

Upholding marriage & family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

Strong Families Foster Strong Children



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

Illinois Family Institute isn't alone in asserting that children do better when their families are strong, and families do better when they live in communities that help them succeed. Not surprisingly, the communities that are most supportive of the family are often local church bodies.

This premise can be applied to several different layers of society. As the family goes, so goes the state. As the family goes, so goes the church. As the family goes, so goes the community. The point is—communities, churches, the state—we're all only as strong as our family units.

In 1778, John Adams, the second president of the United States and one of the most influential of the founding fathers, wrote this in his diary, "The foundation of national morality must be laid in private families."

With his characteristic foresight and wisdom, Adams pinpoints a truth our society would do well to remember. It is in the context of family that our children learn the values, morals and skills they will need to become active and productive participants in society. History, experience and decades of social science research corroborate this fact.

In 2009, thirty-three percent of Illinois children under the age of 18 were living in a single-parent home. That translates to one in three, or to be more specific, 995,000 children. This is a sobering statistic!

A married mother and father, an intact family, is every child's birthright.

Unfortunately, the reality is that not every child is afforded this opportunity. We must understand how important it is to champion the natural family, at all levels of society, so that more children will be blessed with such a birthright—whether it is with biological parents in their natural family or with adoptive parents.

President Barack Obama acknowledged this truth in his presidential proclamation recognizing November of last year as National Adoption Month:

"Giving a child a strong foundation—a home, a family to love, and a safe place to grow—is one of life's greatest and most generous gifts. Through adoption, both domestic and international, Americans from across our country have provided secure environments for children who need them, and these families have benefited from the joy an adopted child can bring."

We agree with the President that a strong foundation of home, family love and a safe place to grow is one of life's greatest gifts. To that foundation we would add the most important gift—a devoted Christian home where children learn about the love of God and live in obedience to His Word.

Unfortunately, President Obama's policy positions undermine this foundation. He

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Chicago Media Snub IFI Press Conference

by David E. Smith, Executive Director

mainstream media blackout, after all, most of these same corporations participate in Chicago’s annual “gay pride” parade, as debauched a public event as there is in the city, so it is no secret which side they are on in this contentious issue.

While their profession exhorts them to journalistic integrity, their political, social and emotional inclinations pull them in the opposite direction, and it is the people of Chicago and Illinois who have suffered from this media irresponsibility. The Chicago media have become part of the homosexual lobby through their servile pandering to this immoral and medically dangerous agenda.

Their [media] bias when covering the issues of abortion, homosexuality, decency, and true Christian faith is painfully clear and consistent.

We’ve known for years how dismissively the Chicago media covers conservatives, especially Christian conservatives, and the moral issues that concern and motivate us. Their bias when covering the issues of abortion, homosexuality, decency, and true Christian faith is painfully clear and consistent. Despite the fact that the state and nation are clearly divided on these controversial issues and that a large percentage of news consumers hold conservative opinions, the media smugly continue to operate as if there is only one credible side to report: the liberal side.

The lack of objectivity and fairness is oppressive, and we must not allow ourselves to become victims to the media’s leftist agenda. That’s why I’ll be asking for your help to disseminate this wonderful

event and the message it proclaims to all corners of the state.

Even when the media does squeeze in a few seconds or a few sentences that present the conservative, pro-life or pro-family side of a debate, negative adjectives and descriptors are often used to describe our position. Words like “anti-abortion” and “anti-gay” negatively frame our side of the debate while those on the other side are regularly referred to as “pro-choice” and advocates of “gay rights.” A few weeks ago, political reporter **Mike Flannery** went so far as to call those of us who opposed SB 1716 “foes of civil unions.”

IFI is making the video of this press conference available to our supporters. All we ask if that you cover the minimal cost of shipping and handling. For more information, or to order a copy of this DVD, call IFI at 708-781-9328. ■



Illinois Family Institute has written a number of columns over the years about the liberal bias of the news media, especially the media in Chicago. This left-wing, anti-Christian bias was never more apparent than on Monday, January 17th, as IFI’s well-publicized press conference was snubbed by all but one major news outlet. Any doubt about the Chicago media’s lack of journalistic integrity and fairness has been removed.

More than 40 African-American religious and political leaders gathered on that day, the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, to decry the misrepresentation of King’s legacy and the noble civil rights cause. With the recent passage of the “civil unions” bill in Springfield, one would think that this was a fairly big story. We do, and that is why IFI hired a videographer to record the entire event. This DVD is now available upon request.

Sadly, the only major secular news outlet in Chicago that covered this important event was WBBM radio and television (CBS). While Univision and WGN News attended the press conference, apparently the producers decided it didn’t fit their messaging on the issue of so-called “gay rights.”

None of Chicagoland’s major newspapers covered the event:

Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Daily Herald, and the Southtown Star

Neither did the following local television news networks:

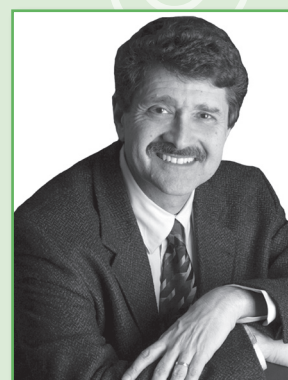
NBC, ABC and Fox Chicago

We should not be surprised by this



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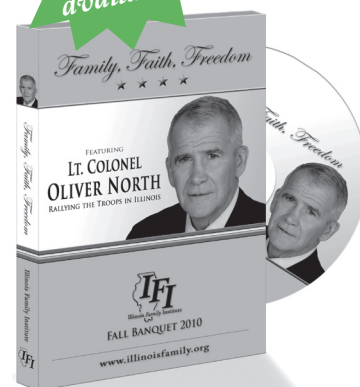
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A “B-” from NARAL Means Illinois is Failing

by David E. Smith, Executive Director

NARAL Pro-Choice America, an infamous pro-abortion organization, is described by *Fortune Magazine* as “one of the top 10 advocacy groups in America.” NARAL Pro-Choice America recently published its annual *Status of Women’s Reproductive Rights in the United States* report. According to this vehemently anti-life group, the United States received a “D” grade for so-called “reproductive rights.”



The report not only graded the nation but also graded states individually. The report card uses a point system based on an assessment of governors, laws, access to contraceptives, access to abortions, spousal and parental consent, “post viability abortion restrictions” on abortions, state constitutional guarantees of abortion, “contraceptive equity” (a euphemism for state-subsidized contraceptives), and the codification of *Roe v. Wade* in state law.

The “D” given to our nation means that our federal laws tend to lean pro-life. Those of us who believe that life is sacred from conception to natural death look forward to the day that NARAL assigns the United States an “F.”

The report explains that both state restrictions and federal “anti-choice” laws determine the nationwide grade. These laws include the Federal Abortion Ban, signed into law in 2003 by President **George W. Bush**; the Federal Refusal Clause of the 2004 Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, which protects health care practitioners who oppose abortion; and abortion restrictions for U.S. military women.

This relatively good news, however, does not extend to the Land of Lincoln. In fact, NARAL lauds Illinois’ state constitution for providing “greater protection for a woman’s right to choose than the U.S. Constitution.” (The U.S. Constitution neither explicitly nor implicitly guarantees the “right” to abort an unborn baby.)

Additionally, NARAL lists our state’s top executive, Governor **Pat Quinn** (D), as “pro-choice,” the Illinois Senate and

Illinois House are listed as “mixed-choice,” however; the Illinois General Assembly is led by abortion supporters Senate President **John Cullerton** (D-Chicago) and Illinois House Speaker **Michael Madigan** (D-Chicago).

NARAL enumerates several anti-life laws in Illinois, which include requiring health-insurance plans that cover prescription medication to provide the same coverage for contraception, requiring pharmacies to dispense birth control, and providing access to “family planning” (i.e. abortion) to low-income women through Medicaid. The report also highlights the long-litigated case to enforce Illinois’ 1995 Parental Notification Act, which remains in legal limbo and unenforced.

The NARAL report underscores the unacceptable reality that Illinois’ laws and far too many lawmakers favor abortion. After the tabulation of points, NARAL ranks Illinois as the 19th most anti-life state in the nation—with North Dakota ranking 50th and California placing 1st in this dubious competition. NARAL also gave the state of Washington an “A+,” while Maine, Oregon, Maryland, and Connecticut received an “A.” States that received an “A-” are Alaska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Vermont.

The states that received a failing grade from NARAL, thus being the safest for the unborn, are Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Virginia. ■

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Abortion by ‘Skype’

by Penny Pullen

Just when you thought the abortion industry could not do much more to express disdain for mothers and utter contempt for their children, the racket’s profiteers have come up with a new way to cut costs, increase “access” to abortion and bilk insurance companies while killing babies for hire.

It’s called “telemed abortions,” and it’s about as cold and calculating as you can get.

The abortuary customer is escorted not to a counseling office or a surgical suite but to a computer screen, where she is instructed by a supposed doctor in a remote location. The doctor never examines her, just talks with her, and when the instruction is complete, the customer is told to press a button on the computer screen that pops open a box.

Inside the box are a pair of pills—RU-486 (also known as mifepristone) and its companion pill, misoprostol (Cytotec). (RU-486 makes the womb inhospitable to the embryonic human; Cytotec, manufactured as an ulcer drug, acts to expel the dead baby.) Together, these pills constitute what is called “medical abortion,” as distinguished from surgical abortion.

The onsite abortuary counselor—who may or may not be an actual nurse—administers the drug combo to the customer and sends her on her way to suffer an induced miscarriage with or without treatment.

The process of death and delivery can take days of pain and anguish and can produce heavy bleeding and cramping. Yet the customer is sent off to suffer these effects alone, or at least without professional attention.

At the Planned Parenthood shop where telemed abortions were first uncovered, the protocol calls for recommending to the customer that she come back in two or three weeks for a follow-up appointment—no referral to a responsible healthcare provider.

The whole supposed “medical procedure” is accomplished without the customer (how can one call her a “patient?”) ever seeing or being seen by a licensed doctor.

Readers who assume this cold assembly

line was uncovered in New York or California may be disturbed to learn telemed abortions are widespread a little closer to home. It was at Iowa’s Planned Parenthood of the Heartland that Operation Rescue investigators uncovered this new method of expanding “access” and cutting costs.

“According to an undercover phone conversation with a receptionist with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland,” OR reported in a special report released last March, “medical abortions are offered in 16 clinics throughout Iowa, but only four of the clinics actually have doctors. At the other twelve, smaller clinics, telemed abortions have become routine.”

OR identified the principal telemed abortionist in Iowa as Susan Haskell, based at the Planned Parenthood shop in Des Moines. “According to a receptionist at a [telemed] Planned Parenthood in Council Bluffs,” OR stated, “Haskell never comes to their clinic, and neither does any other licensed physician. And so it is at the other eleven telemed abortion clinics run by Planned Parenthood [in Iowa]: no physician—ever.”

Sounds like a low-cost operation, doesn’t it? Low-cost, perhaps, but high profits. Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, according to a survey of abortuary charges undertaken by Operation Rescue, is charging above average fees for medical abortions. The average nationwide for a chemical abortion is, reported OR, “about \$390, ranging from a low of \$300 to a high of \$600.

“But in Iowa, insurance companies are being billed at a rate of \$1,000, two and a-half times greater than the national average—with a fraction of the cost.” What if the customer doesn’t have insurance? Well, then, reported OR, “the cost of the medical abortion is ‘discounted’ by Planned Parenthood to \$500, still well above the national average. Limited financial assistance from various abortion funds can further discount the abortion, but the money from the grant money still goes into Planned Parenthood coffers,”



noted OR, “insuring that the abortion clinic never receives less than \$500 for each telemed abortion.”

OR’s president Troy Newman summarized the problem with telemed abortions in the OR special report: “Taking an abortion pill is not like taking an aspirin,” said Newman. “Women have died from it, yet Planned Parenthood has reduced the dispensing of this dangerous abortion drug to little more than supplying advice of the kind you might get from a pharmacist when buying an over-the-counter medication. That is placing the lives of women at serious risk.”

Even before RU-486 abortions were streamlined through the telemed gimmick, more than 1,100 serious complications and at least eight deaths of aborted mothers had been reported to authorities in the United States. And the regimen’s seven to twenty percent failure rate (varying because of varying rates of adherence to the FDA-prescribed protocol) adds to the risks involved. Should a tiny developing child die from RU-486 yet not be completely expelled from the mother, that mother could face life-threatening complications; using the telemed bypass of medical personnel puts her at even greater risk of receiving no follow-up and no treatment of potential complications.

Telemed abortions—increasing access and cutting costs or playing with fire? If lawmakers do nothing to extend public policy to protect abortion-minded mothers from the profiteers who dream up such schemes, it’s only a matter of time before the casualties surface.

Babies are at risk, without question. And with remote-control abortions springing up in the heartland, so, increasingly, are their moms. ■

Penny Pullen is the President of the Life Advocacy Resource Project, a former Illinois State Representative (1977-1993) and Illinois Family Institute’s founding executive director (1992-1994).

Pro-Life Bill in Washington D.C. by David E. Smith, Executive Director

As the new Congress begins, pro-life champions on Capitol Hill are already moving to protect families in unprecedented ways. U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) is sponsoring the “Life at Conception Act” (S.91), which will define personhood from the moment of conception.

In Harry Blackmun’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, he wrote that “if personhood is established, the appellant’s case (i.e., ‘Roe’), of course collapses, for the fetus’ right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the [14th] amendment.”

Under S.91, a “human person” and a “human being” includes every individual “at all stages of life, including, but not limited to, the moment of fertilization, cloning and other moment at which an individual...comes into being.”

If this bill is enacted into law, it thus will not only provide protection for unborn babies, it will follow the path Justice Blackmun laid out 38 years ago for overturning *Roe v. Wade*, an act of judicial activism that has led to the deaths of more than 53 million unborn children.

U.S. Rep. **Duncan Hunter** (R-CA) has introduced a parallel bill in the House (H.R.374) which currently has 53 co-sponsors including two Congressmen from Illinois—**Don Manzullo** (R-Rockford) and **John Shimkus** (R-Collinsville).

And in keeping with the backlash against President Obama’s health care law, Republican Rep. **Joe Pitts** (R-PA) has joined with Illinois Rep. **Dan Lipinski** (D-Oak Lawn) to draft legislation to remove any taxpayer funding of abortion within the law. This legislation is the “Protect Life Act.”

However, getting abortion out of any and all government-sponsored health care is only the

beginning. That is why Representative **Chris Smith** (R-NJ), also working with Rep. Lipinski, reintroduced the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” which seeks to get taxpayers completely out of the abortion business and why Rep. **Mike Pence** (R-IN) reintroduced the “Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.”

From 2002-2008, Planned Parenthood received \$657,100,000 from federal taxpayers alone. Probably hoping to avoid further scrutiny during tough economic times, Planned Parenthood never released their 2008-2009 annual report until just before Christmas—months later than usual. *What were they trying to hide?* For one, the abortion giant received \$363,200,000 in government grants and contracts during that time period, a \$13,600,000 increase from the prior year. At the same time they were making a killing off of taxpayers, they were busy killing future ones by performing an unprecedented 324,800 abortions.

Of course, Planned Parenthood is not the only abortion company that receives government funds, but they are certainly the largest and growing.

Given that we have the most pro-life Congress in recent history, now is the time to act on stopping government subsidies to kill innocent life.

It is long past time for taxpayers to get out of the abortion business. ■

Strong Families Foster Strong Children by David E. Smith, Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

recently told *The Advocate* (a homosexual newspaper) that his views on so-called same-sex marriage are “evolving.” This shouldn’t come as a surprise. In 1996, then State Senator Obama opposed the Illinois Defense of Marriage Act, a bill that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

God’s design of natural marriage—one man and one woman—is the embodiment of the pro-family institution. The selfish demands and desires of a tiny group of adults should not supersede the needs and rights of children to be parented by a mother *and* a father. Ironically, liberal

ideology doesn’t allow President Obama to connect his Adoption Month statement regarding a child’s need for a strong foundation to God’s design of a natural family.

To this point, it is both appropriate and imperative to thank adoptive parents and foster families for the many sacrifices they make to welcome, love and nurture children. You carry the burden of caring for and raising some of our most precious treasures: the abandoned, the fatherless, the homeless, the most vulnerable young members of our society.

It is vital that we work together, as a state-wide community of believers, to strengthen and advance the natural family, underscore the importance of marriage, and protect the very institutions from which a stable and healthy society perpetuates. ■

Connect with me at my personal Facebook and Twitter pages to receive timely updates on various matters:

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Day of Silence Walkout 2011

by Laurie Higgins

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network’s (GLSEN) problematic annual exploitation of public schools through the Day of Silence takes place on April 15, 2011. In light of how successful GLSEN and every other homosexuality-affirming organization and blogger have been in exploiting recent tragic teen suicides, it is even more imperative that conservatives take a stand against the use of public education to normalize homosexuality.

Other than the Day of Silence Walkout, there are virtually no organized public efforts designed to tell school administrators, board members, and faculty that parents do *not* want their children exposed to homosexuality-affirming activities, resources, or events. We are hoping and praying that parents and guardians across the country will participate in the Day of Silence Walkout which is sponsored by a national coalition of pro-family organizations and leaders.

Over the past few years, the number of homosexuality-affirming events that take place in public schools have increased, at least in part because of the ignorance, cowardice, and acquiescence of conservative parents. In addition to the Day of Silence which will be held April 15, 2011, we now have Spirit Day sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD); Ally Week sponsored by GLSEN; National Coming Out Day sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC); No Name-Calling Week sponsored by GLSEN; and the Transgender Day of Remembrance sponsored by the HRC.

Ten states have now passed “enumerated” anti-bullying policies, which require that schools specifically address homosexuality, bisexuality, and “transgenderism” in their anti-bullying policies and programs. In addition, both a House and Senate version of the Safe

Schools Improvement Act have been proposed which, if passed, would prohibit schools from receiving funding to combat drugs and violence unless they address homosexuality and Gender Identity Disorder (or what schools euphemistically refer to as “transgenderism”) in their anti-bullying policies and programs.

The *ultimate* goal of all homosexuality-affirming organizations is not to end bullying. The ultimate goal is either the eradication of the belief that homosexual acts are immoral or the creation of a social and legal climate that make it impossible for conservative beliefs to be expressed. Homosexual activists and their ideological allies exploit legitimate anti-bullying sentiment to implement programs and institutionalize events like the Day of Silence in order to transform the moral beliefs of the nation’s youth.

If we don’t actively oppose the presence of homosexuality-affirming activities, programs, and resources, they will very soon appear in every elementary school in the country. Homosexual activists and their allies understand that it’s easier to capture the hearts and minds of 16-year-olds than 26-year-olds and easier still to capture the hearts and minds of 6-year-olds.

Far too few parents are aware that some school boards and courts have decided that when homosexuality-affirming resources are embedded in anti-bullying curricula or activities, parents have no right to be notified ahead of time and no right to opt out. In most places, however, parents still have the legal right to oppose in word and deed the exploitation of government schools for the purposes of undermining parental values and advancing unproven moral, political, and philosophical beliefs. And parents will *always* retain the moral right to do so.

If we hope to limit the damage done to individuals, society, speech rights, and religious liberty, we must act with courage now. If we don’t, we cede a vital

battlefield on which the Left will be able to train and multiply new generations of homosexuality-affirming disciples using public funds. As a result, we will bequeath to our children and grandchildren a corrosive educational environment, diminished rights, and unthinkable cultural oppression. In addition, we teach our children by example to be cowardly conformists.

From experience, we have learned that public school administrations respond to only three things:

- Bad PR
- A huge community outcry, which rarely happens because courageous conservatives who are willing to suffer for truth are tragically few
- Loss of funds

The Day of Silence Walkout will result in at least the loss of funds. Every student absence costs schools between \$30-80 per day.

How evil do the ideas to which our children are exposed have to become and how young the children to whom these evil ideas are presented before the conservative community will say “No more.” The Day of Silence is not centrally about ending bullying. It’s centrally about undermining and eradicating true beliefs about homosexuality.

The Bible repeatedly warns that Christians will be persecuted, mocked, reviled, scorned, and hated for the cause of Christ’s Kingdom. When will we demonstrate our willingness to endure such suffering for Christ, our children, our freedom, and truth? ■

A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God’s truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.

~ John Calvin

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4,000 Homeschoolers Descend on Springfield to Oppose SB 136

by David E. Smith, Executive Director

On January 27th, State Senator **Ed Maloney** (D-Chicago) introduced SB 136 — a bill that would have mandated the registration of homeschool students with state bureaucrats.

On February 8th, working with our friends at Illinois Christian Home Educators (ICHE) and Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), we traveled to Springfield to meet with Senator Maloney to explain our concerns with this onerous and unnecessary bill. He listened to us politely, and told us that he would like to have a “subject matter only” hearing on it to learn more. No vote would be taken at that time.

On February 15th, the State Senate Education Committee held that “subject matter only” hearing on the matter. Thanks to coordinated efforts of our partners, [an estimated 4,000 homeschoolers descended on the Illinois Capitol that morning to demonstrate their opposition to this big government bill.](#)

Two days later, on February 17th, Sen. Maloney decided to “table” the bill — and by doing so, effectively killed the bill for this session! A quick win for the new session!

Yet it was interesting what we learned during the hearing. Proponents of the bill made it abundantly clear that registration wasn't all they were interested in. During testimony, Monroe and Randolph Counties Truancy Officer **Bill Reynolds** told the committee that he wanted to “help” homeschoolers in his area, but didn't necessarily know where to find them. That reminded me of Ronald Reagan's words: “The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: ‘I'm from the government and I'm here to help.’”

And at various points during the hearing, both Senators **Kimberly Lightford** (D-Chicago) and **Iris Martinez** (D-Chicago) wondered what role government should have in trying to help those homeschooling students who were “falling through the cracks.” Apparently they failed to see the irony in requiring homeschooling parents to register their children in a system that has allowed scores of students to fall through the cracks for decades.

An email from ICHE pointed out:

Some senators worried about homeschoolers “falling through the cracks.” But if “falling through the cracks” means kids ending high school without a diploma, without being able to read, without being able to enter college without remedial classes, and with a juvenile justice record, then “falling through the cracks” is quite common in public



schools. The sad truth is that the public schools do not have the solution to “falling through the cracks!” Why does the least effective system of education want to upervise the most effective system?

One of the more alarming comments from the committee came from Senator Lightford, who wondered about homeschool teacher qualification and certification, which reveals the true intent of some government employees and points to the inevitable “slippery slope from registration to regulation” that IFI's **Laurie Higgins** wrote about in her original IFI E-mail Alert about this ominous bill.

If you are not convinced, please consider this exchange between Committee Member Senator David Luechtefeld and Truancy Officer Bill Reynolds:

Senator Luechtefeld: “If they register - will you go to any house and see if you can help?”

Truancy Officer: “Yes, sir.”

Senator Luechtefeld: “Even those that are doing a really good job?”

Truancy Officer: “That's right. And I'll know very quickly as I knock on the door; the ones that are doing a great job won't let me go. **They'll want me to come in. The ones that say we don't want you around I'll know to take further action.**”

Senator Luechtefeld: “I still don't see how this changes things just because they register.”

Truancy Officer: “It gives me the name and opportunity.”

In other words, Mr. Reynolds admitted that this bill was a solution looking for a problem! This bill will give him job security as he and other Truancy Officers harass homeschooling families and demand proof of academic success. So much for “innocent until proven guilty.” This is a standard not even required of public school teachers and administrators. IFI lobbyist **Ralph Rivera** pointed to the fact that existing truancy laws are adequate and



Home Depot Boycott

Our national affiliate, the *American Family Association*, is reporting that the Home Depot (through its Foundation) is now matching donations by its employees to further homosexual activism. GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), a very active pro-gay political organization, has announced on its website that The Home Depot has agreed to match all contributions made by company employees, despite a company policy to the contrary.

Through its “Matching Gifts” program, the Home Depot is willing to violate its own policy of not supporting political causes to help promote GLAAD's top agendas—homosexual marriage and more gay characters on prime-time network TV.

AFA is asking you to join a boycott of The Home Depot until it agrees to remain neutral in cultural issues.

TAKE ACTION

1. If you have not done so, sign the Boycott Pledge at [BoycottTheHomeDepot.com](#).
2. Call your local store manager. Let the manager know that you will not be shopping at The Home Depot until the company stops supporting the homosexual agenda. ■

This huge, orderly, and deeply passionate crowd singing beautifully made a powerful statement...

that homeschoolers are accountable to them.

Opponents of this bill, including attorney **Scott Woodruff** from HSLDA, did a wonderful job gently suggesting that this bill would turn peaceful, ordinary citizens “into political activists”—a fact driven home by the packed hearing room that overflowed into the hallways of the second and third floors. While waiting for the hearing to start, the crowd in the hallways began to sing. Strains of “America the Beautiful,” “God Bless America,” “Amazing Grace,” and “The Star-Spangled Banner” drifted into the committee room. This huge, orderly, and deeply passionate crowd singing beautifully made a powerful statement and played an invaluable part in seeing SB 136 defeated so quickly. ■



Chick-fil-A Support

Chick-fil-A has recently come under attack from pro-homosexual groups who are boycotting the restaurant chain for supporting state marriage initiatives. Founder **S. Truett Cathy** built the restaurant chain on his “personal and business philosophy based on biblical principles.”

Chick-fil-A is known for the exclusively Christian music that is played in its restaurants as well as being one of the few national businesses to close on Sunday, with no exceptions.

Please show your support for Chick-fil-A by visiting one of their 10 Illinois restaurants. ■

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301 E. Loop Road, Wheaton

IN MEMORIAM

DANIEL T.
ZANOZA



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NOVEMBER 27, 1953

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ON JANUARY 6, 2011

IFI CONTRIBUTOR,
CONSERVATIVE ACTIVIST
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PARTNER

Our Mission

Illinois Family Institute (IFI) is dedicated to strengthening the family and affirming the Judeo-Christian values upon which the family is based.

Our Partners

These partners provide a consistent stream of monthly donations to keep IFI operating at the highest level.

Our Question

Will you help us to fulfill our mission to support Illinois families by becoming an IFI Sustaining Partner today? ■



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MTV — Purveyors of Filth

Cable network MTV has aired and says will continue to air a pornographic-like TV show called *Skins*.



The show is the American version of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts winner *Skins*. Be advised the American version is just as salacious. For example the show, during its first airing, featured several high-school children using foul language, it contained portrayals and descriptions of high-school children discussing and engaging in sex, in the use of illegal drugs, the use of alcohol, stealing an automobile and then crashing it into a lake as well as numerous other descriptions and depictions of graphic, adult-themed activity.

The show romanticizes promiscuity, glamorizes drugs and alcohol consumption, but the nail in the coffin is that cast members are comprised of youth as young as 15 years of age.

MTV has rightfully come under scrutiny particularly from the Parents Television Council (PTC) who seeks to provide parents with information of television programs or entertainment products they deem beneficial or detrimental to child safety and development. Their campaigns include “attempts to hold advertisers accountable for sponsoring television programs the Council deems inappropriate, attempts to prevent children from watching television content the Council deems harmful, and attempts to change the functioning of cable channels so subscribers can see (and pay for) only specific channels.”

Several questions have since been raised

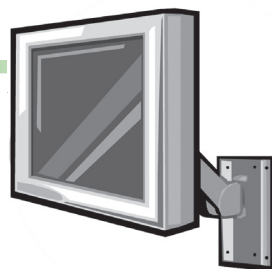
about the show’s vitality given many believe the show is potentially in violation of U.S. child pornography and obscenity laws. **Dan Isett** of the PTC laments, “what we have in this case is not somebody sitting in a basement, downloading material like you might associate; what we have here is a major media company actively exploiting and trying to profit off of the exploitation of children.”

PTC has encouraged the U.S. House and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, to commence an investigation into the validity of the program.

After pressure from parents throughout the nation, several companies have pulled their financial support, which came in the form of advertisement. Those companies include H&R Block, Taco Bell, General Motors, Wrigley’s Gum, Subway, L’Oreal, Foot Locker and Schick Hydro.

It is great to see these few companies step up to the plate and stand against the indecency and immorality of this program. The pocketbook is a powerful tool of the pro-family community that can, and should, be used to shut down morally objectionable shows like *Skins*.

IFI encourages you to visit PTC’s website at www.parentstv.org for additional information and for their family guide to prime time television shows. ■



Marriott Pulling Plug on Hotel Porn

The Marriott hotel chain has made the decision to eliminate pornographic movies from the video entertainment choices in any new hotel rooms being built in the future. A Marriott spokesman says the hotel corporation will also be removing so-called “adult” programming from its “pay-per-view” systems in existing hotels over the next few years.

“We are working with entertainment providers and technology vendors to transition to the next generation of in-room entertainment,” the company said in a prepared statement. “The new platform of Internet-based video-on-demand will facilitate our exit from traditional video

systems that included adult content in the menu selection.”

Marriott and other hotel chains have been under fire from pro-family groups for the last several years for making considerable profits from the marketing and sale of sexually explicit hardcore pornography in their hotel properties. The Illinois Family Institute joined 46 other pro-family groups in April 2008 in urging Marriott Vice Chairman **John W. Marriott III** to pull the plug on in-room porn at his corporation’s hotels.

While one would hope that Marriott made their decision in a moment of corporate conscience, there is little doubt

that economic reasons have influenced their decision. Pay-per-view movies have become a declining source of revenue as hotel guests use their laptops, iPads, or mobile phones to access entertainment. Hotels now generate 40 percent less income from pay-per-view movies than they did ten years ago.

The Marriott decision is a major welcome setback to LodgeNet, the nation’s leading provider of hardcore pornography to the hotel industry. Marriott has been one of LodgeNet’s two largest customers, along with the Hilton hotel chain. ■

Springfield Update 2011

Since it’s still early in the session, many bills do not yet have numbers or sponsors. Please sign up to receive timely IFI email updates (if you don’t already receive them). Simply go to www.illinoisfamily.org and click on the yellow “Subscribe” button or call us at 708-781-9328 to be added to our email list.



SUPPORT

Billboard Legislation — will regulate billboard advertisements of sexually oriented businesses.

Internet Filter Legislation — will require tax-funded computers in libraries to use filtering technology to block access to illegal pornography.

Ultrasound Legislation — will require abortionists to offer an ultrasound of the baby.

Choose Life License Plates Legislation — will create a new specialty plate with proceeds going to adoption agencies and pregnancy centers.

Abortion Clinic Regulation Legislation — will regulate abortion clinics; bringing them up to the standards of animal clinics.

Marriage Amendment (SJRCA 16 & HJRCA 10) — will amend the IL Constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman only.

Contact your State Representative by calling the Capitol switchboard at 217-782-2000

OPPOSE

“Medical” Marijuana Legislation (HB 30) — allows possession of 6 plants and 2 oz. of cannabis for “medical” reasons.

Sex-Ed Legislation titled “Personal Responsibility Education Program Act” (SB 1619) — sex-education “must be medically accurate and developmentally and age appropriate and must include instruction regarding the benefits of delaying or abstaining from sexual activity.” The concern lies in the SIECUS guidelines followed by most sex-ed curricula.

Vital Records Act (Gender Change) — amends the vital records act to allow the gender designation to be changed on a birth certificate if a physician certifies that a person had a “sex-change” operation.

HIV/AIDS Reporting Legislation (HB 95) — repeals the law (section of the Illinois Communicable Disease Prevention Act) which requires the Illinois Dept. of Public Health or local health departments to give notice to a school principal that an enrolled child has acquired AIDS or is HIV-positive.

Gambling — there have been 41 gambling-related bills introduced thus far.

Equal Rights Amendment (HJRCA 2) — would amend the Illinois Constitution. It eliminates all gender ‘discrimination’; affecting marriage laws, abortion, the age of consent, collecting a spouse’s social security, Girl and Boy Scouts, prison gender segregation and the draft — according to Ruth Bader Ginsburg. ■



Politics 201 —

People often make the mistake of referring to their state representative as “congressman.” Technically, a “congressman” is a lawmaker in Washington, D.C. **Lawmakers in Springfield are called state senator or state representative.**



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Illinois Family Institute Prayer Requests

IFI believes deeply in prayer. We are called to pray for our elected officials and we encourage you to join us in praying regularly for particular issues and for those in authority.

We must remember to keep the members of the Illinois General Assembly (and all our elected officials) in our prayers. Proverbs 29:18 says, “*Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.*”

Pray that elected officials and their staffs would heed those words of wisdom and reject the fallen humanistic voices of the day. Pray for an outpouring of God’s Spirit in the Capital and a revival of Judeo-Christian truths and principles in the law and culture of Illinois.

Pray for legislators and their staffs as they examine legislative language in new bills being considered. Pray for the wisdom and discernment to understand the issues, and that legislators will protect their constituents’ concerns, not just those of special, politically powerful interests.



Please Pray...

...for the unborn

- That the federal bill, “Life at Conception Act,” which would define personhood from the moment of conception, would succeed.
- That the IL Parental Notification Law (1995) would be found constitutional and begin being enforced.

...for the sanctity of marriage

- That legislators and judges would awaken to the truth of marriage as God’s perfect design.
- That attempts to garner support for same-sex “marriage” would be thwarted, and that our lawmakers will be convicted about the preeminence of natural marriage in our culture.

...for parental authority

- That parents, pastors and other community leaders would get involved in expressing their opinions and moral outrage at the godless philosophies that are slipping into public schools.
- That parents would understand their God-given role to purposely build and impress biblical values upon their children’s lives. As public schools, the popular culture, and even their peers advance an increasingly secular view of life, marriage, and sexual orientation, pray that parents would not rely solely on outside sources to shape their children at the expense of their own faith-based values and beliefs.

...for Illinois families

- For pastors statewide who fill a trusted role as leaders, shepherds, and teachers. Pray that God would equip them, minister to them, and encourage them.
- Pray for our soldiers and military families who have given much to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.
- Pray that God will revive and equip His Church in Illinois and in our nation.
- Pray for a return to prayer and godly values in our families, churches and across the nation—that Biblical wisdom would permeate Illinois communities, culture, and policy.

...for Illinois Family Institute:

- Pray that IFI will continue to increase in favor in the Capitol, with media, on the Internet, and with our allies in preserving the future for families.
- Pray that IFI’s monthly budget needs are met.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
~1 Timothy 2:1-2

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the Alliance Defense Fund, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Liberty Counsel and Thomas More Society.

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