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MINNESOTA
FAMILY COUNCIL

Strengthening families.
Advancing truth.

Action Alert

What is your government up to?



The Minnesota Legislature began its 2015-2016 legislative session just last Tuesday, but there is already much to report.

We've provided you with an update on issues of concern at the state Capitol in St. Paul as well as from other governmental entities--both the good and the bad news.

Please take a moment to check out what's going on for the issues that

interest you. Some of you may say: "I can't believe this is actually happening" on some of them!



Minnesota State High School League's "Transgender Student Athlete Policy"

As you may remember, just last month Minnesota State High School League nearly unanimously passed a "transgender student athlete" policy permitting boys to compete as girls on girls' teams and imminently leading to biological males using female locker rooms, bathrooms, etc. The League determinedly passed their policy despite overwhelming opposition from **thousands** of Minnesotans and schools.

The League's decision will create a serious violation of students' basic privacy and safety rights--not to mention it defies common sense.

Read more about the [decision](#) and get [background info/the Christian response](#).

We are working with legislators interested in correcting the League's poor decision.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Contact your legislator and urge them to legislatively correct the League's poor decision. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out who your MN legislators are under "Find Officials."

2. If you haven't already signed our petition last November or December against the "transgender student athlete policy," please take a moment to do so [HERE](#).



St. Paul Schools & "Gender Neutral Bathrooms" Policy

This week we [learned](#) that St. Paul Public Schools is considering a policy that would require schools to permit students to use the bathroom that "aligns with their gender identity" (not their biological reality), force teachers and students to use a student's preferred name and pronoun (e.g., calling a girl "him" if she wants to be referred to in that way), and bar schools from "separating students by gender for no good reason."

[Apparently](#), St. Paul's Avalon School and Hopkins' Blake School already have a similar policy.

These policies, aside from defying common sense, create serious violations of ALL students' basic privacy, safety and dignity rights.

Schools can accommodate the different needs of a small number of children without violating the rights of ALL children.

TAKE ACTION:

If your children/grandchildren attend St. Paul Public Schools, call **651-767-8100** to share your concerns and ask that they

NOT pass this harmful policy.

KEEP YOUR BELIEFS



Government Choosing When You Can Have Your Right to Religious Freedom?

When the MN Legislature passed same-sex "marriage," we warned that the religious freedom protections in the bill were woefully inadequate.

The legislators passed the bill anyway, and we were sadly proven right.

Immediately, the MN Department of Human Rights [announced](#) that it would punish business owners of faith for declining to participate in a same-sex wedding for religious reasons.

Then, ICYMI, this summer a hunting preserve owner in the Brainerd area was [forced by the government](#) to pay for a gay couple's wedding and reception as part of their settlement with the men for "violating the men's human rights" by saying they could not host a same-sex wedding on their property.

Let me repeat that--the government forced a **private business owner** in MN to not only permit a same-sex wedding on their property, but to **pay for** it.

We are working with legislators to make sure this doesn't happen to other Minnesotans. Lawmakers shouldn't get to decide who gets the freedom to live and work according to their faith and who doesn't.



Students' Don't Have to Abandon Their Beliefs to Get an Education

Switching to some good news, this week Rep. Duane Quam (25A, Rochester) introduced a bill to protect students' religious liberties at school.

His bill, [H.F. 118](#), would prohibit schools from discriminating against students & parents based on their expression of religious beliefs. The bill would also prohibit schools from punishing students from expressing religious beliefs in assignments, so long as the students fulfill the academic requirements for the assignment. Rep. Quam's bill would also ensure that students can meet and form religious groups to the same degree that students can meet and form other groups. Finally, the bill protects students' right to express their religious beliefs when they speak publicly at events like graduation.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Take some time to thank Rep. Quam for working to protect freedom for students!

rep.duane.quam@house.mn

651-296-9236

2. Encourage your own legislators to support and pass Rep. Quam's bill, H.F. 118.

[Find my MN legislators.](#)



Remember the Harmful Bullying Bill the Legislature Passed Last Year?

Last year, the MN Legislature passed a Bullying Bill that is a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach as an unfunded mandate on schools.

And, worst of all, the law is a threat to students' religious freedom rights (since "bullying" is defined entirely too broadly) AND the law singles out certain types of students for **extra** protection from bullying instead of simply protecting ALL students equally. One of those types of student groups receiving extra special protection is, you guessed it, LGBT students, since LGBT activist groups helped write this law--working closely with lawmakers.

Now, no one believes any student, including any LGBT student, should be targeted for bullying, but ALL students deserve to be protected equally under the law.

The good news is that this week, MN Representatives Pat Garofalo (58B, Farmington) and Kathy Lohmer (39B, Stillwater) introduced a bill, [H.F. 102](#), that would return authority to local school districts, allowing them to address bullying at the district level and free them from the top-down unfunded mandate so long as they come up with their own anti-bullying policy that protects **ALL** students.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Take some time to thank Rep. Garofalo and Rep. Lohmer!

Pat Garofalo

rep.pat.garofalo@house.mn

651-296-1069

Kathy Lohmer

rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn

651-296-4244

2. Encourage your own legislators to support and pass H.F. 118.

[Find my MN legislators.](#)



Women Are Not for Rent; Children Are Not for Sale

Last year, Minnesota legislators tried multiple times to pass 2 different bills that would legalize (and make more prevalent) commercial surrogacy in Minnesota. This is the process by which a couple (or individual) hires another woman to carry a child for them/him/her, essentially creating a form of reproductive human trafficking.

Read more about Commercial Surrogacy [HERE](#).

Working with our allies at [Minnesota Catholic Conference](#), we were able to stop these bills last year.

This year, we are asking legislators to take a closer look at the moral, social, psychological, and medical harms to women and children in the practice of

commercial surrogacy.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Ask your legislators to support studying closely the harmful impact of commercial surrogacy on our women and children!

[Find my MN legislators.](#)

2. Sign the Minnesotans for Surrogacy Awareness [PETITION](#) asking legislators to study surrogacy in depth.



No, Minnesota Government, Girls Are Not Exactly the Same as Boys

Since last year, some lawmakers have quietly been pushing for a "gender equality" amendment to the Minnesota Constitution under the guise of "equal rights for women."

In reality, the proposed amendment would erase all distinctions between men and women under the law.

The staggering consequences of this would be no more sex-segregated bathrooms, no more rights of widows to receive social security benefits based on the husband's earnings, no more laws requiring husbands to support their wives, law enforcement no longer able to use sex as means to identify and prosecute criminals--and those are just the tip of the

iceberg.

Thankfully, this bill is unlikely to move forward this year, but make no mistake-- liberal legislators would like to see all distinctions between genders erased, making gender a "fluid" thing rather than a biological reality.

Here's this year's version of the bill: [H.F. 165](#)



Parental Rights in Education

Government increasingly wants to have more control over your kids' education, emphasizing the role and rights of parents less and less.

We are thankful that Representatives Peggy Scott (35B, Andover), John Lesch (66B, St. Paul), Cindy Pugh (33B, Chanhassen), and Brian Johnson (32A, Cambridge) introduced a bill this week, [H.F. 99](#), that would require schools to obtain parents' consent before administering a survey to students about their religious beliefs, political beliefs, mental or psychological problems, relationship with their family, sexual behavior or attitudes, income, etc.

Parents have a right to know what is being asked of their children at school.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Take some time to thank these representatives standing up for parental rights!

Peggy Scott
rep.peggy.scott@house.mn
651-296-4231

John Lesch
rep.john.lesch@house.mn
651-296-4224

Cindy Pugh
rep.cindy.pugh@house.mn
651-296-4315

Brian Johnson
rep.brian.johnson@house.mn
651-296-4346

2. Encourage your own legislators to support and pass H.F. 99.
[Find my MN legislators.](#)



According to Government, Young Children Should Be at School, Not with Their Families

Last week, some Minnesota liberal legislators introduced a bill, [H.F. 46](#), for universal, free all-day preschool for 4-year-olds.

These types of bills incentivize parents to turn over the raising of children during some of their most tender years to 3rd parties in government schools.

The solution isn't more school and bringing children into school younger and younger. Instead, we need to provide incentives for parents to care for their children at home before they are school-

age, helping mold and shape them during those important years and providing them with a firm foundation.

TAKE ACTION:

Urge your MN legislators to oppose this bill, H.F. 46, and instead incentivize parents to rear their children.



Stopping MN Government from the Practice of Predatory Gambling

Predatory gambling is when the state government, through its lottery, preys on those already addicted to gambling (or those who are likely to become addicted) in order to bring in more revenue. States should never be encouraging already struggling families to take their hard-earned money and spend it on gambling and debt, particularly through electronic gaming--the most addictive form of gambling.

Last year, both DFL and Republican legislators worked to pass a bill that would have limited the Minnesota Lottery's overreach and expansion into online gambling. Governor Dayton never signed the bill, so it did not become law.

Last week, Representatives Greg Davids (28B, Preston) and Leon Lillie (43B, St. Paul) introduced a bill, [H.F. 51](#), to suspend the sale of lottery tickets through a website or self-service device.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Take some time to thank these representatives for working to curb gambling expansion.

Greg Davids

rep.greg.davids@house.mn

651-296-9278

Leon Lillie

rep.leon.lillie@house.mn

651-296-1188

2. Encourage your own legislators to support and pass H.F. 51.
[Find my MN legislators.](#)

Minnesota Family Council is an entirely donor-funded ministry dedicated to nurturing and defending families by restoring biblical truth in our culture. We are actively on the ground at the MN Capitol, the Minnesota State High School League and elsewhere defending and promoting biblical truth.

But, we can't do this without your help! Will you help us today?

Make a Donation

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