



... I have come that they may have



illinoisfamily.org



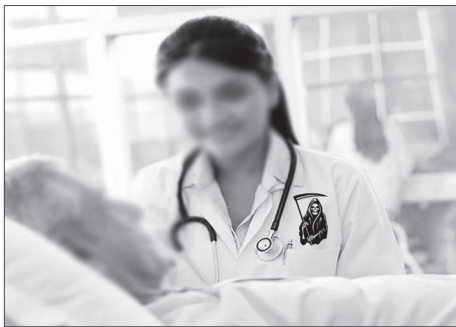
from the **Executive Director** — **David E. Smith**



Physician Assisted Suicide – a Terrible Blow to Illinois

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

That about sums up Physician-Assisted Suicide, which has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly this year by seven female state senators — all Democrats.



SB 3499 demonstrates that many of our state legislators are obsessed with death. The far left repeatedly and unabashedly cheapens life. For them, there is no intrinsic value to a human life. A human being only has dignity to the extent he or she contributes to society –

in short, only if it makes life better for those in power.

The “death with dignity” crowd is trying to dress up their agenda to look like compassion, but there is nothing compassionate about reducing life to a mere commodity whose value is arbitrary. There is a better way.

You and I believe that life is worth fighting for – whether it’s in the womb or in an assisted-living facility. As another contentious legislative session wanes on, we urge you to help us speak for those who have little or no voice, by making a generous contribution to Illinois Family Institute of \$25, \$50, \$100, or more.

Help us oppose the death lobby in Springfield.

The slippery slope between physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia is obvious. SSB 3499 is wicked to the core, but it’s also full of loopholes that could endanger a much broader spectrum of people. We will oppose it even if the loopholes are closed. Here are just a few examples:

Problem #1 – The legislation permits doctors to prescribe a lethal drug overdose when an adult patient has received a diagnosis of a terminal illness with less than six months expected survival. But who decides when an illness is terminal or if six months is an accurate prediction? Doctors are frequently wrong!

Problem #2 – No mental illness evaluation is required by a licensed mental health professional prior to prescribing the lethal dose. How do we guard against someone making a permanent decision when they are going through treatable depression?

Problem #3 – There is no requirement that family members be notified, but families are best positioned to know when a beloved relative is in a sound state of mind or not. They can reason with their family member in a way that a stranger cannot, and appeal to how this decision will affect the people that most care about him or her.

Problem #4 – There is no requirement that a witness be present when the drugs are taken, but such a presence is vitally important to ensure that the patient isn’t being pressured or coerced into taking the lethal cocktail. Why do the bill’s authors want to avoid this kind of accountability?

Problem #5 – There are no protections for vulnerable adults such as elderly patients or those with intellectual or physical disabilities, but these populations are the most likely to be hurt by this legislation. The cheerleaders of death believe that life only has value when it makes a material contribution, and anything that is an

continued on page 2



What Has Legal Weed Brought Us?

And The Answer Is.....Chinese Cartels! *Written by Kathy Valente*

There has been a significant increase in illegal Chinese marijuana farms across our nation in the states that have legalized recreational marijuana.

Fox News recently reported on illegal growers in California, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington, and Maine, saying, “Chinese Nationals are taking over the illegal pot business.”

They’re buying land, growing illegal marijuana, and bringing in illegal Chinese workers that have crossed the U.S. border from Mexico. The profits are traced back to China.

In Siskiyou County, California, over 8,000 plastic grow houses can be seen from the air. In Los Angeles County, a surge in Chinese grow sites have been discovered. One site alone had approximately 4,000 plants, which would bring in between \$2 — \$3 million.

Even in Oklahoma, where marijuana is legal only for medical purposes, 2,000 pot farms are Chinese-owned and operated.

In Maine and Washington state, so far police have identified 749 grow sites that are Chinese-owned and operated.

But black-market weed isn’t a recent development. We reported back in 2017 that the black market would grow by leaps and bounds even though proponents vehemently promised to the contrary.

For example, Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2013. Between 2013 and 2020, **5.54 tons** of black-market marijuana have been seized resulting in 1,454 felony arrests.

From the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: “Despite the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado, the black-market marijuana continues to thrive. In 2019, federal and local law



enforcement conducted the largest marijuana bust in the history of Colorado — raids across 250 homes and businesses, dozens of arrests, over 80,000 marijuana plants, and nearly \$2.2 million in assets.

The base of this operation was buying suburban homes in the Denver Metro area with large, unfinished basements for the cultivation of thousands of plants, operating under the radar in plain sight. Then, the money was laundered through family restaurants by multiple **Chinese drug trafficking organizations.**”

As a result of the discovery of illegal Chinese involvement, fifty U.S. Representatives, both Republican and Democrat, have asked the Justice Department to be briefed on the Chinese government and Communist Party’s connection.

What will this Justice Department do? I’m sorry to say, I’m not holding my breath on anything of substance happening. ❁

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

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inconvenience or a threat to personal happiness and self-fulfillment should be reimagined or discarded. In the progressive utopia, there’s no room for the elderly or the challenged.



You and I believe that God gives value to all human life, and that all human life is worth protecting. Since He is the Author of life, He is the only One who can determine death.

At this time when life is threatened more than ever, will you help us defend the defenseless by making a generous contribution to Illinois Family Institute of \$25, \$50, \$100, or even more, to treasure life at all stages?

IFI will keep fighting on this and other issues, thanks to our amazing supporters. Watch for future updates in the weeks ahead. And again, my deepest gratitude to all of you who give us the means to carry on the fight for faith and family here in our home state. ❁

After School Satan Clubs Written by Pastor Calvin Lindstrom

Government schools are opening their doors to increasingly wicked influences that are targeting impressionable children. This latest evil is called the After School Satan Club. These are run by the Satanic Temple, based in Massachusetts, which also runs a Satanic abortion clinic in New Mexico. The natural reaction to such a program is to get Christians to rally against the Club, and, indeed, Christian ministers have held press conferences denouncing it in various places. Yet that is not enough. Christian parents and grandparents need to get to work. They're going after our children!

Notice how the club describes itself:

The organization claimed that it offers a 'non-theistic religion' with Satan present as a metaphorical literary figure, and that its after-school clubs don't attempt to convert children to any religious ideology.

It is just the kind of description C.S. Lewis would have had Screwtape suggest to Wormwood as a good strategy for keeping Christians off their mark and sounding unintelligent.

For fifty years Christians have defended what they want to do in the public square, including public schools, by relying on the myth of religious neutrality or, alternatively, viewpoint non-discrimination. The former is said to protect against a First Amendment Establishment Clause or Free Exercise problem (i.e. a law is not religious if it is "neutral"). The Free Speech Clause protects religious speech from discrimination by allowing Christians to express their viewpoint if others can express theirs.

However, there's a problem when Christians use the myth of neutrality to advance their cause rather than relying on the gospel truths; they wind up with their hands tied and nothing to say other than, "We got hoisted on our own petards."

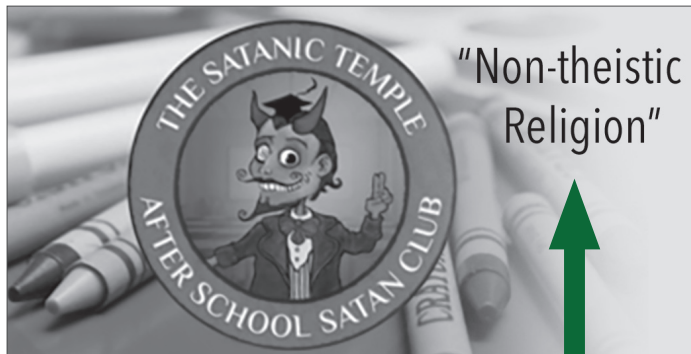
Another deceptively brilliant part of the

attack on Christianity is the metaphorical reference to Satan. But the sad truth is that some who identify as Christians agree with this teaching about Satan.

George Barna is the Director of Research for the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University which studies the relationship between faith and culture in the U.S.

In 2020, Barna found that only 35% of those who identify as non-evangelical born-again Christians *strongly agreed* that Satan "is not a symbol but a living being."

Even more troubling, only 46% of self-proclaimed non-evangelical born-again



Christians strongly or somewhat believe that Jesus lived a sin-free life.

In the same year, Barna's research discovered that only 48% read or listened to the Bible on their own at least three or four times a year outside of a church service. And that just might be the problem!

For the Club to be eliminated as an option in government schools, Christians are going to have to get out from behind the veil of neutrality, since it's a myth anyway, and learn the real history of the First Amendment's religion and speech clauses. And they need to start reading their Bibles so they won't be deceived. Then we will need to use what we learn.

There is an ever growing need for Christians to see that we live in a culture and under a legal system that is growing more and more godless every day. Dare I say, "pagan" even? Wisdom demands that parents, grandparents, and church leaders get their children out of these soul-corrupting systems as fast as possible.

Moreover, we must challenge the anti-Christ ideologies of our day head-on by discipling our children and grandchildren, so that they can identify the schemes and snares of the devil, designed to pull us away from God and into worldly pursuits, passions, and other preoccupations. But how do we do that when many don't know the Truth by which to counter Satan's tactics?

We all need to be able to identify false worldviews as mere humanism and nihilism. Turning from the true and living God ends in death, whether one takes the route proposed by the French philosophers of the 18th century, by Nietzsche and Derrida of the 19th and 20th centuries, respectively, or by the Satan Club and their social-justice allies of the 21st century.

What better way to infiltrate schools and indoctrinate our children with lies than to offer a club with the devil as simply a metaphorical figure. And what perfect timing in an era where those who profess to be Christ followers don't even know Him.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." ~2 Timothy 4:3-4

Jesus warns us: "Take heed that no one deceives you." ~Mark 13: 5 ✨

Please prayerfully consider supporting IFI in our mission to boldly bring a biblical perspective to public policy!

See the reply device for more information.





Christian Americans: Extend Your Views! Written by David E. Smith

“You cannot reason someone out of something he or she was not reasoned into,” said Jonathan Swift way back in 1721. This is the dominant philosophy behind the old adage that most of us have heard at least once during our life: “Do not talk about religion and politics” in mixed company or during polite conversations.

Yet, this axiom contradicts what George Washington believed we should do. This is evident in a letter he wrote to the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1789:

It should be the highest ambition of every American to **extend his views beyond himself**, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be coextensive with the world and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn. *[emphasis added]*

The “avoid politics and religious discussions” rule also undermines the directive Jesus gave His followers just before He ascended into heaven:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...**” *[emphasis added]*

These instructions from Jesus are recorded for our direction in Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:19-23; and Acts 1:8.

We cannot buy the lie from Satan to remain silent about the One and only Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ or the importance of the Holy Bible.

Nor can we remain silent about the evils of abortion, sexual immorality, the indoctrination of our children, Darwinism, Marxism, Wokeism and tyrannical government in general.

What happens to a culture where Christians fail to extend their views? Take a look at the Pew Polling snapshots (*on page 5*) to get an idea of what our neighbors believe. In response then, we must understand that the godless Left is doing a far better job at making disciples than are Christians. And this is intolerable.

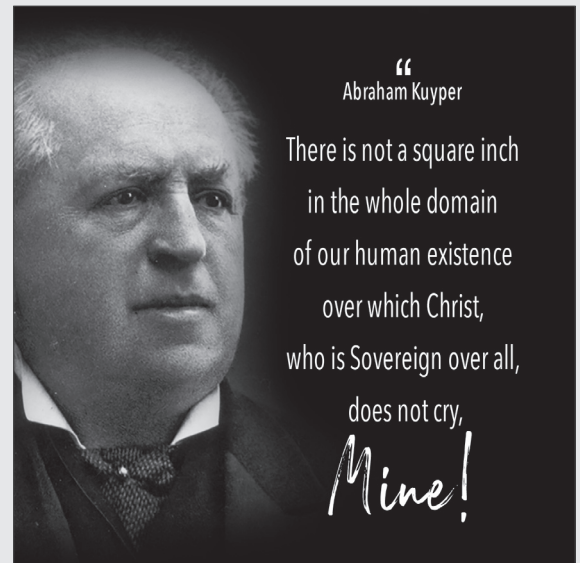
The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 10:14-15:

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless

they are sent?

Let me rephrase that for the topic at hand:

How then shall our neighbors learn about the Savior, Jesus Christ? How are we to do His will on earth as it is in Heaven? How shall our neighbors believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear if we choose to politely (comfortably) remain silent when opportunities arise to assert the Truth. How shall our families, friends, and communities know unless we are intentional about extending our Christians views on religion and politics? ❀



Woke Federal Wish List



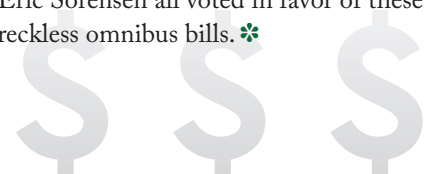
Illinois Family Institute is grateful that our three Illinois' Republican Congressmen (**Darin LaHood, Mike Bost and Mary Miller**) voted against the first half of a \$400 billion omnibus bill on March 6th and then again to an additional \$1.2 trillion omnibus bill on March 22nd. American taxpayers should not be on the hook to fund out-of-control

big-government spending, especially when it promotes a woke ideology. U.S. Representative **Mary Miller** pointed out, **“we are \$34 trillion in debt, the U.S. dollar is becoming worthless, and our country is being invaded, but these spending bills fail to cut wasteful D.C. spending or force the Biden Administration to the table to secure the border.”**

Outrageously, the bill earmarked federal tax dollars to fund abortion mills (\$2.5 million), transgender organizations that encourage the chemical castration of children (\$10 million), aborted fetal tissue research, a brand new FBI headquarter, \$850,000 for a LGBTQ-only senior

building in Boston, and \$400,000 for Briarpatch Youth Services in Wisconsin. (One of their programs is called “Teens Like Us LGBTQIA2s+” that includes a “Gender Affirming Clothing Program” for ages 13-18.)

U.S. Representatives Jonathan Jackson, Robin Kelly, Mike Quigley, Sean Casten, Danny Davis, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Bill Foster, Nikki Buzinski, Lauren Underwood and Eric Sorensen all voted in favor of these reckless omnibus bills. ❀



Did You Know? According to recent Pew Research Center...

Only 49% of U.S. adults say that religion is losing influence and that this is a bad thing. Yet 57% of U.S. adults – a clear majority – express a positive view of religion’s influence on American life.

Only 42% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say that when the Bible and the will of the people conflict, the Bible should have more influence on U.S. laws than the will of the people. Just 16% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say this.

Republicans and GOP leaning voters are twice as likely as Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters to say it is important to have a president who has the same religious beliefs they do (51% vs. 25%).

Overall, only 3% of U.S. adults say the Bible should have more influence on U.S. laws than the will of the people; and that the government should stop enforcing separation of church and state; and that Christianity should be declared the country’s official religion. And 13% of U.S. adults endorse two of these three statements. Roughly one-fifth of the public (22%) expresses one of these three views. The majority (62%) expressed none.

Regarding Race and LGBTQIA Issues in public schools...

According to Pew Research Center, 48% of teens say they should not learn about gender identity in school and only 26% say they would prefer to learn that whether someone is a boy or a girl is determined by the sex with which they were born.

Only 54% of Americans believe that parents should be able to opt their children out of learning about sexual orientation or gender identity and only 34% say they should be able to opt their children out of learning about racism or racial inequality.

Among Republican teachers, 80% say parents should be able to opt their children out of learning about LGBTQ issues, compared with 30% of Democratic

teachers. And while 47% of Republican teachers say parents should be able to opt their children out of learning about racism and racial inequality, only 11% of Democratic teachers think so.

Among Democratic and Democratic-leaning teachers, 85% say students should learn that the legacy of slavery still affects Black people in American society today. This compares with 35% of Republican and Republican-leaning teachers.

Democratic teachers are far more likely than Republican teachers to say students should learn that a person’s gender can be different from the sex they were born with (53% vs. 5%). Most Republican teachers (69%) say students shouldn’t learn about gender identity in school at all.

Regarding Marijuana Use...

Fifty four percent of Americans now live in a state where recreational use of marijuana is legal – just a dozen years after Colorado and Washington became the first states to allow the drug for recreational purposes.

Seventy four percent of Americans live in a state where marijuana is legal for either recreational or medical use. California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, marijuana is still classified as a Schedule 1 drug, which “are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential with abuse. ... Schedule I drugs have a high potential for abuse and the potential to create severe psychological and/or physical dependence.”

There are nearly 15,000 pot stores in the United States. In Illinois, we currently have 190 dispensaries, with the vast majority located in Cook and DuPage Counties. There are at least 14 current bills that would expand the



availability of marijuana in Illinois.

Regarding the Border Crisis...

About seven-in-ten Americans (71%), including majorities in both parties, cite better economic opportunities in the U.S. as a major reason for the flood of illegal immigrants coming over our southern border.

About two-thirds of Americans (65%) say violence in migrants’ home countries is a major reason why large numbers are fleeing to the U.S.A.

Seventy percent of Republicans compared with just 22% of Democrats describe the border situation as a “crisis.”

Forty four percent of Democrats view the border situation as a major problem with only 26% viewing it as a minor problem. Very few Democrats (7%) say it is not a problem at all.

Just 18% say the U.S. government is doing a good job dealing with the large number of migrants at the border, while 80% say it is doing a bad job, including 45% who say it is doing a very bad job.

Among Republicans, 72% say substantially expanding the wall along the U.S. border with Mexico would make the situation better. Just 15% of Democrats agree, with most saying either it would not make much of a difference (47%) or it would make things worse (24%). ❁

“As with all of God’s gifts, the good desire for children can become disordered, especially if attaining children requires a process contrary to the form of generating life that Scripture lays down as normative. ... Where contraception offers sex without conception, IVF offers conception without sex. ... Gay marriage, fornication, contraception, and IVF all sever the natural and creational link between sexual acts and the generation of human life.”
- Matthew Lee Anderson
& Andrew T. Walker



Worth the Gamble? Written by Mark Elfstrand

It was 1995, and I was hosting an afternoon talk show in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A buzz had formed around an announcement that the Pittsburgh mayor had planned to conduct a feasibility study of proposed riverboat gambling on the city's three rivers.

This study would generate estimates of how many outsiders would travel to Pittsburgh to gamble. And more importantly to the mayor and city officials, how much revenue could be generated for the city and attractions in the area. That analysis would also consider the impact on infrastructure.

Certainly, Pittsburgh was not alone in considering such a move. And so I sought out a most interesting voice well versed on this topic: "Riverboat Rambo." Okay, not his real name.

But Tom Grey was a man on a mission.

Grey was a Methodist minister from the Galena, Illinois, area and by 1995, Tom had spent three years criss-crossing America effortlessly trying to stop the expansion of legalized gambling. His hard facts were hitting the jackpot, and big time money in the gaming world was now aware of his success.

And didn't like it.

Grey had no computer, no cell phone, no beeper, nor did he have an office for his newly minted National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. He did have a 1993 blue Toyota Tercel to work out of. His dog Sophie had chewed a hole through the interior.

Thank the Lord for duct tape.

Tom was a wealth of information on the gambling issue. But when significant dollars are involved for political benefit, community decision makers have a remarkable way of clapping their hands over their ears and saying, "La la la...can't hear you!"

This is exactly what would happen in Illinois. And continues today. According to records, the first riverboat casino in our state opened in 1991 in Alton. At that time, it was required to move along waterways while gamblers decided

whether to hold 'em, fold 'em, or play the slots. But in 1999, Illinois amended this legislation to permit riverboat casinos to be permanently docked while operating. What a surprise!!!

Then came the **Rivers Casino** in Des Plaines in 2011. Two years later, in May of 2013, **William Spain** penned a story in *Chicago Magazine* titled, "Five Reasons a Casino in Chicago is Such a Gamble." As he noted, "There's no road map. The market is saturated. And that's just the start of the possible problems." Just the start? Oh yeah. How about the word "addiction"? He never mentioned that one. And increased crime? Not on Spain's list.

And this was all before the latest fad—legalized sports betting. On February 12th of last year, the *Chicago Tribune* posted, "Illinois grapples with a rise in sports gambling problems as bets hit \$1B a month."

You read that right. A month!! And getting bigger.

Then in August of last year, the city of Chicago opened up its first downtown casino. It is temporarily located in what was formerly known as the Medinah Temple in Chicago's River North area. (Ironic...now a temple to the God of gambling.) This temporary location offers some 800 slot machines and 50 card tables. All of them capable of taking your money.

The future location will cost around \$1.7 billion and will be located at the *Chicago Tribune* printing plant site in River West. When the 3-year project is completed, the 168,000 foot casino will house 3,400 slot machines and 173 gaming tables! All of them hungry to take more of your money.

When the former mayor of Chicago, **Rahm Emanuel**, was entertaining the plan of



bringing gaming into the city, his eyes sparkled with dollar signs. New city revenue! Buckets and buckets of wealth as the citizenry and guests lose their shirts. I thought about all this recently as my community, Plainfield, just passed new legislation legalizing marijuana sales. The vote was 4-2. Wow. Two people actually had the sense to just say *no!* But one trustee in favor put it this way. The bill "puts us on equal footing with neighboring communities."

And let's face it. Plainfield will likely generate plenty more MONEY!

The Bible has several things to say about money. Perhaps among the most mis quoted is 1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (ESV) **Note:** not money itself. The LOVE of money.

Christ followers should be extremely wary of supporting public endeavors that bring pain and addiction. "Wandering away from the faith" is a very high price to pay. One that is never worth the gamble. ✿

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and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ ..."
(Colossians 2:2)

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Upside Down Priorities *Written by David E. Smith*

As I point out in this newsletter's featured article, State Senators **Linda Holmes** (D-Aurora) and seven other Democrats (all female) are co-sponsoring a bill to legalize assisted suicide in Illinois (SB 3499). At the same time, their colleague, State Senator **Mike Simmons** (D-Chicago), has introduced a bill to make it illegal for animal shelters to euthanize dogs and cats (SB 3792).

Over the decades, my family and I have welcomed into our homes four shelter dogs. We understand the compassionate side of animal rescue. What we do not understand is why that compassion doesn't extend to human life; from innocent

human beings growing in the womb to the elderly who might need our attention and care. Moreover, isn't the sanctity of human life infinitely more important than domesticated critters?

Why are certain Illinois lawmakers infatuated with making the making the killing of human beings legal? From womb to tomb, nobody is safe. Canines and felines deserve special protection, but those made in the image and likeness of Almighty God merit not even an iota of protection. Could our priorities as a culture be any more harmful and regressive?

You and I believe that the sanctity of

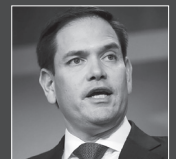


human life is worth fighting for – whether it's in the womb or an assisted living or hospice facility. Leftists argue that their agenda is compassionate, but it's a gateway to abuse, euthanasia, and the further erosion of the sanctity and profound value of human life.

Where will it stop? Will the disabled and mentally ill be next? These lawmaker's agenda is uncaring and callous. Proverbs 12:10 is apt in this situation: **"The mercy of the wicked is cruel."** ❄️

Senator Marco Rubio Insists on Investigation into Aborted Baby Parts

We are also pleased to learn that U.S. Senator **Marco Rubio** is calling for a federal investigation into reports that Planned Parenthood has been providing aborted baby body parts to the University of California San Diego in exchange for —“valuable consideration” —while also maintaining intellectual property rights over the fetal tissue—for the love of monetary gain.



According to a LifeNews.com article, Rubio sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding that the Department of Justice scrutinize how many human babies were given to the university by Planned Parenthood, what the baby tissue was used for, how much money the university had given to Planned Parenthood, how much Planned Parenthood has gained monetarily from its control over the intellectual property rights of the tissue, and whether the National Institutes of Health or other agencies have provided funding for that fetal tissue research.

Please pray that the evil activities and practices surrounding child sacrifice be exposed. Pray that Planned Parenthood's abortion and transgender "services" fail. ❄️

Chemical Abortions



"Nobody warned me of the drugs' side effects. Nobody mentioned that there was danger. They promised it was safe," Elizabeth Gillette writes in this powerful article

and video published by our friends at the ADF. The staff at the abortion mill did not tell her the full truth about the consequences of taking the abortion pill.

Elizabeth's story is just one of the many reasons for concern over the recent announcement by CVS and Walgreens that their pharmacies will sell so-called "medical" abortion drugs.

The Charlotte Lozier Institute reports, "Chemical abortion has a complication rate four times that of surgical abortion, and as many as one in five women will suffer a complication." Moreover, they point out, "Chemical abortion drugs are increasingly likely to send women to the ER. In one study, the rate of chemical abortion-related

emergency room visits increased over 500% between 2002-2015."

Only an Ultrasound can determine how far into a pregnancy a woman is. If they are further along than they think, chemical abortions greatly increase their chances of complications. Also, the lack of an ultrasound puts women who have an ectopic pregnancy at even more risk due to a lack of early diagnosis. Neither CVS or Walgreens are offering ultrasounds.

CVS and Walgreens are foolish. Chemical abortions are bad for women's health and their babies' lives. These pharmacies betray pro-life patrons who understand that a "successful" chemical abortion takes the life of a preborn human being in the womb. Pharmacies are supposed to provide people with medicine to help promote health and healing, not death.

For more information, visit LozierInstitute.org. ❄️

Prayer Requests . . .

In early February, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologized to parents at a U.S. Senate hearing on online child safety. Dozens of parents in attendance said that Instagram contributed to their children's suicides or exploitation. "I'm sorry for everything you've all gone through," he said after being pressed about whether he would apologize to the parents directly. "It's terrible. No one should have to go through the things that your families have suffered."

We know all too well that there has been a stark decline in mental health that began right when social media started gaining popularity. For example, Facebook became available to the public in 2006, and the Centers for Disease Control found that suicide rates among persons aged 10–24 increased 57.4% between 2007 and 2018. There are obviously more factors at play here (such as drug use and LGBT social contagion), but there is an undeniable connection between social media use and mental health, and the companies responsible for these platforms are profiting from it.

Ultimately, parents must protect their family members. Social



media can be an amazing tool, but only if it is used in a limited, healthy manner. We must pray for our children and grandchildren and talk to them about the dangers of social media and how they can use it responsibly. This can include things like setting time limits, the importance of avoiding harmful content, or even taking regular breaks from social media altogether. We should also evaluate our own habits to make sure we are modeling a healthy use of social media. ✨

Please Pray . . .

...that your family, friends, and church family model integrity. Pray that you and your loved ones will not be engaged in anything wicked (worthless) before young eyes (Psalm 101:2-3).

...for a hedge of protection around your family and friends (Job 1:10).

...that your family members would not be conformed to worldly ways, but would be transformed by the renewing of their minds through the reading of the Word of God (Romans 12:2).

...that your children are not "taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world" (Col. 2:8).

...for your family, that God would help them live a fruitful and productive life for Christ and that the Internet would aid their Christian calling.

...that God would grant your family members contentment, self-control, and deep insight into ways the culture wants to pull them into worldly thinking through social media.

...for truth — for our children and grandchildren to be able to recognize and discern lies in the media and counter them with the truth of God's Word.

...that parents in your family and in your church become serious about teaching their children the Christian faith.

...for wise, God-fearing leaders to be successful in the November 5th election. May God give them discerning hearts and stiff backbones.

...that God would have mercy on us and raise up Christian church leaders and prayer warriors who would intercede for our country and our leaders.

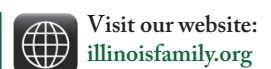
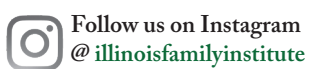
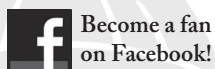
...that more of our family members and our neighbors would honestly understand that Jesus is our only hope for our state and nation. Help us to be a courageous people who reveres Almighty God, a nation that is not afraid to acknowledge that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the true living God.

...that justice would prevail — especially for those who are being led away to death (abortion and euthanasia).

...that God would have mercy on us and raise up judges who are men and women of high principles. Pray for our U.S. Supreme Court justices and for each judge in the state of Illinois.

...that God would bless and guide the IFI Staff and Board of directors as we seek to uphold biblical truth in a culture that is hostile to the God of the Bible. ✨

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