



PRO LIFE.
PRO MARRIAGE.
PRO FAMILY.

Never before have Americans witnessed a more vicious and mean-spirited assault on our religious liberty and freedom of conscience. The Obama Administration's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a mandate requiring all employer health plans to include free contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs, regardless of any moral or religious objections.



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



It doesn't seem to matter to President Obama and his agents that this edict violates the religious doctrines of orthodox denominations. It doesn't seem to matter that this mandate undermines the core religious convictions of millions of Bible-believing Christians. It doesn't seem to matter that this decree offends the sensibilities of pro-life citizens.

President Obama and his allies have decided they are going to use the heavy hand of government to compel people of religious and moral conscience — Christian institutions, employers, and families — to pay for actions they believe to be morally wrong.

This is tyranny of the highest order. It is one thing for a government to adopt policies that are hostile to Christian values and which devalue the sanctity of human life. It is another thing for a government to dictate that every citizen abandon their conscience and facilitate practices and procedures that offend a holy and just God.

How did we get here? How is it that we are now fighting to retain the freedom to live our beliefs and to freely exercise our religious convictions without the government's interference?

We know the answer.

It is because so many Christian have been docile or silent in the face of unrelenting ridicule, mockery, and dismantling of our Christian values over the years. Too many have decided it was safer to retreat from the ideological battles because they didn't want to get caught up in politics. They said they wanted to keep the church out of politics. But because of their inaction, politics is now one step away from taking over the church.

I am grateful that friends like you are not among them. I thank God that you are willing to take a stand. I appreciate that you have taken the time to make sure your voice is heard by those who represent us in government. It is essential that our voice on behalf of family values — on behalf of religious liberty — be heard loud and clear in the halls of our State Capitol in Springfield, and in the Halls of Congress in Washington, D.C. Now is not the time to catch our breath or rest. We must continue to sound the trumpet to defend liberty and righteousness.



Continued on page 3

HELP IFI & SAVE MONEY AT THE SAME TIME!



Want to save money on your electric bill and help raise funds for IFI at the same time?

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When you select Nordic as your alternative electricity supplier, you save money and IFI earns money! I personally switched and will save my household over \$300 in the next twelve months. ☺

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Also in this Issue...

Energy Crunch	p. 3
Healthcare, Birth Control & Personal Responsibility	p. 4
Passing the Baton — <i>Ideas for Dads & Mentors</i>	p. 5
HHS Mandate Elicit Protests	p. 6
SCOTUS & ObamaCare	p. 7
We Need You!	p. 7
Tax-Funded Red Light Libraries	p. 8
Gambling Opportunists, Gambling Predators	p. 8
Porn is Popular	p. 9
More Cohabiting Adults Having Children	p. 9
Springfield Update	p. 10
Communities Ban Video Gambling	p. 11
Conduct Voter Registration Drives this Summer!	p. 11
IFI Prayer Requests	p. 12



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- **Illinois Family Action**



- **@ProFamilyIL**

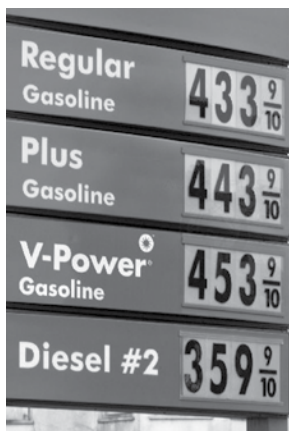
Energy Crunch

Like all Illinois drivers, **\$4+** a gallon of gasoline is taking a heavy toll on the Smith family budget, and I am not very happy about it. It is especially infuriating to know that we have billions — even trillions — of barrels of proven reserves available to Americans identified below U.S. soil.

According to the Heritage Foundation, most gains in oil production have been from private lands in Texas, North Dakota and Alaska. The drilling of oil on public lands (not national parks but other federally managed land) increased during the Bush presidency. The current administration's failure to approve more drilling is contributing to the increase in world oil prices.

I recently came across some interesting statistics that you may find of interest too:

- The average cost of a gallon of gas in 1971 in the U.S. was **\$0.36** cents. (*U.S. Dept of Energy*)
- The average cost of a gallon of gas in 2009 in the U.S. was **\$1.85**. (*U.S. Dept of Energy*)
- The average cost of a gallon of gas last year was **\$3.49** (*American Petroleum Institute*)
- **300** – The numbers of gasoline refineries in the U.S. in 1980. (*U.S. Energy Information Administration*)
- **149** – The number of gasoline refineries today. (*U.S. Energy Information Administration*)



from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**
(continued from page one)

The work and faithfulness of our Founding Fathers have served this nation well for so many years, but it is very much in peril today. The future of Christianity in our nation and the free exercise of our Christian beliefs are very much at stake in the upcoming elections. Whether it is the IFI Voter Guide or the more direct work of Illinois Family Action (our 501c4 sister organization), there is much work we can do to educate Illinois voters in advance of the November election. Your support is vital if we are to be able to have a meaningful impact in this election year.

There is no question that the future of our state and nation hangs in the balance in 2012. With God's help and your generous support and prayers, I am confident that IFI and IFA will have a tremendous impact in key races for the Illinois General Assembly and for U.S. Congress.

God bless you for your prayers and encouragement in our work and ministry. We have to keep the momentum going to push back against the secular forces that seek to corrupt our culture and our government. Your support can make the difference! ☺



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Healthcare, Birth Control & Personal Responsibility

by Rhonda Robinson

Two years ago, I couldn't get health insurance. My family lost our insurance due to a job change. We had never been without it before. The reason I couldn't get it, was because — well, I was too fat.

Can you believe the nerve of these people? How fair is that?

How can the government let an innocent ice cream and latté loving mother of nine go without health insurance? Am I to be punished just because of middle age, too much chocolate and a few big babies?

You bet. I'll guarantee no one is going to Capital Hill to testify that actually having babies and obesity is a protected right — although it is. Nevertheless, you won't see us fluffy mamas picnicking on the White House lawn demanding legislation for a Weight Watchers subsidy.

Although, according to Georgetown law student **Sandra Fluke**, the current champion of



Sandra Fluke, giving testimony before Congress

unfettered government-subsidized sexual “freedom,” the government should create laws to fit her lifestyle and pay for it as well. After her famous testimony, Ms. Fluke wrote an Op-Ed for CNN.com stating:

“I am proud to stand with the millions of women and men who

recognize that our government should legislate according to the reality of our lives — not for ideology.”

That pretty much sums up the stunted social mentality we are dealing with today across the board. We are seeing it in front of cameras, behind microphones, and defecating in our public parks and streets, for which my taxes pay.

They want legislation to fix the harsh reality of life. They view our American freedom as the ability to live as if there are no consequences. The only way to do that is to have someone else pay the price. Or better yet, create legislation that forces everyone else to foot the bill.

This is the ideology of liberals and progressives. It is an ideology in direct opposition to the American principal of self-governance, the fragile yet powerful ideology upon which America was founded.

Here is a reality of life; birth control is no more health care than a baby is a growing tumor.

The lack of birth control pills does not cause a woman to have a disease. Birth control is not the same as mammograms and pap smears. They do not heal or save lives. They are designed simply to prevent the natural consequence to an action.

This backward notion that our government must legislate according to the prevailing consequential whims of a few people's lives rather than by our founding principals, is an affront to our heritage. This same backward ideology can also be found at the heart of almost all of the major political and social conflicts we see playing out in the halls of Congress, on the campaign trails, and occupying our streets.

Ms. Fluke also pointed out, “Thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), preventive care services, including contraception, will be covered by private insurance plans without co-pays or deductibles. If appropriately implemented, this important law will finally guarantee women access to contraception, regardless

of the religious affiliation of their workplace or school.”

When the guns of legislative power turn toward institutions to force them to take responsibility that is not theirs, we are all robbed of our freedom. A fundamental fact is that whenever something is given, something is also lost. Unfortunately, the extent of the damage will not be fully felt until the legislation is embedded in our lives.

These women already have access to contraception. When they say “access,” what they would have us believe that it is unobtainable without this legislation. This is a verbal illusion. It is accessible to 12-year-old girls, with or without insurance.

When I found out that, because of my weight, the cost of health insurance would put my family in a perilous financial state, I had a choice to make. I could call my lawyer and sue McDonalds or bully them into making healthier food. Oh wait — someone already did that. So I decided to take responsibility for my own life, which by the way, I highly recommend.

Two years later, I lost the weight. Now I'm at the weight I am supposed to be. It was hard work, giving up a lot of bad habits. And after the weight came off, I had to maintain that loss. It took shifting my mindset, even altering our family traditions and creating new ones.

There is a lot to be said for taking responsibility for your own life, and I've learned a lot over the past two years. I can now bargain hunt for the coveted “affordable” health insurance, and shop for clothes without running out of the store crying.

I've always taken pride in caring for my family by keeping to a strict budget. Now, after decades of cooking for a large family on a budget, I just discovered that spaghetti was not really my friend. Who knew? 🍝

Rhonda Robinson has spent the last 22 years in grade school, as a homeschooling mother of nine. She and her husband of 33 years live in Douglas County in central Illinois.

Passing the Baton — *Ideas for Dads & Mentors*

A continuing series of articles by Grady Hauser, author of
Passing the Baton — 100 Life Principles and Skills Every Father Needs to Teach His Children.

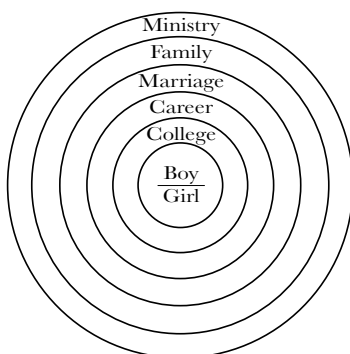
Circles of Responsibility

Do you remember the formula for the area of a circle? On a school night, give your teenager a surprise homework break and have this discussion over some ice cream, away from home.

As we all grow into adulthood, the expanding responsibilities (and their associated privileges) are a lot like circles on a target. But the “target” diagram means a lot more than your teenager might understand at first.

The smallest inner circle represents a boy/girl living at home. Not very much responsibility required at this level. But as that student goes off to college, significant new responsibilities are

THE EXPANDING RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF ADULTHOOD



placed on their shoulders, and whether they carry or squander them will directly affect their ability to move into the next circle — a career.

And so it goes. A measure of responsibility in that circle directly impacts the ability to move into the next circle — a marriage. A solid marriage, tested over time, is the foundation for successfully navigating into the next circle — a family. Finally, a public ministry beyond our own family is the outer circle. That “ministry” may be a small group or church leadership, on up to a visible national role.

At every step, the principle remains the same. **Our success, or failure, at each level will directly impact our ability to function at the next level.** For the most part, life is a series of these stepping stones. We cannot hopscotch to an outer circle without building the foundation of the inner circles.

Do you know a young man who would like to be married but has no career or direction in life? Do you know a young woman who would like to have a successful job, but hasn't built her circle of college or some similar training program? Do they understand that life comes in this sequential progression and that forcing a jump to an outer circle is a high-risk plan?

Equally so, once a person has arrived at a certain level, a humble recognition of our dependence on our inner circles

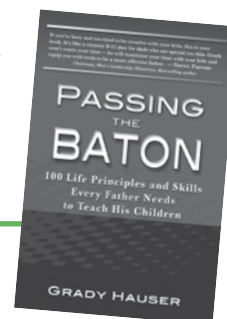


honors the Lord and protects us from prideful failures. The leader of a national (or local) ministry who fails to tend to his family is on thin ice. The father who fails to nurture his marriage is eroding the foundation of that family.

Paint this picture from a positive perspective with your teen. Use the circles to explain a positive formula of what they can strive for, with definition, focus, and perhaps even timelines. And don't miss the point that just like the math formula for the actual area of a circle, each outer circle has vastly more area (responsibility) than its predecessor.

Finally, like all other discussions you have as you “Pass the Baton,” you will be building love, trust and relationship with your child that will last a lifetime. ☞

To order “Passing the Baton,” email:
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HHS Mandate Elicit Protests

On Friday, March 23rd, hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens gathered in 110 cities across the nation in opposition to the Obama Administration's mandate requiring all employer health plans to include free contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs, regardless of any moral or religious objections. The events were sponsored by the Pro-Life Action League.



No Mandate protests

Several cities around Illinois held events including one at the Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago. The fact that Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and Southern Baptists joined forces in sponsoring these events highlights the grave threat the abortion drug mandate poses to the religious freedoms of churches throughout our nation.

"We can't afford to be passive when our federal government has taken a position that forces people of faith and religious entities to act in a way that is contrary to our morals and beliefs," said IFI board member **Jim Finnegan**. "We have seen decades of tragedy resulting from the overreach of government in the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision. It is important for us to do something now to secure conscience rights for our citizens and avoid further tragedy."

Pastor **John Kirkwood**, of Grace Fellowship in Bensenville, echoed Finnegan's comments. "Under the Constitution, the government has no right to impose penalties on religious convictions of any kind. The recent federal mandate is a blatant overreach by the Administration into the spheres of conscience that directly impact Christian ministries and universities. We need to be first in line to protect our precious First Amendment freedoms from abuse by those with political agendas."

In the meantime, the Obama Administration is plowing forward with plans to implement another controversial action: the abortion surcharge provision included in President Obama's health care law. All insurance companies who offer coverage for elective abortion in their health insurance policies will be required to collect a separate premium for abortion coverage. That premium will be assessed against all policyholders regardless of a person's age, gender, or physical condition.

It is likely that most insurers will opt to collect the surcharge, since it is a requirement for access to federal subsidies. In an amazing display of audacity, the Obama Administration is prohibiting insurers from disclosing the abortion surcharge (which is initially being set at \$1 per month) in their informational materials until policyholders sign up for coverage.

U.S. Representative **Joe Walsh** (R-Woodstock) sharply condemned the Administration's actions: "This is a slap in the face of every U.S. employer and religious institution. The President seems to have forgotten that this country was founded on religious freedom. This decision goes against that and everything this country stands for... Forcing religious organizations to provide birth control to their employees is un-American and unacceptable."

Unfortunately, Illinois citizens will be required to pay this abortion surcharge because the Illinois General Assembly — specifically House Speaker **Michael Madigan** (D-Chicago) and Senate



President **John Cullerton** (D-Chicago) — failed to opt out of this provision. In addition, Illinoisans will still be forced to underwrite abortion coverage in other states through their federal income taxes. Federal subsidies will help pay for policies that may include abortion coverage for individuals who qualify for federal assistance.

A St. Louis Catholic business owner has decided that he is not going to take the abortion drug mandate sitting down. **Frank O'Brien** has filed suit in federal court against the contraceptive mandate, claiming that it violates his constitutionally protected religious beliefs. O'Brien employs 87 people at his company, O'Brien Industrial Holdings.

"This mandate would require business people like our client to leave their religious beliefs at home every day as a condition of doing business in our society," says **Francis Manion** of the American Center for Law and Justice, which is representing O'Brien in the litigation.

"This mandate tells people like Frank O'Brien that they have to choose between conducting their business in a manner consistent with their moral values or conducting their business in a manner consistent with the government's values. The Constitution does not allow the government to impose such a choice."

The mission statement of O'Brien's business reads as follows: "Our mission is to make our labor a pleasing offering to the Lord while enriching our families and society." O'Brien's refusal to comply with the abortion drug mandate could result in fines to his firm totaling over \$3 million a year.

Please be praying for business owners like Frank O'Brien who face the moral dilemma of following their consciences or facing crippling financial penalties imposed on the companies they operate. ☞

SCOTUS & ObamaCare

The two-year anniversary of ObamaCare was “celebrated” on March 23rd, but the real news is that the constitutionality of the healthcare takeover now stands before the Supreme Court of the United States which began hearing oral arguments on March 26th through the 28th. Justices grilled the Obama Administration Solicitor General about the law during Tuesday’s second day of arguments.

The individual mandate, one of the most contentious portions of ObamaCare and the reason why it is currently before the Supreme Court, requires Americans to purchase health insurance and the justices made it appear they are very skeptical whether the mandate is constitutional, writes *LifeNews.com*. Potential swing vote



Nine Supreme Court Justices

Justice **Anthony Kennedy** appeared concerned that forcing people to purchase health insurance would lead them to be required to purchase other products ranging from cell phone to gym memberships.

Kennedy told Solicitor General **Donald Verilli** that the government needs to answer a “very heavy burden of justification” to show how the U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to require people to buy insurance.

“The questions raised by Justice Kennedy indicate a growing concern about the constitutionality of the individual mandate,” said **Jay Sekulow**, Chief Counsel of the ACLJ. “While you can never predict the outcome of a Supreme Court case based on oral arguments, it is very encouraging that it appears a majority of the Justices understand that requiring Americans to purchase health insurance raises significant constitutional questions. The concerns were clear: if the government is permitted to force Americans to purchase health insurance, where do you draw the line?”



Most Americans don’t want ObamaCare, and we’re hopeful that a majority of the Justices declare the entire health care law, including the individual mandate, unconstitutional.”

Attorney **Mat Staver** of Liberty Counsel does not think things look promising for the government. “In fact, as I count the votes, I believe that if the mandate is struck down, the majority, if not the totality, of the ObamaCare law will also go with it,” he suggests.

The nation’s highest court is expected to issue a ruling on ObamaCare in late June. Please keep the nine members of the Supreme Court in your prayers over the next few months. Pray for wisdom, discernment and understanding. ☞

We Need You!

For 20 years now, **Illinois Family Institute** has been your advocate, alerting Christian citizens of the political and cultural threats facing their families — issues like marriage, pornography, and the sanctity of life. If you appreciate IFI’s work and ministry and want to continue to be informed about matters critical to the well-being of the family, I urge you to become an **IFI Ministry Partner** so that IFI can continue engaging in the battle for God honoring principals and values in our state.

Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to keep non-donors on our mailing list. We simply are unable to continue to fight the battle for truth that needs to be fought unless like-minded Christians become regular annual supporters.

IFI has never been so busy defending marriage and family values as we are right now. Over **8,500 bills have been introduced in Springfield this legislative session.** The truth of the matter is the vast majority of these bills, if passed, would negatively affect parental rights and family values. IFI’s presence in our Capitol is essential to educate lawmakers about the anti-family effect of these policies and to stop most of these bills from becoming law.

Please stand with us. We need your help now more than ever! As an **IFI Ministry Partner**, for a minimum annual donation of \$35 per year, you may continue to receive our popular voter guides, quarterly IFI Newsletter, and other important publications that will help you stay informed. This is information you will not find anywhere else!

Please respond by returning the enclosed form with your tax-deductible gift, or call us at **708-781-9328**. Thank you and God bless you.

David E. Smith, Executive Director



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Tax-Funded Red Light Libraries *by Russ Jones*

Internet porn activity has reached epidemic numbers. Reports find every second — 28,258 Internet users view pornography. In that same second 372 Internet users type adult keywords into search engines. With those kinds of statistics, Internet porn has been compared to crack cocaine in its addictive behavior.



Often, porn users go to great lengths to hide their addiction, but *Inside Edition* discovered a different story. The popular television show that airs on CBS found men watching hardcore pornography in a public library. Many library patrons were shocked. “That is completely absurd. Nobody should be doing that in public,” one man told *Inside Edition*. Another woman — who happens to be a librarian told the program’s investigative reporter, “It offends everyone. And it’s something that should not be done in public.”

Apparently porn use in many public libraries is not only permitted, but legal. During a visit to Chicago’s central library, The Harold Washington Library Center, *Inside Edition* reports it “saw security guards patrolling the library’s computer center. But that didn’t seem to stop many men from watching graphic adult videos in the large computer room open to anyone.”

Some cities see pornography use in public libraries as protected by freedom of speech laws. The New York City Library, for example, contends surfing the web for porn is protected by the First Amendment so officials don’t do anything to restrict or discourage such activity.

A district in Washington State, however, is working hard to curb pornography use in its libraries. The Wenatchee public library filters access to pornographic content on its computer’s search engines, a move that has recently brought a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Dan Howard, director of public services, told King5 TV “We believe having pornography in public places hurts our ability to accomplish our mission.”

The ACLU accuses the library district of having an overly broad filtering policy “that has prevented our plaintiffs that are an artist, a college student, and a gun magazine, from accessing perfectly reasonable material,” said Doug Honig, spokesperson for the ACLU. Organizations like SafeLibraries.org educate people and politicians about who controls public libraries.

“Citizens, not the American Library Association (ALA) should determine library policies,” said executive director Dan Kleinman. “If your local library is applying ALA policy instead of local laws and policies, learn what can be done to reverse that.”

Russ Jones is a twenty-year award winning journalist, correspondent, media consultant and co-publisher. Russ is married to Jackie and together they have four children. He may be reached at russ@russjones.me.

Gambling Opportunists, Gambling Predators

Absolutely despicable! The fact that the new Rivers casino in Des Plaines was caught promoting its vice to struggling gambling addicts is outrageous. How else can we describe Rivers’ attempt to lure vulnerable victims to the lair?



Rivers specifically targeted people who recognize they are problem gamblers — people who have voluntarily put themselves on a self-exclusion list to be kept out of gambling establishments.

There are thousands of Illinois people on this list.

This isn’t really a big surprise; after all, the gambling industry is built on greed and exploitation. Thanks to complicit state lawmakers, gambling has been allowed to expand across the state and nation, so much so that now they’ve over-expanded and have saturated the market.

Well that’s not good news for the gambling industry. If they want to stay afloat, they need plenty of losers, so their new targets are self-identified gambling addicts! Since Illinois state lawmakers



approved the casinos, giving their imprimatur to these exploitative games of chance to get their share of the booty, does it really matter who they target or exploit? As long as the state and gambling industry get their ill-gotten cut, it doesn’t matter how much it costs the families and legitimate businesses of Illinois.



Porn is Popular...

What's the most accessed Internet topic? If you guessed porn, you'd be correct. According to an April 9, 2012, *New York Daily News* article, 30 percent of all Internet traffic involves porn sites.

One such site has 3 times more pages viewed than CNN and ESPN — a whopping 4.4 billion views per month! The second biggest Internet porn site boasts 100 million page views a day, reports *ExtremeTech*.

This problem has greatly increased from a few years ago. Aside from curiosity, availability, and the addictive nature of porn, one of the problems is that some public schools and most public libraries still offer unfettered Internet access, many even refusing to block illegal pornography, allowing children and adults to intentionally or accidentally view sexually graphic and obscene images.

The *New York Daily News* offered readers a poll that asked “Do you visit porn sites?” 61 percent said YES, 21 percent said ‘Um, no comment!’ and only

**Porn isn't just
“harmless fun”
as our liberal and
libertarian friends
may assert.**

18 percent said NO. This is an extremely sad commentary on the coarsening of our society.

These new stats only remind us of the truths about the ever-increasing addictive attributes associated with pornography. Porn isn't just “harmless fun” as our liberal and libertarian friends may assert. Regular exposure to sexually graphic images desensitizes men and warps our children's understanding of the proper role of sex within marriage, and it also harms our mothers, sisters and daughters. The irreparable harm it does to those who are attacked by men stimulated by sexually explicit images cannot be questioned. Nor can we debate the ill effects, both



TAXPAYER FUNDED Pornography

physically and emotionally, suffered by women in the “adult entertainment” industry.

There is a plethora of research that shows how pornography and its messages are involved in shaping attitudes and encouraging behavior that can harm individual users, their relationships, marriages, and families.

So what can you do as a parent and taxpayer? Filter out hard-core pornography on your home computer for starters. There are many very reliable Internet filters that allow administrative override in the event a web site is accidentally blocked. Filters are highly recommended for every home, library and place of business. Check out the Top Ten Reviews for software comparisons at www.Internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com.

Call the local schools and libraries that you as a taxpayer support, and ask if they filter out illegal pornography from computers, especially those used by children. Filters on children's computers should be a no-brainer. If they don't, ask if they would research their effectiveness and low cost. And if software is not desirable, there are many proxy servers that will filter it at their end before sending it to the customer.

For more information on the pornography problem in our public libraries, you can check out Safe Libraries at www.Safelibrariesblogspot.com.

Don't give up on pushing this issue. Perseverance is critical. ☞

More Cohabiting Adults Having Children



New analysis from the National Center for Health Statistics has found that the percentage of first births to women living with a male partner has skyrocketed. In 2002, 12 percent of first births were to cohabiting women. By 2006, the number had increased dramatically to 22 percent of first births.

Some demographers are blaming the recession for the rapid increase in such a short period of time, saying that couples don't want to get married in turbulent economic times but still want to have children. However, data shows that marriage creates economic stability and reduces poverty. It's a message that is not being communicated in a culture that doesn't understand the important social role of marriage.

Perhaps even more disturbing is the ethnic disparity revealed in the new analysis. About 80 percent of first children born to black women were outside of marriage, 18 percent of whom were cohabiting. Among Hispanics, 53 percent of first children were born outside of marriage and 30-percent of the women were cohabiting. Among white women, 34 percent of first children were born outside of marriage, 20 percent to cohabiters. ☞



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Springfield **UPDATE** April 2012

PRO-LIFE

HB 4085 — Rep. Joe Lyons (D-Chicago) — Creates the Ultrasound Opportunity Act to require that before a woman can obtain an abortion she be offered the opportunity to view her baby through ultrasound. The decision whether to view it is hers. **STATUS:** *It passed out of committee and awaits a floor vote.* **IFI SUPPORTS**



HB 4117 — Rep. Tom Morrison (R-Palatine) — Amends the Illinois Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act to require facilities doing 50 or more abortions a year to meet the health and safety standards of other ambulatory surgical treatment centers. **STATUS:** *It passed out of committee and awaits a floor vote.* **IFI SUPPORTS**

HB 5622 — Rep. Sarah Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) — Creates the Assisted Reproduction and [Human] Egg Donation Act to set up a legal construct for “adoptions” of human eggs for in-vitro fertilization and implantation and for “compensation” to egg donors beyond payment for medical and living expenses. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**

HOMOSEXUALITY

HB 5170 — Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago) — Creates the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, or Same-Sex Marriage. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**



HB 4725 — Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago) — Adds “Gender Identity Disorder” to the existing hate crimes law. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**

HB 5290 — Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago) — Amends “anti-bullying” law by adding “youth programming” and “restorative measures,” which will likely be used to implement programs to shape students’ beliefs about homosexuality and gender dysphoria/Gender Identity Disorder. It also adds more enumerated categories. Since bullying is impermissible for any reason, enumerated categories are unnecessary. **STATUS:** *Passed in the Illinois House 61-49; now in the Illinois Senate. Call your state senator!* **IFI OPPOSES**

HB 5303 — Rep. LaShawn Ford (D-Oak Park) — Deletes the section of the Communicable Disease Prevention Act that requires the health department to give notice to a school principal when a school aged child has acquired AIDS or was exposed to HIV. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**

“MEDICAL” MARIJUANA

HB 30 — Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie) — Creates the Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Pilot Program Act which is the first step taken by pro-legalization groups before full legalization. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**



GAMBLING

SB 3497 — Rep. Jeff Schoenberg (D-Evanston) — Expands the Internet Lottery to include online sales of Power Ball tickets. **STATUS:** *SB 3497 passed the Senate and awaits a vote in the House.* **IFI OPPOSES**

SB 1297 — Sen. Antonio Munoz (D-Chicago) and Rep. Daniel Burke (D-Chicago) — Legalizes remote caller bingo, eliminates prize limits and allows high-stakes bingo. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES**

EDUCATION

HB 3027 — Sen. Heather Steans (D-Chicago) and Rep. Camille Lilly (D-Chicago) — Comprehensive sex education bill that requires schools that teach sex education must “place substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception,” replacing abstinence-only programs with graphic condom training curricula. **STATUS:** *It passed in the Senate and awaits a vote in the House.* **Call your state representative!** **IFI OPPOSES**



SB 3259 — Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-Westchester) — Raises the compulsory age of school attendance to 18. **STATUS:** *It passed out of committee and awaits a floor vote.* **IFI OPPOSES**

HR 254 — Rep. Daniel Burke (D-Chicago) — Acknowledges Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard’s Good Choices Program as one example of a program fully in compliance with provisions of the School Code concerning character education. **STATUS:** *It's been assigned to the Elementary & Secondary Education Committee and awaits a hearing.* **IFI OPPOSES**

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 311 — Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago) — Creates the IL Universal Health Care Act. Provides health insurance for all IL residents. **STATUS:** *It's likely dead for the session.* **IFI OPPOSES** ☞

Communities Ban Video Gambling

by Anita Bedell, ILCAAP

State gaming officials began accepting video gambling applications in March, and they are expected to begin video gambling by the end of the year. However, the Illinois Gaming Board just recently discovered there are likely dozens — and potentially hundreds — of municipalities and counties with ordinances on the books banning gambling.

That's on top of 152 communities that have opted out of the 2009 Video Gaming Act, a number that nearly doubled as the Gaming Board learned of more communities that recently passed bans.

Illinois gaming officials began to comb the state county-by-county and town-by-town last week to determine what gambling bans each has on its books.

Gambling Addiction Increases

As revenues at the new Rivers Casino in Des Plaines soar, so are the numbers of gambling addicts in the suburbs, according to health officials.

With the expansion of video gambling, there will be plenty of gambling opportunities at every turn to entice the average person, said **Deb Ayanian**, director of Holy Family Medical Center's new gambling addiction treatment program.

The Illinois Coin Machine Operators Association represents vending firms that will be competing with the state's existing casinos and Illinois' new online lottery. Together, these competitors will have to grow the pool of customers already dropping billions each year on losing casino and lottery bets. ☞



Anita Bedell is the Executive Director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems, the Secretary/Treasurer of the American Council on Alcohol Problems and has served on the board of the National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion. She served on the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force and has testified before the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, the Illinois Gaming Board, many Legislative Committees and special hearings and before county boards and public forums on gambling.

Conduct Voter Registration Drives this Summer!

Registering to vote is the first step in engaging in civic life and becoming a good steward of your God-given responsibility of self-government. Any Illinois citizen who will be eighteen by Election Day (Nov. 6) is eligible to register.



The process for registering is easy and convenient, but, sadly, millions of Americans choose not to take the time. It is estimated that 35 percent to 50 percent of Americans are not registered to vote.

It seems to be even worse among self-professing Christians. Research shows that only about 60 percent of Christians are registered to vote, and of those, only 60 percent actually vote. **This means that only 36 percent of Christians actually vote.**

Just think about how many people you know who have moved and need to re-register. Think of how many teens you know who are turning 18 and can vote for the first time this year. Consider engaging citizens who have not voted in the past to become actively involved in impacting our nation's future!

IFI has created a free voter registration packet containing all of the information you need to conduct a drive. Please consider holding a voter registration drive at your church, or maybe even at your local school, library, or county fair. Doing this during the Fourth of July holiday would be a great idea!

Voter Registration FAQ's

- Q.** I've moved. Do I need to register again?
- A.** Yes.
- Q.** My name has changed. Do I need to register again?
- A.** Yes.
- Q.** I'm not 18 yet, but I will be soon. Can I register?
- A.** Yes. You may register now for an election as long as you will be 18 by the date of that election.
- Q.** I am a pastor or a church leader. Can I encourage the members at my church to register to vote and hold a voters registration drive?
- A.** Yes. Voter registration drives are not considered political activity. Although certain limitations are imposed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code and campaign laws, churches and pastors are able to engage in nonpartisan activity, particularly voter registration and voter education. There is no legal restriction whatsoever on the ability of churches to register voters or provide them candidate survey information, like the material provided in the IFI Voter Guide.

Don't grow weary! The philosopher Plato said it well when he wrote, "The penalty that good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves."

To request your **IFI Voter Registration Kit**, call the IFI office at 708-781-9328 or email us at contactus@illinoisfamily.org. ☞

Illinois Family Institute Prayer Requests

On May 3rd, our nation will observe the 61st National Day of Prayer. From its infancy, American presidents and statesmen have called the country to special times of prayer and fasting — and celebration — to thank God for His blessings.

In 1952, federal legislation required the president to annually issue a proclamation designating a national day of prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation amending the law to permanently celebrate the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday in May.

Throughout our national history, presidents and Congress alike have initiated proclamations of prayer. Since 1952, 165 presidential prayer proclamations have been issued, and all 50 governors have issued proclamations honoring the National Day of Prayer.

The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is Psalm 33:12 *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."*



Thursday, May 3, 2012

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Please Pray...

...for the institutions of marriage & family

- for endurance and strength in the continuing battle to protect family-friendly policies in Illinois.
- that God would reenergize the citizens of Illinois and help them to remain engaged — not lose heart — in the long, drawn-out battle to protect foundational pro-family issues. Pray that pastors would focus on teaching God's views on life, marriage and family and by doing so stir their congregations to remain involved and not grow weary in well doing.
- for those who have been enticed by an expanding acceptance of homosexuality. Pray that these "lost souls," drawn into an unhealthy, morally unacceptable lifestyle, will be reached by the piercing love of God and drawn to the Truth.

...for the protection of life

- for the continued success and life affirming message of the Ultrasound Opportunity Act (HB 3027) so that a woman would be given a choice to view a picture of her baby before making a choice to abort.
- for the failure of Planned Parenthood's efforts to pass "comprehensive" sex education legislation.
- that the conscience rights and religious freedom of millions of Americans would be protected. Pray that the unconstitutional and immoral Obama administration contraceptive mandate — that includes chemical abortion drugs and sterilization — never be put

into practice. Pray for the justices on the United States Supreme Court, who will soon issue a ruling.

...for parental authority

- as pro-homosexual curriculum becomes more prevalent in public schools, pray parents would become aware of what is happening in their neighborhood school, and respond appropriately and proactively.
- pray that the parental authority over Illinois' public-school children will be protected. Pray that, as legislators consider bills, those promoting that right would receive fair hearings, and that the true intent of bills encumbering the rights and authority of parents would be uncovered and unsuccessful.

...for America

- that God will have mercy on our nation in the upcoming elections and for the success of god-fearing men and women running at every level of government.
- against any legislation that would weaken the institution of the family by government leaders.

...for Illinois Family Institute

- for IFI's continued efforts to serve God in 2012 — by transforming the laws and culture of the Land of Lincoln. Please pray for the income necessary to fulfill what God desires of IFI.
- for unity among believers and in citizens' groups with which IFI is involved. Pray that the witness of Christ in the public square would be pure and untarnished. ☞

"O Lord, you took up my case; you redeemed my life."

— Lamentations 3:58

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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