

SPRING 2024

FAMILY

north carolina

The Dark History Behind Planned Parenthood

Also:

Former High School Athlete
Works to Protect Women
and Girls in North Carolina

2024 Legislative Preview

ISBN 0-9785025-1-5

9 0 0 0 0



9 780978 502515

SB49 [the Parents’ Bill of Rights] provides transparency for parents—plain and simple.

Parents, not the state, are ultimately responsible for raising their children. The Parents Bill of Rights ensures that parents remain aware of major health-related matters impacting their child’s growth and development.

— N.C. State Superintendent Catherine Truitt

By consuming pornography or participating in it, you believe the lie that people are products and that sex is transactional, and if you believe that people are products, then you start to treat them like products.

— Joshua Broome, a former porn star who is now a pastor and anti-pornography advocate

“I was literally racing U.S. and Olympic gold medalists and I was changing in a storage closet at this elite-level meet. I just felt that my privacy and safety were being violated in the locker room.”

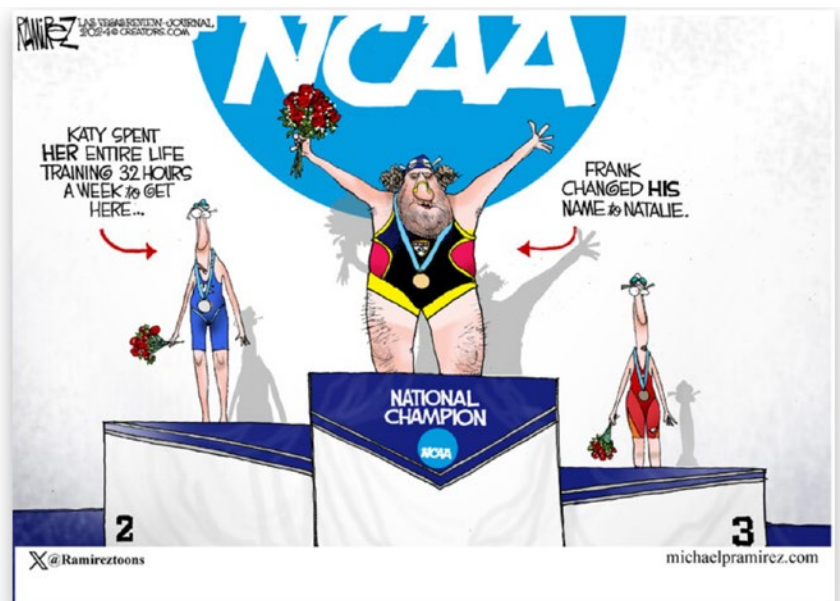
— [Kylee Alons](#), former swimmer at North Carolina State University on her decision to change in a storage closet rather than share a locker room with transgender-identifying athlete Lia Thomas

This case is so important for me as a doctor, because every day I see women who are suffering from the FDA’s decision to remove safeguards. I see them in my clinic. They talk to me about their experiences, alone, at home, in dorm rooms. Can you imagine turning your own bathroom into an abortion clinic? . . . Women deserve to be safe.

— [Dr. Susan Bane](#), MD, Ph.D., OB/GYN on U.S. Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which is seeking to restore safeguards for the abortion drug mifepristone

The effects of the abortion pill regimen are not empowering, they are dehumanizing.

— Kelly Lester, a mother who experienced severe side effects after taking the abortion pill mifepristone



By permission of Michael Ramirez and Creators Syndicate, Inc.

FEATURES

5 The Dark History Behind Planned Parenthood

For over a century, Planned Parenthood has been touted as an organization that offers reproductive and sexual healthcare to women in need. What many do not realize, however, is that its history is steeped in racism and eugenics. Learn more about Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood and leader of the birth control movement.

12 Former High School Athlete Works to Protect Women and Girls in North Carolina

In recent years, there has been a push to allow biological males who identify as transgender to participate in women’s and girls’ sports, but many are concerned about the safety hazards this presents. Payton McNabb was a high school athlete who experienced this firsthand when she was severely injured by a transgender-identifying student on the opposing team. Read more about her story and how it has prompted her to stand up to protect women’s sports.

18 Lies are not harmless: A Review of *Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe* by John Amanchukwu

This spring, Pastor John Amanchukwu released his second book, *Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe and the Truth That Will Set Them Free*. In it, he exposes the truth about ten lies that permeate American culture. Learn more about his motivation for writing this book and why it is so critical to dismantle these lies.

20 2024 Legislative Session Preview

The 2024 Legislative Session is off to a busy start. With a Republican supermajority in the Senate and in the House, there is a good chance that positive legislation will be passed despite Governor Cooper’s veto stamp. John Rustin, President of NC Family, gives an overview of what is expected to happen during this legislative session.

etcetera 2
Quotes, quips, and cartoons

at issue 4
What’s in this magazine

front lines 10
NC Family in action

perspective 23
A word from NC Family President John L. Rustin

DEPARTMENTS



And the Truth Will Set You Free

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” - John 8:32

Over the last decade, Satan’s lies have been shouted from the rooftops. For example:

- An unwanted child is a clump of cells, not a baby.
- Some people were born in the wrong body.
- Morality is outdated.

Because of lies like these:

- Approximately 73 million babies are aborted worldwide each year.¹
- Tens of thousands of individuals – including children – have undergone “gender-affirming hormone treatment” and/or “gender-affirming surgery”, permanently changing and sometimes mutilating their bodies- and causing lasting medical conditions.²
- Millions of people are hurt every day because of immorality, including things like crime, substance abuse, the consumption of pornographic materials, human trafficking, and much more.


The only way we can combat the damage done by these lies is by continuing to reveal the truth. While the Bible is the source of ultimate truth, in this issue, we’ve compiled several articles that help expose some of these lies.

Sharon Sullivan exposes the truth behind Margaret Sanger and Planned Parenthood, an organization she founded. While Planned Parenthood has been touted as a “health care” entity that provides essential medical services to women, the truth is much less altruistic. Sanger was a racist and a strong supporter of eugenics, and while Planned Parenthood has tried to distance itself from this truth, the abortion industry is inextricably linked to the belief that some human beings are more valuable than others.

For my part, I had the opportunity to interview Payton McNabb, a former high school athlete who was severely injured by a biological male volleyball player on an opposing team. Her story reveals the truth that men and women are designed to be biologically different, and no amount of surgery or procedures can change that. God does not make mistakes, and He created every individual exactly the way He wanted them for His perfect plan.

Brittany Farrell got the chance to sit down with Pastor John Amanchukwu to discuss his new book *Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe and the Truth That Will Set Them Free*. This discussion dispels ten critical lies that have deeply impacted our country and offers the truth of Christ in their place.

Finally, John Rustin takes a tangible look at how cultural movements are affecting North Carolina with his Legislative Preview. He outlines several of the key issues he anticipates will be top priorities at the General Assembly this year. I John 3:18 says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Part of our work at NC Family is seeking to speak and act in love—taking action to share truth with North Carolina legislators and citizens with the goal of supporting good laws that will help families thrive and opposing those that will harm. If you would like to join us in this effort, you can learn more at NCFamily.org.

Thank you for reading *Family North Carolina*. We hope you enjoy the content found in this edition. Please reach out to us to request more copies to share with friends, family, neighbors, churches, and more! 

1 <https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide>
 2 <https://apnews.com/article/transgender-surgery-gender-affirming-care-minors-eea696412e528e8509cf4ba00f3fa52>

AnnaScott

AnnaScott Cross is the Communications Director for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina.



Spring 2024

Vol. 19, No. 1
 ISSN 1935-7761
 ISBN 0-9785025-1-5

Editor

AnnaScott Cross

Design

Leslie Boyd

Circulation

Lucy Conley

Contributors

AnnaScott Cross
 Brittany Farrell
 John L. Rustin
 Sharon Sullivan

President

John L. Rustin

Family North Carolina is a publication of the North Carolina Family Policy Council.

The North Carolina Family Policy Council is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization organized in 1991 and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

Family North Carolina is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Family Policy Council. Copyright © North Carolina Family Policy Council. All rights reserved.

Internet

Visit us online at NCFamily.org, where you can read selected stories from this issue, including endnotes. Publication of website addresses of other organizations featured in our stories does not constitute endorsement by the North Carolina Family Policy Council of those groups or the contents of those sites.

Subscriptions

If you do not already receive *Family North Carolina* magazine, you can request a free subscription by: visiting our website at NCFamily.org; calling our offices at 919.807.0800; or sending a written request to NC Family at: PO Box 20607, Raleigh, NC 27619.



NC FAMILY
 POLICY COUNCIL



The Dark History Behind Planned Parenthood

By Sharon Sullivan

Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, the issue of abortion has been at the center of social, political, and medical conversations with perhaps more vigor than ever before. Over many decades, the increased availability of birth control pills, abortion, and abortifacient drugs has eased the process of preventing the births of millions of children across the country. It should be no surprise that the U.S. birth rate has seen a steady drop over the last three decades.¹ The implications of this decline will have repercussions for decades to come.

As Christians, we believe that life is precious. Every human being is made in the image of God. No one has more worth than another. But, in secular circles, we often find that pro-choice arguments prevail. It is common today for a pregnant woman to have more rights than her unborn baby, and she alone can choose if she wants to birth a child. Without a Biblical perspective, the arguments for "choice" are often accepted by many people. Pro-choice proponents steer clear of the history of abortion and birth control in America, and there is good reason for them to do so. A look into the past reveals the deep dark motives that originated the tragic loss of so many children's lives.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/195943/birth-rate-in-the-united-states-since-1990/>

The Woman Behind It All

Margaret Sanger. The highly recognizable name of a woman scarcely discussed. A delve into the history of this infamous 20th-century feminist and birth control “pioneer” is harder than you might think in this technological age. A cursory search will bring up many platitudes lauding Sanger’s significant role in women’s “health education” and her responsibility for the sexual revolution. As the founder of Planned Parenthood, many across the globe view Sanger as a hero and a liberator. However, a deeper dig into her life yields information indicating she was not the altruistic woman that her devotees would have us believe. In fact, Margaret Sanger was an avid racist and supporter of eugenics.² While the information isn’t always easy to find, a grasp of her history and life’s work is important for Christians to understand, for we must comprehend the evil at hand to prepare for the battle.

Born Margaret Higgins in 1879, Sanger’s childhood and early adulthood helped to shape her into a radical feminist. Her father, an Irish immigrant and Civil War veteran, held socialist political views.³ He has been described as having iconoclastic ideas, criticizing or opposing beliefs and practices that were widely accepted.⁴ Her mother, a devout Catholic, passed away prematurely at the age of 50. Though her mother died from tuberculosis, Margaret, the sixth of eleven children, blamed the underlying stress of frequent pregnancies for her mother’s premature death. In 1902, after becoming a nurse, Margaret married her first husband, architect William Sanger. William, like her father, also embraced radical politics and moved his young family to Greenwich Village, where they participated in mostly left-wing political movements. There Margaret joined the Women’s Committee of the N.Y. Socialist Party and became a member of the Liberal Club.⁵

During her time as a young nurse, Margaret witnessed the deaths of many childbearing women. Some died from complications of abortion, and others from ill-equipped or repetitive pregnancies.^{6 7} These incidents, she said, shaped her desire to help women prevent unwanted pregnancies

In 1914, Sanger fled to England to avoid a possible conviction and jail sentence for distributing her magazine, *The Woman Rebel*. The periodical’s distribution broke postal code obscenity laws and was a violation

2 <https://womanisrational.uchicago.edu/2022/09/21/margaret-sanger-the-duality-of-a-ambitious-feminist-and-racist-eugenicist/>

3 <https://rtl.org/educational-materials/margaret-sanger/>

4 <https://sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/aboutms/msbio/>

5 <https://sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/aboutms/msbio/>

6 <https://rtl.org/educational-materials/margaret-sanger/>

7 <https://womanisrational.uchicago.edu/2022/09/21/margaret-sanger-the-duality-of-a-ambitious-feminist-and-racist-eugenicist/>



Margaret Sanger (1879-1966), Chairman of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, on the stand before a special Senate Committee on February 13, 1931 to testify in favor of birth control as embodied in the Gillett bill (S. 4582).

of the Comstock Act of 1873. At the time, it was illegal to use the post office to send anything deemed obscene, or anything that promoted birth control or abortion.⁸ While a fugitive, Sanger contacted British radicals, feminists, and individuals who supported population control. The theories espoused by these contacts continued to shape her leftist views and led to her developing a deeper justification for birth control promotion. Through her relationship with eugenicist and sex and drug researcher Havelock Ellis, Sanger came to believe that birth control would “fulfill a critical psychological need by enabling women to fully enjoy sexual relations, free from the fear of pregnancy.”^{9 10}

Sanger’s Eugenicist Philosophy

Eugenics, a term coined by Francis Galton, the cousin of Charles Darwin, was a pseudo-science introduced in the late nineteenth century. Eugenicists believed that through selective breeding, social ills could be eliminated, and the human race could be perfected. Methods for attaining a ‘better race’ included segregation, social exclusion, and involuntary sterilization,¹¹ and in North Carolina alone, an estimated 7,600 citizens were sterilized between 1933 and 1977.¹²

8 <https://www.britannica.com/event/Comstock-Act>

9 <https://rtl.org/educational-materials/margaret-sanger/>

10 <https://sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/aboutms/msbio/>

11 <https://www.genome.gov/about-genomics/fact-sheets/Eugenics-and-Scientific-Racism#:~:text=Eugenics%20is%20the%20scientifically%20erroneous,ills%20through%20genetics%20and%20heredity>

12 <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/eugenics-board>



Mrs. Margaret Sanger, the great birth control advocate, and her two sons

"WOMAN AND THE NEW RACE"

By Margaret Sanger

This book, just published, is Margaret Sanger's greatest effort for the birth control movement. It contains the very essence of her life's work. It instructs the women of the world in the greatest step of their emancipation. "WOMAN AND THE NEW RACE" contains the sum total of Margaret Sanger's experience and knowledge on this vital subject—knowledge she dared to utter and print—knowledge for which she faced jail and fought through every court to establish as woman's inalienable right.

PART OF CONTENTS

Woman's Error and her Debt	Continence: Is it Practicable or Desirable?
The Struggle for Freedom	Contraception or Abortion?
Two Classes of Women	Are Preventive Means Certain?
Immorality of Unwanted Large Families	Battalion of Unwanted Babies Cause of War
Cries of Despair	Woman and Morality
Women who plead for Abortion	Legislating Woman's Morals
When should a Woman avoid having children?	Why not Birth Control Clinics in America?
Any one chapter is worth the price of this book	

THE KNOWLEDGE IS PRICELESS

This book, "Woman and the New Race," by Margaret Sanger, contains so much that is vital, thorough and necessary to every married couple, that it would require a book to describe it. **THE KNOWLEDGE OF BIRTH CONTROL WILL BRING HAPPINESS TO EVERY MARRIAGE.**

Price Only \$2.00 Sent Prepaid
Order at Once. Don't Delay.

TRUTH PUBLISHING CO.

1400 Broadway Dept. 5-G New York

Sanger, a eugenicist who adamantly viewed birth control as another means to eliminate the reproduction of the "feeble-minded" from society,¹³ was a member of The American Eugenics Society (AES) and the International Eugenics Society. Other notable members have included Charles and Leonard Darwin (grandson and son of evolutionist Charles Darwin); American birth control advocate and the founder of the Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress, Marie Stopes; and Professors D. Baird and W.C.W. Nixon, two of Britain's most celebrated illegal abortionists.¹⁴

These influences are historically evidenced in her writings and speeches. Years before the atrocities of Hitler upon the Jewish people during World War II, Sanger exposed herself as a racist and eugenicist. In her piece *Morality and Birth Control*, Sanger said that birth control "must lead to a higher individuality and ultimately to a cleaner race" and that "All of our problems are the result of overbreeding among the working class."¹⁵

Also, on the topic of birth control, Sanger said in her book *Woman and the New Race* that birth control "is nothing more or less than the facilitation of the process of weeding out the unfit, of preventing the birth of defectives or of those who will become defectives."¹⁶

On eugenics and selective breeding, Sanger writes in her autobiography, "The eugenicists wanted to shift the birth control emphasis from less children for the poor to more children for the rich. We went back of that and sought to first stop the multiplication of the unfit. This appeared the most important and greatest step towards race betterment."¹⁷

Her words leave little question about Sanger's views on race, the poor, and the disabled. Because of remarks like these, Planned Parenthood has struggled to remove the stain that Sanger herself left on her organization.

Planned Parenthood in a "Politically Correct" Age

In April of 2021, The New York Times published an article titled *I'm the Head of Planned Parenthood. We're Done Making Excuses for Our Founder*. In the piece, Alexis Johnson, the president and chief executive of Planned Parenthood, tries to put some distance between the founder and the behemoth abortion provider. Her words are damning. "Up until now, Planned Parenthood has failed to own the impact of our founder's actions. We have defended Sanger as a protector of bodily autonomy and self-determination, while excusing her association with white supremacist groups and eugenics as an unfortunate 'product of her time.'" Johnson continues, "...she [Sanger] endorsed the Supreme Court's 1927 decision in *Buck v. Bell*, which allowed states to sterilize people deemed 'unfit' without their consent and sometimes without their knowledge..." and, "Sanger remains an influential part of our history and will not be erased...we must fully take responsibility for the harm that Sanger caused to generations of people with disabilities and Black, Latino, Asian-American, and Indigenous people."¹⁸

¹³ <https://womanisrational.uchicago.edu/2022/09/21/margaret-sanger-the-duality-of-a-ambitious-feminist-and-racist-eugenicist>

¹⁴ <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/margaret-sanger-mother-of-the-sexual-revolution-9605>

¹⁵ https://sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/documents/speech_morality_and_bc/

¹⁶ <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8660/pg8660-images.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8660/pg8660-images.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/17/opinion/planned-parenthood-margaret-sanger.html>

While the information isn't always easy to find, a grasp of her history and life's work is important for Christians to understand, for we must comprehend the evil at hand to prepare for the battle.






Planned Parenthood and the Hard Facts

When we examine the rate of abortion in the United States, the words of Planned Parenthood's current leader fall flat. Her implication that the racially motivated quest of their founder was true but part of the past is questionable. The Black community, in particular, has been disproportionately harmed by the evils of Planned Parenthood and Margaret Sanger. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported that the abortion rate among Black women was 24.4 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44, while White women had a much lower rate of 6.2 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age. Moreover, although only 12.4% of the total U.S. population is Black, 39.2% of all abortions were performed on Black women.¹⁹

Since 1973, more than 64 million babies have been aborted in the United States.²⁰ Of this number, more than 20 million of them were Black babies.²¹ But the disparity doesn't stop there. Not only are babies who are a racial minority aborted at significantly higher rates, but so are babies who are diagnosed with a disability. A 1995-2011 study estimates that among babies with a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome in the U.S., anywhere from 60%-93% were aborted.²² Unfortunately, prenatal testing has a high rate of false positives. Dr. Tara Sander Lee of the Charlotte Lozier Institute writes that, "Flipping a coin would be just as accurate," as the Natera screening for Down syndrome in low-risk pregnancies. Thankfully, North Carolina passed a law in 2023 that prohibits abortions due to an unborn child's race, sex, or Down syndrome diagnosis.²³

While Planned Parenthood denounces Margaret Sanger's discrimination against racial minorities and people with disabilities,²⁴ the national statistics do not back up their claims. And, while they do not speak of "weeding out the unfit," there is no question that Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, continues to follow eugenic practices that are more damaging to racial minorities and disabled individuals.

A Legacy of Death and Destruction

Margaret Sanger's ideas and clinics were originally presented as a way for women to gain control over their lives and bodies under the guise of "equality." Her push for birth control ultimately helped to usher in the "free love" movement and tragically damage the institution of marriage. Today, women are still being told the lie that the fight for "reproductive rights" is simply a noble effort to protect human rights. Sadly, many are unaware that the roots of the abortion and birth control industries stem from a very dark and evil agenda. It is to our advantage to understand the past so we can fight for the future. Satan's lies have ruined and stolen countless lives. As Christians, we must boldly share the truth, courageously stand for the weak, and lovingly witness to others about the value of human life and salvation through faith in Christ. 

¹⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/ss/ss7110a1.htm>

²⁰ <https://www.nrlc.org/communications/0123saus>

²¹ <https://rti.org/multicultural-outreach/black-abortion-statistics/>

²² <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pd.2910>

²³ <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/S20>

²⁴ https://cdn.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/cc/2e/cc2e84f2-126f-41a5-a24b-43e093c47b2c/210414-sanger-opposition-claims-p01.pdf



Sharon Sullivan, RN is the Government Relations Associate at the North Carolina Family Policy Council

ON THE FRONT LINES



Greenville and Raleigh Dinner Events

This spring, NC Family welcomed our supporters and friends to dinner events in the Greenville and Raleigh areas. Roger Severino, Vice President of Domestic Policy at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC shared about the critical importance of marriage and family in today's culture. We also had the opportunity to welcome Katy Faust, founder of Them Before Us as the Keynote Speaker at our Raleigh Dinner in May. She also emphasized the importance of family, particularly as it impacts children. You can watch both of their presentations at NCFamily.org/past-events.



2

Pastor's Seminar

In March, we partnered with the Family Research Council and welcomed dozens of pastors who attended our Sermon Prep Seminar outside of Charlotte. FRC experts Joseph Backholm and David Closson shared how pastors can teach and preach a biblical worldview in a hostile culture.

"This conference was one of the most beneficial conferences I've attended in many years. It provided real data about what the average person in the pew thinks regarding a Biblical worldview. The information gained from this conference was immediately applicable to ministry, not just something to file away for later use. I would highly recommend that every pastor attend this conference if at all possible."

- Dr. David Heller, Association Mission Strategist, Columbus County, NC

3

NC Family Video

Over the winter, NC Family produced a brand new video explaining who we are and what we do! We loved working with Jake, our videographer, and are so thankful for the many people we interviewed and the testimonials they gave about the vital work of NC Family. You can watch this video by clicking on the "About" tab on our website at [NCFamily.org](https://www.ncfamily.org).



4

Op-Ed in N&O & PBS Video Interview

NC Family president John Rustin's OpEd "Ides of March Madness: Beware as Sports Betting Begins in NC" was published in the Raleigh News & Observer, Charlotte Observer, Durham Herald and other daily newspapers the week before sports betting became legal in North Carolina. NC Family was also interviewed and featured in numerous other news articles, including PBS State Lines, speaking about the harms of gambling and gambling addiction on individuals, families, and communities across our state.



JOHN RUSTIN
PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NC FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL





Former High School Athlete Works to Protect Women and Girls in North Carolina

By AnnaScott Cross

Payton McNabb had the world at her fingertips until everything changed in the fall of her senior year of high school.

Growing up in an athletic family, Payton started playing sports as soon as she was old enough to walk. By high school, she was an accomplished athlete, playing volleyball, basketball, and, her personal favorite, softball. She and her family had made sacrifices for years to allow her to pursue her love for these sports and the many hours of practice and games they require. But all of this changed on September 1st, 2022.

The Game That Changed Everything

A senior in high school, Payton was just starting her final season of high school volleyball. On September 1st, her team walked onto the court to play a team that included a biological male athlete who identified as a female. This was a conference game, so Payton's team was required to play despite the fact that some of her teammates were visibly afraid of the risks involved with playing against a biological male.

During the game, the male athlete spiked the ball at an estimated speed of 70 miles per hour and struck Payton in the head. According to the Olympics, the speed of this spike was comparable to the women's world record for spikes in women's volleyball.¹ The force of the hit caused Payton to temporarily lose consciousness and resulted in a severe neck injury and concussion. As a result of this injury, Payton has suffered from severe headaches, vision loss, partial paralysis, long-term whiplash damage, and challenges with everyday activities like her education. She missed the remaining portion of the volleyball season, and

could only participate in her final basketball and softball seasons in limited ways. Her hopes of pursuing sports in college were dashed, and even now – over a year later – she is still dealing with the lasting impacts of her injuries. Her doctors aren't sure if she'll ever make a full recovery.

Now a freshman at Western Carolina University, Payton is not playing sports for the first time in her life. And, because of the extent of her injuries and the complexity of her recovery, she's not sure if she'll ever be able to play again in the future. In addition, due to the lasting effects of the concussion, she has to get special help with her coursework. On top of the physical challenges that she's still dealing with, this has taken a toll on her mental health due to the loss of what had been such a significant part of her life.

The National Issue

The discussion surrounding whether or not to allow biological male athletes to play on female sports teams based on their perceived gender identity rather than their biological sex became public in the 1970s with a tennis player named Renee Richards, born Richard Raskind. A successful tennis player on

¹ <https://olympics.com/en/news/volleyball-most-asked-questions-womens-volleyball>

the male circuit and an ophthalmologist, Richards underwent so-called “gender reassignment” surgery at the age of 41 and started competing in women’s competitions.² This prompted some serious conversations in the athletic world about who qualifies as a “woman.” Obviously, this debate is still going on today.

Fast forward to the present day, and these conversations are again making national headlines. In recent years:

- Celebrity surfer Bethany Hamilton made headlines for refusing to compete in World Surf League events after it was announced that biological males could compete in female competitions.³
- Caitlyn Jenner, the Olympic and professional athlete formerly known as Bruce Jenner, sparked controversy by saying that allowing biological males to compete against females “just isn’t fair,” and insisting on the importance of protecting girls’ sports.⁴
- Riley Gaines, an NCAA champion swimmer, started a national movement to protect female athletes after she was forced to compete against and share a locker room with biological male swimmer Lia Thomas, who easily outpaced many successful female athletes who had been training their whole lives.⁵
- More than a dozen female college athletes, including swimmers Riley Gaines and NC State All-American Kylee Alons, recently initiated a lawsuit against the NCAA, accusing the athletic association of violating their rights under Title IX when the NCAA allowed biological males to participate in women’s collegiate sports.⁶

² <https://www.si.com/tennis/2019/06/28/renee-richards-gender-identity-politics-transgender-where-are-they-now>

³ <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/celebrity-surfer-who-lost-arm-in-shark-attack-vows-to-boycott-world-surf-league-events-over-trans-inclusion-policy/>

⁴ <https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/05/caitlyn-jenner-is-right-about-transgender-athletes/>

⁵ <https://rileygainescenter.org/about/>

⁶ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/riley-gaines-college-athletes-lawsuit-ncaa-transgender-policies/>



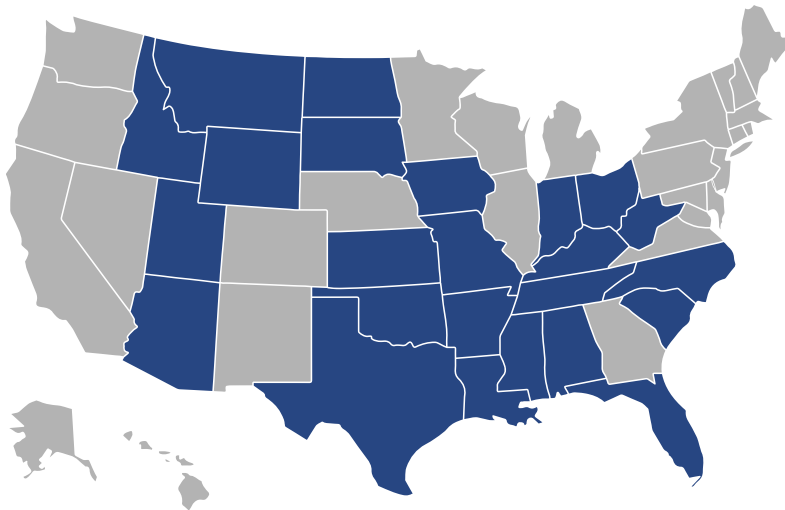
These are just a few examples of the many situations that have come up since the LGBTQ movement started seeking “equality” for biological male athletes who identify as female. Women like Payton, Bethany, Kylee, and Riley are all seeing firsthand how women are being denied awards, scholarships, spots on teams, privacy in locker rooms and showers, and safety - all to cater to a small percentage of athletes who are suffering from gender dysphoria.

Standing Up for Women Legislatively

In recent decades, we have seen a monumental shift in legislation to protect women’s rights, from acknowledging women’s right to vote to establishing Title IX protections in schools from discrimination based on sex.⁷ One of these changes was the expansion of women’s sports, which was intended to give women equal opportunities in athletics, acknowledging the biological differences that exist between men and women. Now, after watching biological men slowly take some women’s places in sports, lawmakers are starting to enact additional legislation designed to protect women’s rights and safety in athletics. This January, Ohio became the 24th state to enact legislation to prevent biological males from playing on female sports teams.⁸

7 <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/history-of-the-womens-rights-movement/>

8 <https://familypolicyalliance.com/issues/2024/01/31/update-massive-win-for-children-and-female-athletes-in-ohio/>



24 States Have Laws That Save Girls Sports

On August 16th, 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly passed HB 574—Fairness in Women’s Sports Act⁹, which requires middle school, high school, and collegiate sports teams to be designated as male, female, or co-ed on the basis of biological sex, and prohibits biological males from participating on female sports teams. It took four months from the time the bill was filed in April to the time it became law, and the journey was not an easy one, requiring an override of Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of the bill.

9 <https://ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/H574>

Fighting to Protect Female Athletes in North Carolina

With primary sponsors Reps. Jennifer Balkcom (R-Henderson), Karl Gillespie (R-Cherokee), Erin Paré (R-Wake), and Kristin Baker (R-Cabarrus), the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act slowly made its way through the North Carolina House and Senate.¹⁰ During the many hours of committee meetings, Payton was able to share her story to encourage legislators to pass this legislation. She was joined by NCAA champion swimmer Riley Gaines, and together, they made a powerful argument in favor of protecting women’s privacy, safety, and athletic opportunities.

Payton shares that, “[The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act is] a really big win for North Carolina altogether, and every woman and girl in North Carolina.” And to the critics of this legislation, she says, “It’s not anti-anyone; it’s just pro-women.”

Becoming a public figure advocating for the protection of women was not in Payton’s plans. She shares that it was her faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that prompted her to pursue this path, since it was not something in her comfort zone. In addition to this, she adds that even though she knew her time of playing sports was over, she wanted to share her story to help protect her younger sister, cousins, and teammates, because every woman in North Carolina deserves an equal opportunity to play sports.

As a result of her work speaking out on this issue, Payton has befriended Riley – who she says is just as amazing in private as she is in public. Payton has partnered with the Independent Women’s Forum, where she is an Ambassador, Spokesperson, and Communications Intern.

Now, Payton is a rising sophomore at Western Carolina University and says that she wants to pursue whatever plan the Lord has for her, adding, “I’m just here to help as many people as I can.” She continues to encourage lawmakers across the country to protect female athletes and hopes to see more strong men get involved in advocating for the issue as well. 🙏

10 <https://www.ncfamily.org/state-house-committees-approve-fairness-in-womens-sports-act>



AnnaScott Cross is the Communications Director for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina.



family policy MATTERS

PRODUCED BY NC FAMILY



A Rural Church Meets Educational Needs

As schools have become increasingly influenced by ideas that go against Scripture, many people have started looking at alternative ways to provide an education for children that also teaches them Biblical truths. Churches have started opening schools to help offer parents a Christian alternative for their child's education. Reverend Mark Perko and MiRandi Chewning run Deep Creek Christian Academy, a school started by their church in rural North Carolina.



LISTEN NOW



The Critical Connection: Faith, Race, And Political Engagement

Two of the biggest cultural topics over the last few years have been critical race theory and abortion, sparking strong reactions and opinions from almost everyone. While they may appear to be separate issues, a closer look reveals that they are closely linked and that they have significant implications for people of faith. This begs the question about how Christians should understand, approach, and engage these topics in our society. John Amanchukwu, a pastor at the Upper Room Church of God in Christ in Raleigh, North Carolina, answers this question and explains how the two issues are so deeply connected.



LISTEN NOW

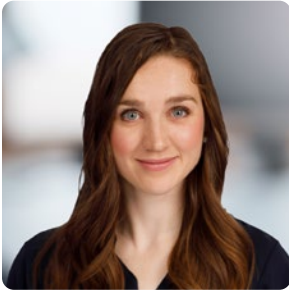


A Pregnancy Resource Center Opens A Coffee Shop In NC

There are so many factors that parents must think about when they find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy, including things like housing, employment, and sometimes even transportation. Pregnancy resource centers can help meet some of these needs, but there's only so much they can do. That is why one pregnancy center in central North Carolina has decided to take their work a step further and open up a new coffee shop. Tonya Baker Nelson, Founder and CEO of Hand of Hope Pregnancy Centers, shares all about the new coffee shop she is opening this spring and the impact that it will have.



LISTEN NOW



Kids, Phones, And Porn

As technology continues to progress, so does the number of young children who have cell phones (often with little to no supervision). Whether children seek out harmful content or not, cell phones and social media can be quite dangerous if not used in a healthy way. Clare Morell, Director of the Ethics and Public Policy Center's Technology and Human Flourishing Project, shares how cell phones and social media are harming children and what we can do about it.



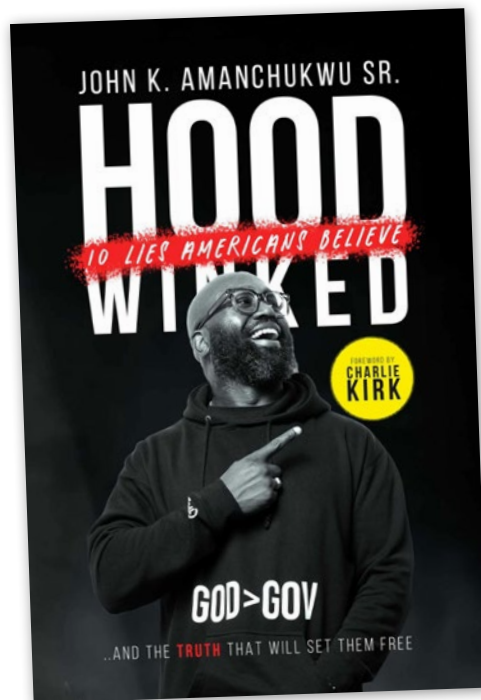
Family Policy Matters is a 15-minute radio show and podcast hosted by Traci DeVette Griggs, featuring interviews with local, state, and national experts on a wide range of policy issues impacting North Carolina families. *Family Policy Matters* airs on over 20 radio stations across North Carolina, and is available as a podcast on your favorite podcast app. You can listen and read full transcripts of every episode of *Family Policy Matters* at NCFamily.org.



RADIO STATIONS Airing *Family Policy Matters*

Charlotte/Gastonia	WCRU 960 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WOCR 1540 AM/ 88.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Fayetteville	WCLN 105.7	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WTRU 830 AM/ 97.7 FM, 99.1 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Raleigh/Durham	WETC 540 AM	Sunday, 3:45 PM
Raleigh	WDRU 1030 AM/ 105.7 FM, 106.5 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM

Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 10:00 PM
Charlotte	WOCR 1540 AM/ 88.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Sanford	WLHC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 10:00 PM
Wake Forest	WFNE 103.5 FM	Saturday, 12:15 PM & 11:15 PM
Wilmington	WZDG 89.7 FM	Sunday, 5:30 AM & 6:00PM
Winston-Salem/ Piedmont Triad Area	WPIP 880 AM	Sunday, 4:15 PM
Winston-Salem	WBFJ 1550 AM	Saturday, 5:00 PM



Lies are not harmless: A Review of *Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe* by John Amanchukwu

by Brittany Farrell

Today's world is full of lies. Lies about marriage. Lies about life. Lies about gender. Lies about identity. Lies about God. Lies about Christians. Lies about family. Lies about parents. Lies about history. Lies about culture. Lies about politics. Lies about data. Lies about science. Lies about morality. Lies about economics. Lies about politicians. Lies about media. Lies about education. Lies about headlines.

Lie upon lie.

One North Carolina pastor has committed himself to not just draw attention to these lies, but to shine the bright light of truth in their place. Pastor John K. Amanchukwu, Sr., a pastor at Upper Room Church of God in Christ in Raleigh, N.C., burst onto the public scene after his messages at local school board meetings started going viral. He is following up the success of his first book, *Eraced: Uncovering the Lies of Critical Race Theory and Abortion*, with a new book released on May 28th of this year. *Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe* is for anyone who is "concerned about the direction of our nation ... and [has] a thirst for truth."

Persistent Lies

Amanchukwu argues that "lies are not harmless. They hurt people because they color reality." He considers the persistent lies addressed in *Hoodwinked* as particularly harmful because they "undermine who we are as a people and affect our future." Therefore, the 10 lies Amanchukwu addresses are:

1. America Is a Racist Nation
2. Being Pro-Life Is Only for White Evangelicals
3. Capitalism Is to Blame for Poverty
4. Christianity Is a White Man's Religion
5. Debt Can Be Canceled
6. Disagreement Means We Can No Longer Talk
7. Transgender People Are Under Attack
8. If You're Against Pornography, You're a Book Banner
9. The Bible Isn't Political, So Christians Should Stay Out of Politics
10. The Church Is Not Essential



As he delves into the history and harms of these lies, Amanchukwu relies heavily on Scripture, profound thinkers, and real-world examples to dismantle each lie one by one. I asked him why it is so important that we accurately and boldly identify lies as lies. Amanchukwu's response reiterates one of the threads you will find

Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe is for anyone who is "concerned about the direction of our nation ... and [has] a thirst for truth."

all throughout *Hoodwinked* because Christ proclaimed "that 'He is the Way, Truth, and Life,' ... when we deny Truth – repeat a lie – then Christians are denying Christ." Because Scripture "calls for us to renew our minds in Christ," Amanchukwu hopes *Hoodwinked* will help all truth-seekers sharpen their spiritual antennae, "so that when we hear a lie ... we have the courage to redact with Truth."

Dehumanizing Silence

It becomes clear in reading, though, that most of the lies discussed are rooted in number six, "Disagreement Means We Can No Longer Talk." According to Amanchukwu, for far too long, far too many Christians "have been afraid to speak truth and been conditioned to self-censure out of fear of offending others." He says this leads to a domination of lies that creates confusion.

This silencing is an affront to the fundamental importance of speech, demonstrated by God speaking creation into being. For Amanchukwu, "silenc[ing] another image-bearer of God is, in a sense, to dehumanize them; it's to insist that person is inferior in some way, that they are less than what God created them to be." This dehumanization is behind many of the lies addressed in the book. It is the primary motivation behind the evils of racism, abortion, class-warfare, and bigotry of all kinds.

Dismantling Lies

Amanchukwu points readers to the example of Jesus, who "engaged, taught, argued, and even blessed those with whom He could not see eye-to-eye." He writes, "There is a demonic power

behind many of the lies ensnaring our culture. That is why cold facts alone will not save the day. We need spiritual truth, Gospel power, and prayer." As he writes in the book's introduction, though, "It's not enough to speak truth; we must also dismantle the lies." That is what *Hoodwinked* does. "Christ and Truth are one in the

same. If you do not seek or know Truth, you are lost. Truth is the compass that tells you where to go, what to do, how to live. Truth is life."

For Amanchukwu, "At the end of the day, free speech is all about the search for truth and meaning." This commitment to not just truth, but to discussion and debate of important and difficult topics is especially important in

a republic like the United States. Here, Amanchukwu leans on Dr. David Bromwell, senior associate at the Institute for Governance and Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand – "it is in conversations, heated debates—and even in verbal fights—that we hone our ideas and even reconsider certain positions we've long held. Disagreement is healthy, not harmful. Scripture puts it this way: 'As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another' (Proverbs 27:17)." The key is in both speaking and listening. As Amanchukwu puts it, "We listen because we respect the humanity of the person we're arguing with. Speaking, listening, debating, and at times, even outright fighting with our words is how we engage the culture where God has placed us. And it's one of the ways we love our neighbors."

Amanchukwu acknowledges that this is an "age of lies and illusions" and that "[t]he lies are so thick that there is confusion everywhere, even in the church." His response to this darkness? "But Jesus. Those two words bring us hope." Light is the best disinfectant.

Hoodwinked: 10 Lies Americans Believe is a strong beam of light and truth aimed directly at the heart of the lies spreading throughout America today. 🏠



Brittany Farrell is a North Carolina mother of four who formerly served as NC Family's Assistant Director of Policy



2024 Legislative Session *Preview*

By John Rustin

As this edition of *Family North Carolina* magazine is being sent to press, the North Carolina General Assembly has just reconvened for the 2024 Legislative Session. Technically, a continuation of last year's "Long" Session, this year's "Short" Session began on April 24 and will likely last for several months. As is typical for the second year of the legislative biennium, state lawmakers are expected to focus primarily on making adjustments to the state budget, which is likely to top \$30.8 billion for the state's 2024-25 fiscal year. In addition to the budget, a number of other key bills will also be on the docket for consideration, some of these held over from last year. The following is a summary of several of those items.

Further Gambling Expansion

One issue that dominated the waning days of the 2023 Legislative Session was a proposal to establish four commercial gambling casinos and to authorize the operation of tens of thousands of Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) across the state. This major gambling expansion proposal seemed to appear almost out of thin air right after lawmakers ratified legislation to legalize sports betting and parimutuel wagering on horse racing in North Carolina. Although a formal written plan was never put forth, three of the proposed casino developments reportedly would be located in Rockingham, Nash, and Anson counties, and another—to be operated by the Lumbee Indian Tribe—would be located somewhere in eastern North Carolina.

It is important to understand that these are not just stand-alone casinos, but are huge casino gambling developments, including hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues, meeting spaces, etc. Just imagine what kind of impact these developments would have on existing hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, and other entertainment spaces as they cannibalize the local economy, divert millions of dollars away from local businesses, and siphon away already hard-to-find employees.



Moreover, over 50,000 VLTs—essentially video poker machines—would be operated under the auspices of the state lottery. These highly addictive gambling devices would be located in convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, bars, and other locations around the state. Adding video machine gambling to already existing Powerball, Mega Millions, Keno, matching numbers games, scratch-off tickets, and online "Digital Instants," would send the incidents of problem and pathological gambling in North Carolina through the roof, along with all the related social and economic problems, such as increases in the crimes of theft and embezzlement, personal bankruptcy, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, divorce, and even suicide.

In 2023, it was reported that over 70 contract lobbyists were hired by gambling interests to push for the legalization of commercial casinos and VLTs, but these efforts fell short after legislative leaders realized the votes did not exist in either chamber to approve the plan.

Regardless, we fully anticipate these efforts will return, so we must respond in force with a statewide outpouring of grassroots opposition to further gambling expansion in North Carolina.

Marijuana Legalization

Another issue that failed passage last year, but that we expect will resurface in the Short Session, is a proposal to legalize marijuana for "medical" use in North Carolina. This bill, Senate Bill 3, entitled "NC Compassionate Care Act," was approved by the State Senate in March 2023, but was never taken up in the State House last year.

SB 3 proposes to establish an extensive framework for the licensing, manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, and use of marijuana as a "treatment" for a wide variety of "medical" conditions. Despite the fact that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration has not approved marijuana for medical



use, and the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Neurology, and the American Psychiatric Association do not support its use as medicine, proponents continue to push hard for the bill's passage.

As more states across the U.S. legalize marijuana for "medical" and "recreational" purposes, more problems are coming to light. Incidents of impaired driving, drug-related crimes, health issues, and other maladies are all on the rise. North Carolina lawmakers would do well to consider the growing evidence against marijuana legalization and reject this misguided proposal.

Opportunity Scholarships


In last year's budget bill—House Bill 259—the N.C. General Assembly greatly expanded the state's Opportunity Scholarship Program to make the K-12 school choice plan universally available to all students in the state, provided that funding is available. North Carolina families responded with overwhelming interest. As a matter of comparison, in the 2023-2024 school year, just over 32,300 North Carolina students are receiving Opportunity Scholarships. Following the changes approved in HB 259, the state received 72,000 new applications for the 2024-25 school year. The law directs that grant amounts are determined on a sliding scale (ranging from approximately \$3,360 to \$7,468) based upon household income, and lower income families are given first priority.

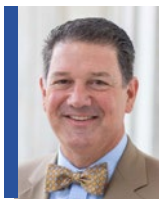


While the General Assembly also increased funding for Opportunity Scholarships several years into the future, the current level of funding for the next school year will fall significantly short of the demand, leaving nearly 55,000 hopeful students without a scholarship in the coming school year.

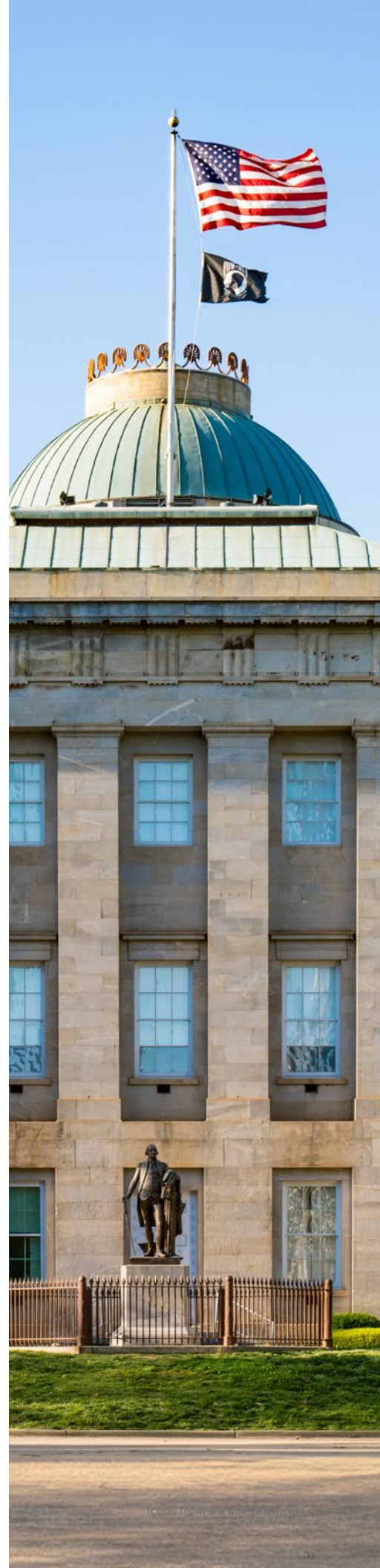
School choice proponents are urging state lawmakers to take action early in the 2024 session to provide a special appropriation to bridge this funding gap and ensure as many applicants as possible are able to take advantage of North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Stay Informed!

Undoubtedly, many more issues will be discussed and debated by the General Assembly this year, but those mentioned above are some of our top priorities. When the state legislature is in session, you can rest assured that NC Family is there looking out for the interests of North Carolina families and serving as a strong voice for Biblical values in our state's political and public policy arenas. [You can stay on top of all the action by visiting our website at **NCFamily.org** and signing up to receive our emails and Action Alerts throughout the session.](#) Working together, we can seek to fulfill NC Family's vision of "A state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished." 



John L. Rustin is President of the North Carolina Family Policy Council



Sports Betting Comes to North Carolina

On March 11, the week of the 2024 ACC Men's Basketball Tournament, sports gambling became legal in North Carolina. According to the State Lottery Commission, which is charged with overseeing sports wagering in the state, North Carolinians spent just shy of \$200 million during the first week. **Yes, you read that right, \$200 million in one week! That equates to about \$1.2 million bet per hour.**

Of that, \$117 million came directly out of the pockets of North Carolina gamblers, while \$81 million was provided by gambling sportsbooks in the form of "promotional wagers" to entice citizens to download their apps, establish personal accounts, and start betting.

The DraftKings website and others like them had promotions like, "bet \$5 and get \$200 in bonus bets instantly." And personalities like comedian and actor Kevin Hart, NFL superstar Rob Gronkowski, and former UNC and NBA basketball star Kenny Smith saturated radio, television, and social media with ads promoting sportsbooks and wagering.

Many friends commented to me that this is not at all what they expected, as their previous exposure to sports gambling was limited to fantasy sports leagues and tournament brackets. Others expressed outrage at the sheer volume of dollars being spent by sportsbooks on advertising and promotions, not to mention the millions shelled out on gambling itself.

Unfortunately, this should come as no surprise. These companies know that once they acquire new gamblers, they can inundate them with ads, texts, promotions, and other inducements to bet. They can also track customer activity and betting trends, since their apps are the platforms through which bets are made.

PROP BETTING: Proposition, or "prop" bets, can be placed on practically anything that might or might not happen during a game, including how many points an individual player may score, if the next play will be a run or a pass, which team will score first, how long the singing of the National Anthem will last, and what color Gatorade will be poured on the winning coach.

To some, prop bets and micro betting have become very problematic. "The president of the NCAA, Charlie Baker, is raising concerns about the amount of abuse being directed at college athletes by bettors," according to a recent edition of NPR's "All Things Considered." "[P]eople who put money down on a point spread or a specific play someone may or may not make during a game, are increasingly taking out their losing frustrations by attacking players on social media. Baker said this week that 1 in 3 student athletes has been harassed by bettors," the report added. "He and the NCAA are now urging states to ban prop betting on college sports."¹

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2024/04/06/1243276529/amid-growing-harassment-against-players-ncaacalls-for-ban-on-prop-bets>


NC Family warned state lawmakers that legalizing sports betting would forever change the face of collegiate and professional sports in our state. We have such a rich heritage of collegiate athletics in North Carolina, and legalizing sports gambling only invites corruption and undermines the integrity of the games. In recognition of this, some states have already taken action to ban prop betting because of the likelihood of abuse, and North Carolina should do the same.

A PREDATORY INDUSTRY: Looking out for the interests of the athletes, especially college athletes, is important, but what about those who gamble? Clearly some sports bettors will handle gambling just fine, but others will be lured in, overcome by the temptation, and fall victim to serious gambling-related problems.

In February, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) published an incredibly insightful article that chronicled the experience of a 41-year-old psychiatrist who got caught up in an online gambling addiction and couldn't stop.² "As a psychiatrist familiar with human impulses and addiction, [Kavita] Fischer knew better than most what she needed to do," the article reports. "Yet she was up against an industry skilled in the art of leveraging data analytics and human behavior to keep customers betting. Gambling companies tracked the ups and downs of Fischer's betting behavior and gave bonus credits to keep her playing."

This WSJ article pulled the curtain back on online gambling, showing an industry that closely tracks betting habits and uses the data to actively target and prey on gamblers who gamble the most and who lose the most. "At PointsBet—acquired in 2023 by Fanatics [an approved sportsbook in North Carolina] VIP sports bettors representing 0.5% of the customer base generated more than 70% of the company's revenue in 2019 and 2020." That's astonishing!

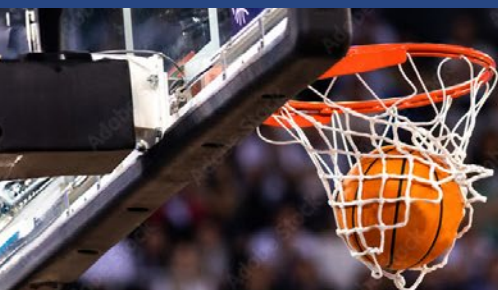
If you listen to Kevin Hart, Rob Gronkowski, Kenny Smith, and the sportsbooks, you would think that gambling is the most exciting thing that has happened to athletic competition in recent times. What has come to light since sports gambling went legal in North Carolina, however, has left a very sour taste in the mouths of many.

The profit-driven and predatory nature of the gambling industry has been on full display, and one thing is very clear – it's all about the money. 



John L. Rustin is President of the North Carolina Family Policy Council

² <https://www.wsj.com/business/hospitality/gambling-addiction-sports-betting-apps-4463cde0>





North Carolina Family Policy Council
PO Box 20607
Raleigh, NC 27619

NC FAMILY'S

Salt & Light

STUDENT SEMINARS

A hands-on seminar equipping students to engage in public policy from a Christian worldview

- Discuss the importance of a Christian worldview in public policy
- Watch a real-life committee debate
- Tour the NC General Assembly
- Meet with your state legislators

Scan to learn more!



Contact NC Family to set up a Salt & Light Seminar for your high school, college, or church group!

(919) 807-0800 | mail@ncfamily.org



Learn more about how you and your family can get involved at [NCFamily.org](https://www.ncfamily.org)