ever wonder why everything stops on December 25, and the world is decorated with red and green? The fact is that these United States have long celebrated the day set aside to honor the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alabama was the first state to make Christmas Day an official holiday in 1836. Since that time, all fifty states have declared December 25 as Christmas Day.

In 1870, Congress passed legislation, which was signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, naming December 25 a holiday. This holiday was not officially known as Christmas, but simply December 25. However, every single state has adopted the holiday as Christmas Day.

The Father of our Country President George Washington was known for celebrating Christmas at Mount Vernon. However, during the Revolutionary War, Washington spent time with the troops, with the exception of his leading a surprise attack at Trenton in 1777.

Washington was known for attending church every Christmas morning. Furthermore, Washington would celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas. In fact, George and Martha married on January 6, the last day of Christmas celebration.

Granted, we do not know the exact date of Jesus' Birth. However, Christian historian Alfred Edersheim reported December 25 as the exact date of Jesus' Birth. But historically, American Christians have deemed this date as the proper celebration of the birth of Jesus. While the world celebrates Christmas, let us not forget that we celebrate the Eternity-changing fact that in the coming of Jesus, "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I Timothy 3:16



**Merry**  
**Christmas**

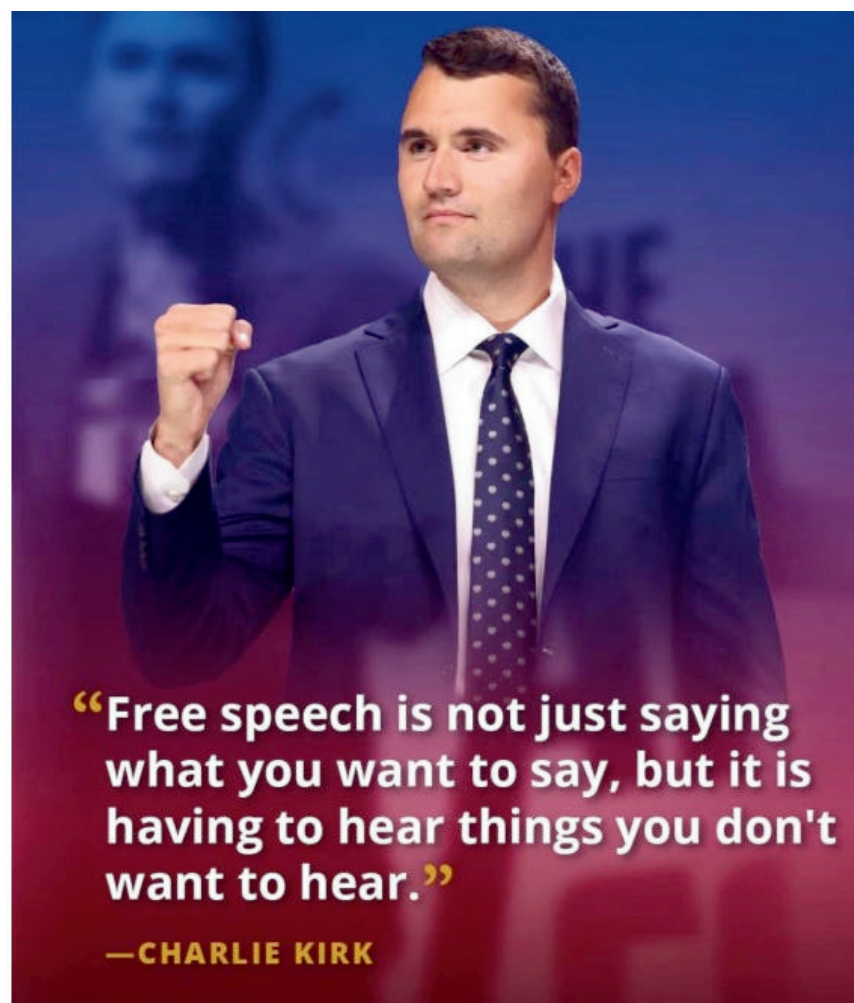
The American Family Association has sent a letter to Speaker Mike Johnson, urging him to prioritize the repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. Alabama Eagle Forum President Eunie Smith has signed onto the letter in support of this initiative which National Eagle Forum also supports.

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On October 23, a federal court's ruling overturned a Biden-era Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gender identity rule. Attorney General of Alabama Steve Marshall called the rule an "absurd obsession with gender identity." The court found that the HHS exceeded its authority by implementing regulations redefining sex discrimination and prohibiting "gender identity discrimination." *1819 News 10.24.25*

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Auburn University has been named one of the top 20 universities in the nation for free speech, ideological diversity, and economic value. *Yellowhammer News 10.24.25*



“How many observe Christ’s birthday! How few his precepts! O’ ’tis easier to keep holidays than commandments.”

---*Benjamin Franklin*

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“When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people there is liberty.”

---*Thomas Jefferson*

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“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is...executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”

---*Samuel Adams*

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“Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.”

---*Benjamin Franklin*

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“I don’t know why we should give money to countries that hate us. They should be able to hate us for free!”

---*Senator John Kennedy*

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“Our welfare programs were meant to be bridges, not parking lots.”

---*Senator John Kennedy*

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# Governor-Backed, Parent-Powered: How Alabama Slammed the Door on Grooming Material

by Lori Herring, Eagle Forum Board member

It has been nearly two years since a handful of concerned parents in Prattville launched Clean Up Prattville, a grassroots effort to remove sexually explicit and obscene materials from the children's sections of local public libraries. What began as a local campaign quickly grew into Clean Up Alabama, a statewide movement fully backed by Eagle Forum of Alabama. The results speak for themselves: new library board members, sweeping policy reforms at the state level, and a clearer definition of what "inappropriate" means for Alabama's kids. Yet the work is far from finished.

## Year One 2023: Awareness, Persistence, and a Clean Sweep

The first 12 months were about showing up. Clean Up Prattville and local Eagle Forum members attended every Prattville City Council and Autauga County Commission meeting, plus local and state library board sessions. The message was simple: Our children deserve libraries free of pornography and grooming material.

The pressure paid off. In 2023, every member of the Prattville-Autauga Library Board was replaced with appointees committed to child-safe collections, policies were changed, and employees who actively worked against the new policies were replaced. Parents finally had allies in the room.

## Year Two 2024: State-Level Victories with the Governor's Help

Clean Up Alabama and many Eagle Forum members took the fight to Montgomery. With Governor Kay Ivey's support, the group helped replace all but one member of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) Board. Longtime Chairman Ron Snyder was succeeded by John Wahl, who wasted no time proposing common-sense rules.

In 2024, the APLS adopted landmark policy changes:

- Children's acquisitions may not contain obscenity, sexually explicit content, or material otherwise inappropriate for minors.
- Youth sections must remain free of such material.
- Displays and promotions for children require prior director approval and must meet age-appropriateness standards.
- Library cards for minors block adult-section borrowing without specific, written parental consent.
- American Library Association dues paid with public funds now require open-meeting approval after public notice.
- Non-compliance triggers loss of state and federal funding.

Any future rule changes require a 45-day public comment period. When the 2024 proposals opened for feedback, 6,475 Alabamians responded—54.5% in favor (2,366), 45.5% opposed (1,608). The board listened and passed the reforms.

## When "Inappropriate" Needed a Dictionary

You'd think professional librarians—people whose job is words—would grasp the term. They didn't. In October 2024, the Opelika Public Library promoted an event with horror author Grady Hendrix using this Facebook teaser:

"Are witches old ladies who live in candy houses and eat children? Or are they naked maidens dancing in

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# Governor-Backed, Parent-Powered: How Alabama Slammed the Door on Grooming Material

## *Libraries continued from page 6*

a circle and celebrating the moon? Are they riding broomsticks to a black mass where they'll worship Satan or being dragged to a gallows where they'll be hung after false accusations?

“Join NYT bestselling author Grady Hendrix at the Opelika Public Library on Oct 9th at 6 PM to take a wild flight into the blackest night as we investigate the world of witchcraft in books and movies and witness an army of broomstick-brandishing, curse-hurling, baby-eating, world-destroying, unkillable, unstoppable, unbeatable witches.”

Taxpayer-funded promotion of “baby-eating” imagery for a library event—along with claims by library directors that it was too difficult to identify inappropriate materials—forced the APLS to spell things out.

## **Year Three 2025: Definitions, Laws, and an 80% Mandate**

This year the board returned with tighter language:

- Materials targeted, advertised, or published for ages 0–17 must comply with:
  - The Alabama What is a Woman Act
  - The Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection (VCAP) Act
  - Federal executive orders affirming two fixed sexes
- Exceptions remain for age-appropriate works on religion, history, biology, and anatomy.

The public comment period drew 8,478 responses—an astonishing 79.98% in support (6,781 yes, 1,697 no). Chairman John Wahl summed it up: “The response from the people of Alabama has been overwhelming. The goal of this amendment is to ensure our libraries remain safe, family-friendly spaces for families across the state of Alabama. The APLS board is committed to keeping our libraries focused on education and encouraging reading, while respecting parental rights and protecting children from sexual content. Sexuality is a deeply personal issue, and parents should never have to worry about their children stumbling across explicit content in our library’s youth sections. It’s time to put parents back in control of what their children are exposed to.”

## **The Road Ahead**

Eagle Forum of Alabama celebrates these wins, but the battle continues. More action is needed. The APLS rules must be codified into state law. Much of the same explicit content lurks in public school libraries as they too rely on American Library Association (ALA) recommendations for their selections. Library science curricula in Alabama universities is steeped in ALA dogma.

We humbly ask for your continued prayers, action, and financial support. Together we’ve proven that determined citizens can reclaim institutions meant to serve families, not ideologies. The innocence of Alabama’s children is worth every meeting, every letter, every dollar.

**Onward!**



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- Iva Hendon  
Jasper, Alabama

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