

SPRING 2018

FAMILY

north carolina

PROTECT OUR KIDS EDITION



Showdown!

Battle Ensues Over Sex Ed in NC Public Schools

Saving Babies

Pro-Life Strategy in North Carolina

Spiritual Health Predictors

Making the Younger Years Count

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articles

5 Spiritual Health Predictors

A recent study reveals which childhood experiences are more likely to result in young adults who are spiritually healthy. It might be surprising that the most labor-intensive church youth activities were not on the list. However, good old fashioned Christian disciplines, coupled with a healthy diet of Christian music, seemed to be the most impactful. Dr. Matt Z. Capps provides insight on these findings.

8 Saving Babies

Whenever NC Family writes a story about a law or regulation that will result in fewer children dying from abortion, we receive comments from pro-lifers wanting to know why lawmakers don't just introduce bills to ban abortion altogether. This article tries to shed some light on that question through the words of one of North Carolina's most ardently pro-life former lawmakers, Paul "Skip" Stam, and from excerpts of actual debates on abortion-related bills in the NC General Assembly.

14 Showdown

Parents in several parts of North Carolina have been waging a battle over the past year, trying to ensure that Planned Parenthood's version of sex education is not taught in their public schools. Also included: A comprehensive overview of the history and current status of North Carolina laws regarding sex education.

20 Q & A

Read excerpts from interviews on NC Family's *Family Policy Matters* radio show and podcast: Ryan Bomberger with Radiance Foundation talks about adoption and the blight of fatherlessness in our nation; Jennifer Roback Morse, Founder of the Ruth Institute, discusses the changing views of marriage, and pitfalls this can create for young couples; and Mary Anne Mosack, Executive Director of Ascend, explains the changing terminology in sex education and the amazingly positive outcomes for young people who follow "The Success Sequence."



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Day-To-Day Vigilance

Susanna Wesley is one of my heros. It's not that I entertain even the slightest hope that I could ever have the discipline she demonstrated while educating and discipling her children, notably John Wesley, founder of the Methodist denomination, and prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley. My kids are responsible young adults now, but still, all of my self-assessments of parenting involve the phrases "could've" and "should've." This is especially the case when I read accounts of great women and men, as featured in Eric Metaxas' wonderful books, *Seven Women* and *Seven Men*.

Most impressive among Susanna Wesley's accomplishments? According to Metaxas, every one of her 19 children (those who lived beyond infancy) professed and lived out their faith in Christ. Her devotion to her children's studies and character, in the midst of extreme poverty and illness, is legendary and seems almost mythical.

So what is the moral of this story? What can we learn from women like Susanna Wesley, Joan of Arc, Corrie Ten Boom, Rosa Parks, or any Proverbs 31 woman of our day. Or, what of men like John and Charles Wesley, William Wilberforce, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, or Billy Graham?

For purposes of this *Family North Carolina* magazine, I would like to propose two takeaways. **First, God can and will raise up strong, competent leaders among us who will fight injustice and persevere on His behalf. Second, it is the day-to-day vigilance of those who labor outside the public limelight that often has the greatest effect.**

This edition of *Family North Carolina* magazine focuses on stories of those who have illustrated both of these types of leadership in the cause of protecting our children. In the article, "Saving Babies, Pro-life Strategy in North Carolina," we hear from former state representative Paul "Skip" Stam, a man whose passion for saving preborn babies has been evident throughout his entire life. Stam spells out his criteria for introducing pro-life bills into the North Carolina General Assembly, standards which have shaped the state's pro-life strategy over the past decade and helped save the lives of thousands of North Carolina children. In addition, we get a glimpse into the messy and emotional pro-life struggle in our state's governing body, through transcripts of NC House and Senate debates.

The article, "Showdown: Battle Ensues Over Sex Ed in NC Public Schools" highlights a struggle in several North Carolina counties over whether Planned Parenthood's philosophy of sex, relationships, and marriage is going to be taught to our children in public schools.

"Spiritual Health Predictors" features commentary from North Carolina pastor, Dr. Matt Z. Capps on recent research that shows some commonality among children whose faith endures after graduation. It's accompanied by a fun infographic and has some surprising findings!

Even our *Family Policy Matters* interview excerpts are focused on how we can enact good public policy that will help protect our children.

I'll leave you with Metaxas' encouraging words from the end of Susanna Wesley's chapter in *Seven Women*: "Few human beings have influenced the world as Susanna Wesley did. [...] Despite poverty, illness, a difficult marriage, and heartbreak in endless forms, she used her intellect, creativity, time, energies, and will in such a way that can hardly be reckoned. The world in which we live owes much of the goodness in it to her life."

May the same be said of us. 🙏

Traci DeVette Griggs is Director of Communications for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina magazine.



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SPOTLIGHT

I have always heard that only 30 percent of kids brought up in the church will remain steadfast in the faith as adults. In other words, as many as 70 percent of children growing up in a Christian home will leave the faith when they reach college age (although some will eventually return). This is not surprising when I consider all of the kids I grew up with in church: many friends who, at one point walked an aisle and prayed a prayer; now as adults, demonstrate very little if any interest in the things of God. These numbers should both alarm us and bolster our commitment to disciple our children.

I recently received an encouraging email from one of our church members whose daughter brought a friend to visit our student ministry. After church, the visiting teen remarked that she enjoyed her time at our church. When asked why, she said that her youth group rarely used much Scripture. Interestingly enough, this anecdotal story seems to confirm the results of a recent national study.

Lifeway researchers surveyed 2,000 Protestant and non-denominational churchgoers who attend church at least once a month and have adult children ages 18 to 30. The goal of the project was to discover what parenting practices were common in the families where young adults remained in the faith.

The results are somewhat surprising! On the one hand, certain things that one might expect to be a major contributor to the perseverance of a young person's faith were absent from the list—things like attending worship services, attending private Christian schools, or regular family meals. It was also surprising that some of the most labor-intensive church “programs” for young people—Vacation Bible Schools and attending youth group—were not highly predictive of spiritual health on their own UNLESS they were linked to the key core principles of reading the Bible and serving!

On the other hand, one might be surprised to find that it was the regular normative Christian practices that had the most impact on a child's moral and spiritual development and were the best predictors of spiritual health that persists into adulthood. Turn the page and walk with me through those childhood factors that are the best predictors of spiritual health in young adults.

Matt serves as the Sr. Pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, NC. He has written and contributed to several books, served on the Leadership Council for the ERLC of the Southern Baptist Convention, and is on the Board of Directors for the Baptist State Convention of NC. Matt worked for two years on The Gospel Project at LifeWay Christian Resources. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit www.ncfamily.org.



Making The Younger Years Count For The Kingdom

written by:
Dr. Matt Z. Capps

Predictors of Spiritual Health in Young Adults

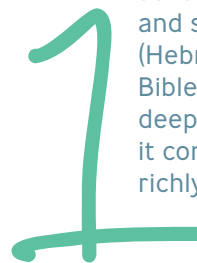
written by: Dr. Matt Z. Capps

There are several things we can learn from the results of a recent LifeWay Research survey. As the people of God, the lifelong spiritual health of our children is not forged in gimmicks and fads. As the research shows, the most formative aspects of a lifelong faith are the normative Christian practices that have been common in the church throughout history. It is long obedience in the same direction that helps keep children on the path of faith well into adulthood. Encourage your children to read their Bibles throughout the week! Find ways for them to serve in the church. Take part in service projects or mission trips as a family. Teach them the songs of faith that will carry them through the different seasons of life! True, it is God who brings the growth. But tilling the soil and planting good seeds is our greatest responsibility to the next generation.



Bible Reading

The most formative practice is **BIBLE READING!** Children who regularly dwell in the Word of God have a greater chance of continuing to walk with God throughout their lives. The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "...the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints, and marrow" (Hebrews 4:12, CSB). Regular Bible reading plants the word deeply into their hearts, and it continues to dwell in them richly (Colossians 3:16, CSB).



Service

The third and fifth most important predictors of spiritual health were related to **SERVICE!** Specifically serving in the church & serving on mission in the world. This is an important reminder that our children are part of the body of Christ that Paul describes in Ephesians 4. Not only has God gifted our kids to serve, God has also called us to equip them for the work of the ministry. If our children are truly part of the body of Christ, they should have the opportunity to function as a part of the church on mission. These experiences and exposure to the love of Christ in action are an important element in producing an enduring faith in our children.



Based on a study among Protestant churchgoers about parenting and spirituality from LifeWay Research, for use in the book *Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith*.

Prayer

2



Second on the list was **PRAYER**. A child who regularly communes with God in prayer is more likely to walk in close fellowship with God as they grow older. When Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me," He meant it. Their vocabulary may be limited, but our children have unlimited access to God through Jesus Christ and should be reminded that in Christ, not only do they have the confidence to approach God in prayer, but that He also hears them (1 John 5:14, CSB).

Christian Music

The fourth factor contributing to the spiritual well being of young adults is that they grew up listening to **CHRISTIAN MUSIC**. We should exhort our children like the Apostle Paul did in Colossians 3:16 (CSB), to sing "...psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." How many of us can remember the songs we learned as children? The Christian songs we sing have a powerful way of embedding the truths they espouse in our minds as truth.

4



3



Think your kids are too old to take advantage of some of these ideas? Think again! Go on a service project, study the Bible with them, pray with them, and worship with them. It's never too early, it's never too late!



Saving Babies Pro-life Strategy In North Carolina

written by:
Paul Stam,
Stam Law Firm, PLLC

Whenever NC Family writes a story about laws or regulations that will decrease the number of abortions in our state, we often receive comments from pro-lifers wanting to know why lawmakers don't just introduce bills to ban all abortions. In these next few pages, we shed some light on that question through the words of one of North Carolina's most ardently pro-life former lawmakers, and from excerpts of actual debates on abortion-related bills in the NC General Assembly. Paul Stam is an attorney who served for 16 years in the NC General Assembly and has defended pro-life laws in court.

The primary purpose of the pro-life movement is to "Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back" (Proverbs 24:11, NASB).

The United States Supreme Court created the problem in 1973 when it forced the legalization of abortion on every state in the nation through its ruling in *Roe v. Wade*. The anti-life majority on our nation's highest court is currently 5 to 4 with two aged abortion supporting Justices who are eligible to retire: Anthony Kennedy (81) and Ruth Bader Ginsburg (84). Real change on the national level requires a majority of Supreme Court Justices who will act to overturn that tragic decision.

Until then, what can be done legislatively? In North Carolina, we have emphasized measures that: 1) will actually save the lives of unborn babies; 2) are likely to have the necessary support to become law; and 3) could be successfully defended in court. North Carolina legislators have pushed through eleven such laws since 2011. (See "2016 Articles" on www.paulstam.info.) Among these:

- ***Woman's Right to Know Act of 2011* has saved thousands of lives each year.** It was improved upon in 2015 by increasing the informed consent waiting period (after detailed information is provided to a woman considering abortion) 72 hours instead of 24 hours prior to an abortion. All but one section was upheld in court.
- **The statute requiring parental consent for abortion was upheld in 1997 and has saved the lives of thousands of unborn children,** while also reducing the teenage abortion rate.
- **The end to state and local government funds for almost all abortions became law in 2011 and 2013, and will save thousands of lives.**

These measures were virtually immune from successful legal attack.

There is a tactical reason laws should only be pursued if they have a reasonable chance of saving lives and getting through the legislature and the courts. Bills introduced without a prospect of becoming law often taint the issue in the minds of some legislators. Acting too quickly can affect legislation well into the future. Years later, even when prospects have changed and it is judged that the bill could make it through the courts, too many legislators would have already concluded that it was not a measure to support.

In addition, while most current legislators vote pro-life, only a large minority are "convictionally" pro-life. The remaining votes are often brought along on the momentum of success. A painful defeat may cause some lawmakers to change their vote next time.

NC Leading In Opposition To Late-Term Abortion

Seventeen states and the U.S. House have passed what is known as the "pain capable abortion prohibition." If it ever becomes federal law, it would stop almost all abortions after 20 weeks. The bill cites numerous findings that the unborn child feels intense pain at that stage. However, these late-term abortions have already been stopped in North Carolina. In the 2015 legislative session, as part of a larger bill, the North Carolina pro-life legislature passed a "technical correction" that has stopped virtually all post 18-week (fetal age) abortions for the last two years, saving hundreds of lives. It has been challenged in court and is pending in federal district court. If Justices Kennedy or Ginsburg retire and pro-life Justices are sworn in before it is heard there, it will likely be approved by the U.S. Supreme Court. Until then, its fate in the federal courts is unknown, especially in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals which has become the second most liberal in the nation.

However, **until a Justice dies or retires, North Carolina may have neared the limit on what it can do to curtail abortion on the state level.** The 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health vs. Hellerstedt* overturned some state abortion-related laws in Texas, and made it relatively clear that North Carolina has already passed many of the pro-life laws that would likely be approved by the courts, at least while Justices Kennedy or Ginsburg are on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Therefore, pro-life legislators in North Carolina did what they could in 2017 to give more unborn babies a chance at life. **They appropriated five times more money for pro-life programs than had ever been appropriated in**

North Carolina before, primarily for the provision of ultrasound equipment for pregnancy resource centers and for training personnel to use the machines. This strategy stems from research, which indicates that high-resolution ultrasound pictures are making a profound difference in the choices and attitudes of young women and young men when confronted with an abortion decision. They have been able to see with their own eyes and with intricate detail what an unborn child looks like and how he or she acts while in the womb.

The author served in the General Assembly for 16 years- House Republican Leader (2007-2010), House Majority Leader (2011-2012), and House Speaker ProTem (2013-2016). He can be contacted at paulstam@stamlawfirm.com.



EDITOR'S NOTE: *On the next two pages, we get a glimpse into the often turbulent debates surrounding attempts to create pro-life laws. You'll see the impassioned arguments on both sides as lawmakers battle to push back the number of abortions in our state as much as current federal laws will allow. Following are excerpts of a dramatic debate over the state's Right to Know Act in 2011, which mandated that women seeking an abortion receive specific information and that they observe a waiting period prior to an abortion. Since its enactment, which took place over the veto of then Governor Beverly Perdue, the law has been credited with saving thousands of unborn North Carolina children.*

Glimpses of the Battle

HB 854—Selected Remarks in House Judiciary Subcommittee B May 11, 2011

FORMER REP. STAM (R-WAKE)

[We] have a letter that's been handed out from Dr. John Thorp [...] Distinguished Professor of OB/GYN, Director of the Women's Primary Healthcare at Chapel Hill. [...] Attached to his letter is a review of the evidence—a published review that, if you read it, indicates that women are simply not being told of the problem of the possible risks [of abortion].

FORMER REP. RICK GLAZIER (D-CUMBERLAND)

A woman's right to have an abortion, particularly in the first trimester, is a fundamental right protected by the substantive Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court overturned the Texas statute prohibiting abortions unless abortion was necessary to save the life of the mother. The court held that the right of personal privacy includes the right to have an abortion. That right is not unqualified and must be considered against important state interests and regulation. [...] According to the Court, the State's interest in those cases is preserving and protecting the health of the mother and protecting potential human life as it increases its substantiality while the woman nears term.

Several years, and in fact several decades later, the court reaffirmed its commitment to *Roe* in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* when the court established the "undue burden" test of determining whether a statute that restricts abortion would pass constitutional muster. Under *Casey*, a statute is invalid on its face if it places an undue burden on a woman's right to have an abortion before the fetus obtains viability. And an undue burden exists under the law if the state regulation has the effect of placing a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman's choice to obtain an abortion before the fetus obtains viability. [...]

It is evident, I think, that the State of North Carolina has a legitimate interest at the outset of a pregnancy of protecting the health of a woman seeking an abortion. And that interest is sufficiently important to allow the State to regulate abortion providers and how the process works. However, *Casey* and its predecessors teach us that health regulations, which are not reasonably related to maternal health, or which depart from accepted medical practice cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny.

FORMER REP. ALICE BORDSEN
(D-ALAMANCE)

I think this has actually provided us an excellent opportunity to really see writ large what a sham this whole thing is. [...] From a quick read of this bill, one could draw one of two conclusions that the bill sponsors [audio unclear]... One: women are really stupid, and two: women lack a moral compass. How else can you explain the micromanaging and the condescending approach to women who are trying to terminate an unintended pregnancy?

FORMER (LATE) REP. RUTH
SAMUELSON (R-MECKLENBURG)

A lot of people have suggested that they know what my motives are and my intents in running this bill. [...] You don't really think that I think that women are stupid or immoral. In fact, my motive behind this bill has to do with the fact that I think women are very intelligent and very moral, but they are not always informed. [...] This is about making sure that women know what they need to know before they make a very serious decision. I'm not downplaying it; I'm not implying that the mother somehow flippantly makes this decision. I'm recognizing the seriousness of it and her need to have that information and to have it ahead of time.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

By a vote of nine to five the bill carries. Thank you.

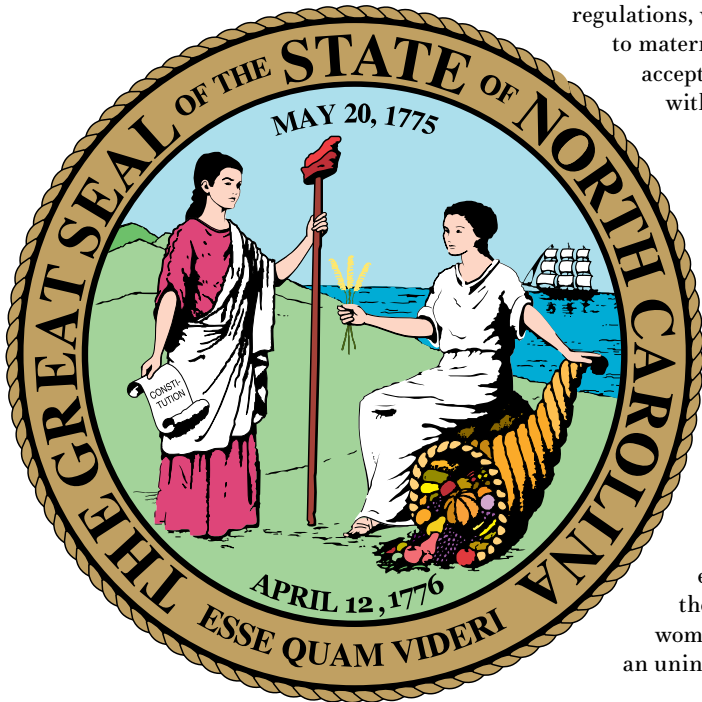
Remarks on House Floor, 2nd Reading June 8, 2011

FORMER REP. ALMA ADAMS (D-GUILFORD)

Propaganda that we receive from the Right to Life folks claims that African-American women are targeted [by abortion clinics] and have more abortions. I want to speak to that as one of the six women who fit in that category on this floor. As an African-American woman, I'm offended at this deliberately skewed, one-sided opinion that doesn't give the real picture. [...] Abortion rates are higher among African-American women, yes, and other ethnic racial minorities, because they have higher rates of unintended pregnancies. That is a proven fact. Because of that they're more likely than other women to seek abortion.

FORMER REP. BILL FAISON (D-ORANGE)

To invade that [abortion decision] process legislatively, to have healthcare providers working on the guilt aspect of a woman's mind over a matter that she has already decided—in consultation with her religious counselors and advisors, in consultation with her family, in consultation with her significant other, in consultation with her friends—is just simply wrong.



Excerpts of the Debate on the Right To Know Law

Remarks on Senate Floor 2nd and 3rd Reading June 15, 2011

SEN. WARREN DANIEL (R-BURKE)

There are few decisions in life that can be considered as important as a woman's decision about an abortion. It's literally a life and death decision and one that should be deliberated with great care. This bill would protect a woman's right to know the medical risks associated with an abortion, its alternatives, and will provide nonjudgmental, scientifically accurate medical facts about the development of her unborn child before making a permanent, life-affecting decision. North Carolina is currently one of only two Southern states without a "Woman's Right to Know" law. There are approximately 30,000 abortions performed in our state every year, and a "Woman's Right to Know" law has statistically shown to reduce that number dramatically by as much as 10%. This bill is designed to make sure people have full information to make the decision that is best for them to live with for their entire life. We believe that it accomplishes this in such a way, which respects women and the lives they are carrying.

FORMER SEN. WILLIAM
PURCELL (D-SCOTLAND)

Some seem to believe they know what God wants done and the rest of us just don't seem to understand. I am obviously not a theologian, but I wish religion and God's will were that simple. But it's not that simple in so many cases, and I believe that this is one of them.

[...] I began practicing medicine when there was no legal way to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, in the United States. [...] I personally cared for two young women, one about age 18 and one about age 19, who came to our emergency room on separate days. For whatever reasons—it could have been fear of their father, or whatever, I don't know the reasons—both of them found their pregnancies to be so threatening that they had to terminate them, and both attempted to do it using a coat hangers (sic). I watched as both of them bled to death right in front of me as we pumped blood and did everything else that we could to try to save their lives. I shall never forget the look of despair on

their faces as they died. You can say they shouldn't have done that, and I agree.

But you know they will do it again across this state if you succeed in making it extremely expensive, difficult or almost impossible for a woman to have a pregnancy terminated by placing more and more barriers in her way. There are many issues that we face today where right and wrong are not clear. And I believe that anyone who is intellectually honest will agree that this is one of them.

Remarks on House Floor, Veto Override July 26, 2011

On the veto override vote, four Democrats from the House joined Republicans in voting for the bill: William Brisson, Jim Crawford, Dewey Hill and Tim Spear came through.

FORMER REP. FRANK MCGUIRT (D-UNION)

George Orwell was right: 1984 is here! It took it until 2011 to get here, but it's here! That's what I thought when I first read this bill, because this is Big Brother! This is Big Brother bashing his way into the O.R., bashing his way into the relationship between a doctor and his patient, and this is wrong.

FORMER (LATE) REP. RUTH SAMUELSON (R-MECKLENBURG)

We've heard a lot this afternoon, very impassioned and dramatic. [...]

The one that speaks to most of us more is the whole issue of rape. [...]

I am also a rape victim, and I will tell you that for fifteen years, I could not stand to have anyone touch me whom I did not know well. It impacted just about everything I did in my life. To tell me that somehow or another a woman who has been raped, let alone by someone she is related to who may very well have brought her to the clinic, that somehow or another it's better for her not to know what's going to happen to her once again? To not have the chance to weigh her alternatives once again? To act like somehow or another saying, "Look, this is what's going on and here's some time to think about it," respecting her choice is traumatic and victimizing? I'll tell you what traumatic and victimizing is! I know I am not the only woman here who could stand up and say the same thing. I urge you: respect the women, whether they've been raped or got pregnant willingly. Respect them. Give them the information they need. Honor their choices. Override this veto.

Remarks on Senate Floor, Veto Override July 28, 2011

SEN. WARREN DANIEL (R-BURKE)

I would like to make a couple of comparisons to current laws we have on the books in North Carolina that have a waiting period. The first is divorce. A person who wants to file a petition for a divorce has to wait a year after separation before they can seek a divorce. [...] The second is home refinance loans. If you want to refinance your house you have to wait three days from the time you sign the documents before the loan becomes final and money is disbursed. The attorney is required to give the borrower three copies of a form that would allow them to cancel the transaction for the next 72 hours.

PRESIDENT PRESIDING OVER THE NC SENATE

Further debate? Hearing none, the question before the Senate is the motion to override the Governor's veto of the second Committee Substitute of House Bill 854. Those in favor of the override will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Five seconds will be allowed for the voting. The Clerk will record the vote...Twenty-nine having voted in the affirmative and 19 in the negative—that is 3/5^{ths}—the motion passes and House Bill 854 becomes law, notwithstanding the Governor's objection.



Exhorting Baptist Men

NC Family Pastor Outreach Director Thomas Graham traveled to Magnolia Baptist Church in Stedman to encourage the men to engage the culture and help build policies that will make North Carolina the most family-friendly state in the nation. Pastor Graham is working on building a network of pastors and church leaders across North Carolina.

Testifying Before Legislative Committee

NC Family President John Rustin testified before the NC General Assembly's Lottery Oversight Committee on February 15, 2018 and also shared his concerns with members of the North Carolina Lottery Commission. His comments on a gambling expansion proposal focused on the predatory nature of the lottery, the goal of boosting lottery sales "among younger generations of players," and the harms gambling inevitably brings to individuals and families across our state.



Bus Trip To U.S. Supreme Court

NC Family organized a bus trip to Washington D.C. to support Colorado baker Jack Phillips the day his *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case was heard before the U.S. Supreme Court. NC Family staffers Jake Sipe, Jere Royall, and Thomas Graham led an enthusiastic group of NC Family supporters to our nation's capital for this historic event.



Speaking Out Against Lottery Expansion

NC Family President John Rustin is an oft-chosen speaker when it comes to predatory gambling, including North Carolina's state-run lottery. John's article opposing a proposed increase in lottery games—including online video games played on home computers, tablets and smartphones—ran in the capital city's newspaper, *The News & Observer* in February. The OpEd led to an interview on a local radio talk show.



John Goes Live with Travis Weber

NC Family President John Rustin joined the Family Research Council's Travis Weber for a Facebook Live interview to discuss the Wisconsin bathroom privacy case, *Kenosha v. Whitaker*. NC Family signed onto a "friend of the court" brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case.



In Wilmington

John Rustin spoke to the Cape Fear Christian Men's Fellowship in Wilmington, NC and shared about his faith in Christ and how God led him into his work with the North Carolina Family Policy Council.



SHOWDOWN

Battle Ensues Over Sex Ed in NC Public Schools

by: Rachel Lee Brady



Disgusting. Vile. Filth. Shock and awe.

These are some of the words that Craig Autry used to describe Planned Parenthood's sex education curriculum, *Get Real: Comprehensive Sex Education That Works*, which was moving into Cumberland County middle and high schools in the Fall of 2017.

Autry is a Cumberland County parent and leader of a new citizens group called Cumberland Protect Our Students. This organization was formed and activated when it was learned that the Cumberland County Board of Education was preparing to expand the *Get Real* curriculum into more schools across the county. It was already in nine middle schools. The group worked to influence the Board by circulating petitions and educating parents about the contents of the curriculum. Hundreds attended a meeting with county officials, with many voicing opposition to the content of the curriculum.

An in-depth analysis of the *Get Real* curriculum was conducted by NC Family's sister organization, Massachusetts Family Institute. The following was found in the *Get Real* workbook designed for 7th graders:

- A list of "Dating Behaviors," which includes "touching a partner under clothes" and "having sex" (p. 21: Activity 7.5);
- An explanation that "condoms can be obtained from the school nurse";
- Sexually explicit instructions on how to use a dental dam as a prophylactic device (p. 36-37: Protection Methods Chart); and,
- A story of a child telling his parents he is gay and infers that anyone who disapproves of homosexual behavior is "against homosexuals" and "cruel." (p. 13: Activity 7.3).



Use of the *Get Real* curriculum was part of a larger project initiated by an organization called NC Youth Connected, and supported by a statewide organization called SHIFT NC. SHIFT NC, endorsed by Planned Parenthood, receives millions of dollars annually in federal funding, and as recently as 2017, stated its goal of moving its “pregnancy prevention” programs into every county in North Carolina.

Mrs. Bell (not her real name) is a teacher in the Cumberland County public schools. She expressed extreme concern over the contents of the curriculum: “It will influence a whole generation of students who are looking to their teachers for guidance. It’s indoctrination. It is going to confuse them to be taught these things by people they trust. **Someone has to stand in the gap and say, 'This is wrong!' We need to be teaching them good things—encouraging them in their life goals—not teaching them different ways to have sex.**”

Because citizens were engaged, expressed concerns, and sought a working relationship with county officials, the Cumberland County Board of Education voted against utilizing the *Get Real* curriculum. They cited the outcry from parents who were concerned about its highly objectionable contents.

Back in 2016, Onslow County went through a similar process. Their Board of Education had contracted with NC Youth Connected, but the project was never implemented, thanks to objections from citizens in Onslow County. You can learn more about what transpired there by reading or listening to the interview with Dr. Joe Werrell on our *Family Policy Matters* radio show and podcast.

According to North Carolina law, parents have certain rights when it comes to sex education:

- You have the right to review all sex ed curriculum at least 60 days prior to use.
- You have the right to opt your children out of sex education instruction.

Two Distinct Philosophies

Generally speaking, there are two camps when it comes to sex education for middle and high school students in our nation’s public schools: Sexual Risk Reduction (SRR) (often referred to as “Comprehensive Sex Education” and favored by organizations such as Planned Parenthood) and Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) (formerly known as “Abstinence Until Marriage Education”).

In North Carolina, conservative lawmakers and parents have fought to protect the “Abstinence Education” or SRA model (Think: A for Abstinence), which became law in our state in the mid-1990’s. And for good reason: Mary Anne Mosack, Executive Director of Ascend, whose organization works to defend and promote SRA education, says when teens delay sex, the benefits “cannot be overstated.” In fact, Mosack explains that teens who abstain from sex outside of marriage have “life-changing outcomes” such as better academic success and a greatly reduced risk of poverty.

SRR programs run by SHIFT NC and backed by Planned Parenthood have claimed dramatic success in efforts to lower teen pregnancy rates. However, with some exceptions, overall teen birth

rates have been dropping steadily since 1957. What proponents of “safe sex” education don’t acknowledge is the fact that the rate of unmarried teen pregnancies has skyrocketed. According to Pew Research, in 1957, 15 percent of pregnant teens were unmarried. In 2016, 89 percent of pregnant teens between the ages of 15-19 were unmarried.

In addition, SRR proponents are not acknowledging the dramatic increase in infections related to sexual activity. While “safe sex” proponents proudly report that over 80 percent of teens who have sex for the first time use a contraceptive, they fail to report the near-epidemic rates of sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers.

A Few Encouraging Stats

Despite those who believe it is futile to teach teens to postpone sex, more teens are reporting they have never had sex (49 percent in 1988, up to 56 percent in 2012).

And the National Center for Health Statistics reports, “The abortion rate among females ages 15-19 has also fallen over roughly the same time period – from 43.5 per 1,000 female teens in 1988 to 16.3 in 2009.”

While changes have been made to North Carolina’s abstinence education laws in recent years, the general framework remains intact, although somewhat weakened by additional language. Below is a timeline of the changes that have taken place in laws regarding sex education in North Carolina.

1995: Passage of the Abstinence Education law, which required local schools to offer an “abstinence until marriage” program. “Abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage” was (and still is) to be taught as the “expected standard” along with the “reasons, skills, and strategies” for choosing that standard. The curriculum could be expanded to include components from “Comprehensive

Sex Education” if requirements for parental review, a public hearing, and local approval were met.

2009: Passage of the “Healthy Youth Act,” which altered and added to existing law on sex education by first changing the description of the curriculum from “abstinence until marriage education” to “reproductive health and safety education.” The new provisions required local schools to provide instruction in seventh through ninth grades on how sexually transmitted diseases are transmitted. While teaching children about the dangers of STDs can be a helpful discussion, it often includes graphic descriptions of sex acts.

Another new requirement mandated instruction on “the effectiveness and safety of all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved methods of reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and...of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy.” Once again, such instruction often includes graphic descriptions and demonstrations of birth control methods.

An addition that also proved to be problematic was a requirement that all instruction be “objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education.” Many of the terms in this part of the policy were open to wide-ranging interpretation and led to cancellation of some excellent and long-standing abstinence education programs.

Although the new law outlined standards for what would be taught, it gave wide-ranging authority to local school boards to “expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.”



2015: Legislators fixed a problem in the 2009 law by providing explanation on what was meant by “scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts” to include professionals in the fields of adolescent psychology, behavioral counseling, medicine, human anatomy, biology, ethics, or health education.” This was helpful to those wishing to teach SRA/Abstinence Education as it clarified who was considered a professional or expert in the field of sex education.

2017: North Carolina lawmakers passed important additions to the statutes, adding more scientific evidence into state law stating that “induced abortions” were shown to be a known factor in premature births in subsequent pregnancies, a point that many abortion supporters have never conceded. Another addition to the law required instruction on sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

Meanwhile, On The Federal Level

A quick survey since 1900 shows that sex education in America was birthed out of the sexual revolution and the need to curtail out of wedlock pregnancies. By the 1980’s, opponents of teaching sex education in schools turned to “Abstinence Until Marriage Education” as an alternative to so-called “safe sex” methods of instruction. In 1981, President Reagan signed “Adolescent Family Life” into law to encourage teen sexual abstinence. President Clinton signed the first state block grant for Abstinence Education into law in 1996 to teach the benefits of sexual abstinence until marriage. However, by 2010, President Obama had eliminated all federal funding for

While "safe sex" proponents proudly report that over 80 percent of teens who have sex for the first time use a contraceptive, they fail to report the near-epidemic rates of STDs among teens.

Abstinence Education. Funding priorities shifted exclusively to Comprehensive Sex Education, funneling millions of dollars annually to groups such as SHIFT NC for teaching so-called “safe sex” to our teens.

A New Shift

But the tides are once again turning. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recently announced it is cutting short Obama era SRR grants, and scrutinizing whether this has been money well spent. This was the result of a review by the Trump Administration over the efficacy of current Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) programs, which were receiving about \$108 million per year nationwide and have received nearly a billion dollars over the life of those programs. Their initial findings revealed that 80 percent of teens receiving instruction under these programs fared no better or worse than teens who did not receive sex education programs at all. Furthermore, the report showed three programs actually increased negative outcomes: more sexual initiation, more oral sex, and more teen pregnancy!

According to an article from Ascend, *Why Did HHS Eliminate TPP funding?*:

"TPP programs were promoted on an 'approved' list by the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) and showcased as model programs that could be implemented with confidence. The OAH website stated, 'Evidence-based programs can be expected to produce positive results consistently.' In good faith, many schools and communities across the country implemented these programs but did not experience the 'positive results' promised."

Obama era programs being cut short

SHIFT NC has received notification from DHHS that funding for some Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs (along with some other initiatives) will end on June 30, 2018. This DHHS decision will affect many of SHIFT NC’s programs, including the two projects below, which are among those receiving the most federal funding.

Every Teen Counts. The stated goal of this program is to work with foster and juvenile centers in the state’s highest risk areas (Bertie, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Vance, Warren, and Wilson counties) to “help youth avoid

These federal actions, combined with a willingness from citizens in communities across our state to speak up for what they believe, provide hope for our future.

unplanned pregnancies.” The program received funding of \$736,766 annually for 5 years. The grant originally funded the program through 2020, but due to recent federal cuts, the funding will now end on June 30, 2018.

North Carolina Youth Connected.

This program, an initiative of SHIFT NC, received federal grants to reduce teen pregnancy rates in Cumberland and Onslow counties. Plans were to usher in “community-wide teen pregnancy prevention initiatives” primarily through the public schools by implementing Planned Parenthood’s sex education curriculum, *Get Real*. The two counties’ programs received grants that totaled \$1,749,000 annually for 5 years. Originally slated to go through 2020, the funding is now set to end on June 30, 2018.

SHIFT NC works hard to present itself as a “neutral” organization that seeks to improve adolescent health in North Carolina. However, a closer look reveals a different story. The above programs are based on values clearly outlined and endorsed by Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, and its allies. This list of SHIFT NC’s organizational alliances gives a clearer picture of the organization’s extreme philosophical leanings:

- NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina
- Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina
- Planned Parenthood Health Systems
- Advocates for Youth
- ACLU of North Carolina

What Now?


In an effort to find sex education programs that work toward more favorable outcomes, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is launching a \$10 million research study to investigate the effectiveness of current Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs and to develop recommendations on how to proceed in the future.

It may be encouraging to know that the Trump Administration has placed Abstinence Education advocates in key jobs, including: Charmaine Yoest, former president of Americans United for Life and now Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and Valerie Huber, former president of Ascend, who is now Chief of Staff for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS.

These federal actions, combined with a willingness of citizens in communities across our state to speak up for what they believe,

provide hope for our future—hope that children in public schools may be taught about sex in a way that promotes families and values life. While support for federal funding for some of SHIFT NC’s programs appears to be waning, it’s imperative that we remain vigilant in this battle. Here are a few ways you can be engaged:

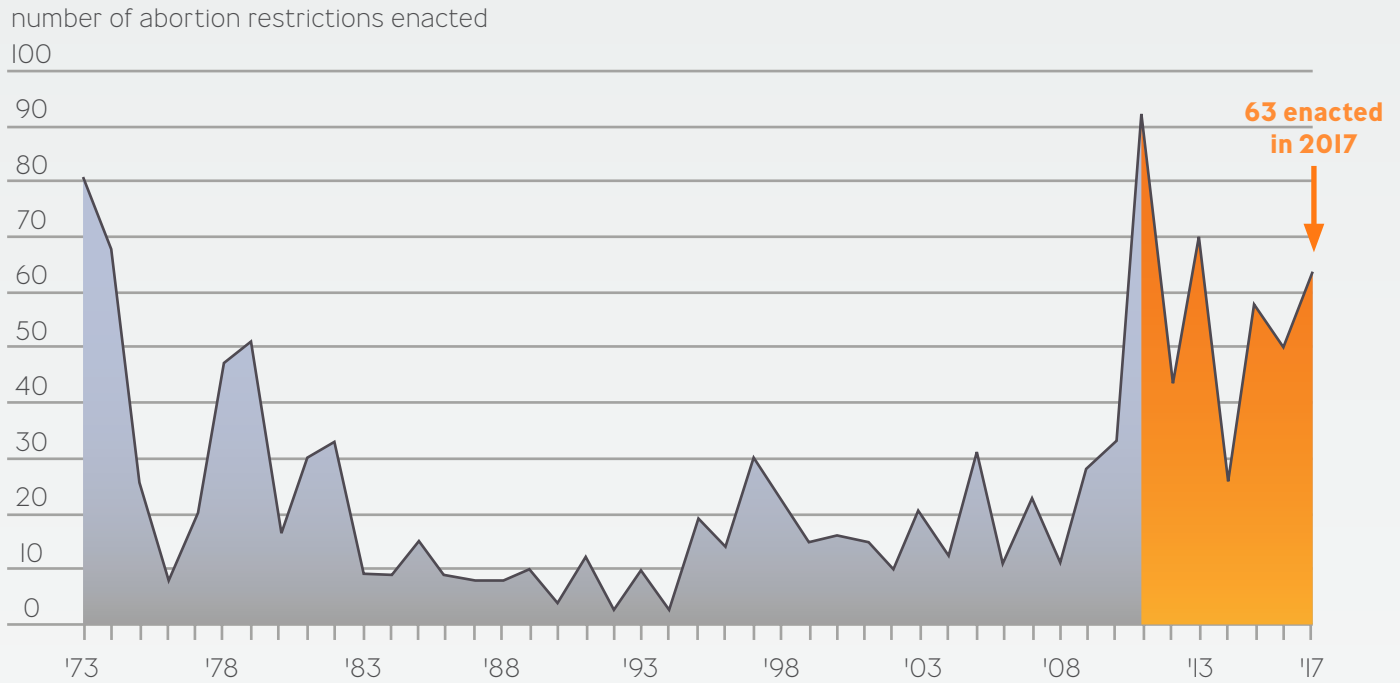
- Stay informed of local school board actions;
- Ask to view the sex education materials being taught in local schools in your area;
- Raise questions to school officials and elected officials if you are concerned with curriculum contents; and,
- Let others know of your concerns through letters to the editor and attending school board meetings.

When facing battles for Truth in our communities, remember that you can have an influence, despite what the odds may be. Galatians 6:9 offers great encouragement to press on: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” 

Rachel Lee Brady, M.S. is a contributing writer for NC Family. She has advocated for family values issues in various capacities at the state and federal levels, including serving as a spokeswoman for the NC Marriage Amendment in 2012. She is most grateful for her roles as wife to Winston and mother to her young son, Hunter. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit www.ncfamily.org.



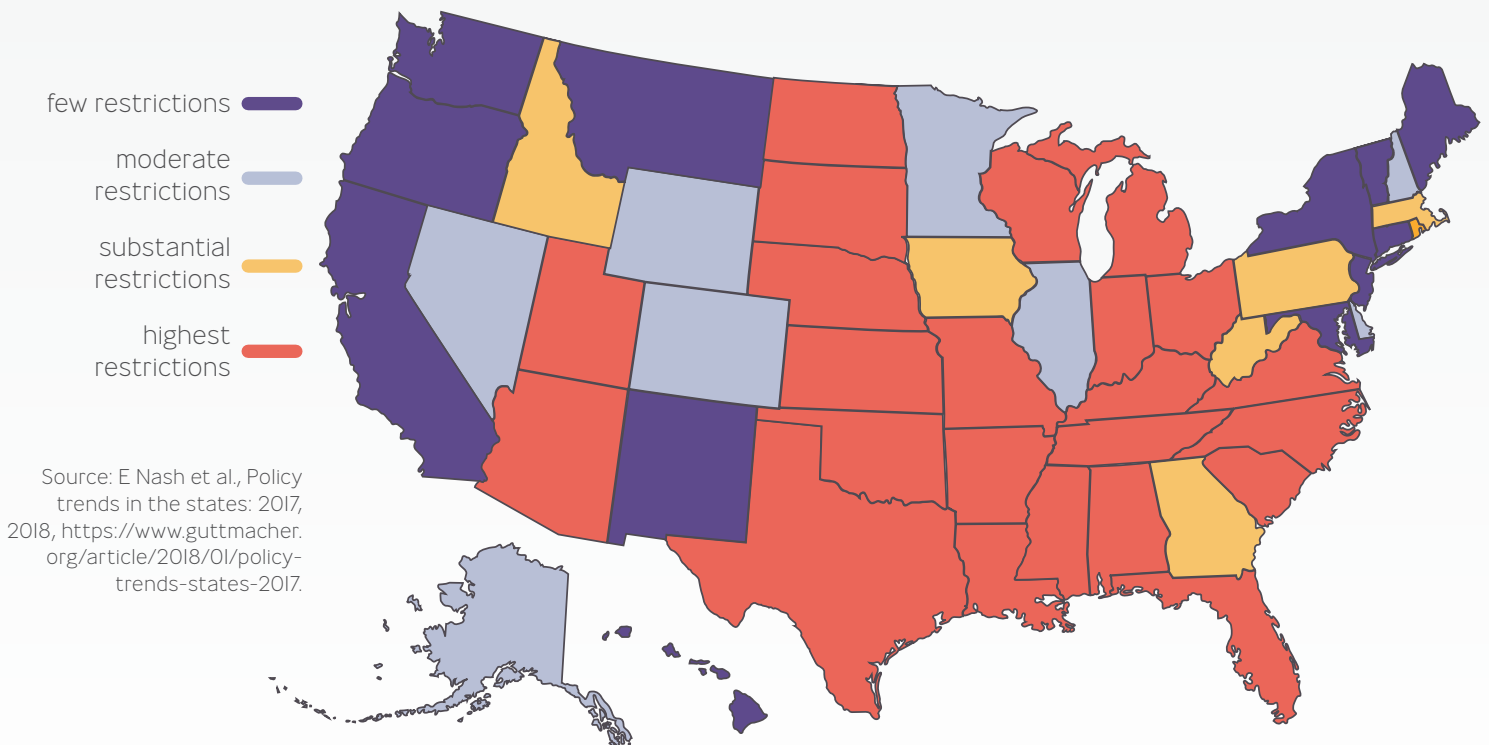
One-third of State Abortion Restrictions Have Come in Past Seven Years



Source: E Nash et al., Policy trends in the states: 2017, 2018, <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2018/01/policy-trends-states-2017>.

States Embracing Pro-life Protections

29 states provide substantial abortion restrictions



On the Air With ... **Mary Anne Mosack**, Executive Director of Ascend



John Rustin: We appreciate so much the work that you do. There are a lot of terms we need to keep straight when we're talking about various approaches to sexual education. [...] Sexual Risk Avoidance education, which many of our listeners will know as abstinence education, and Sexual Risk Reduction education, which is a different approach.

Mary Anne Mosack: Sexual Risk Avoidance, just to clarify for your listeners, is a more accurate way of talking about abstinence. Abstinence is a word that has a lot of baggage and mischaracterization attached to it, and it really needed a clear and more definitive understanding in the public square. So, Sexual Risk Avoidance is based on a primary prevention public health model known as Risk Avoidance. It is the same public health model, actually, that we use to address risk behaviors like smoking and underage drinking and drug use. [...] So the primary focus of a Sexual Risk Reduction course is to increase condoms and contraceptive use, and that is really where the two approaches are different. We're coming from the view that we want to help youth to eliminate risk. The Sexual Risk Reduction of course, they're coming from an approach to just reduce the risk.

John Rustin: Mary Anne, what do we know about the relationship between students' sexual activity and their educational and life outcomes?

Mary Anne Mosack: Actually, we know a lot. [...] The benefits of sexual delay for a teen really cannot be overstated. In addition to better academic success, they have other life-changing outcomes that are very important. And one of the things that we incorporate into our Sexual Risk Avoidance education is research from the Brookings Institute based on what they call, "The Success Sequence." It's really a very simple formula, and it's a poverty prevention formula. Basically, it goes like this:

- Finish school—it used to say finish high school, they have modified it to say finish high school and get some kind of post education training;
- Then, get a full-time job—it doesn't have to be a high-paying job, but it has to be full-time;
- And then wait until you're 21 and married before you have children.

If you follow that sequence, you have a two percent likelihood of living in poverty, and that's a pretty compelling statistic.

Radio Stations Airing *Family Policy Matters*

Belmont/Gastonia	WCGC 1270 AM	Sunday, 11:30 PM
Bennett/Asheboro	WYTR 88.1 FM	Saturday, 2:00 PM
Charlotte	WHVN 1240 AM WOCR 88.3 FM	Sunday, 11:30 AM Saturday, 3:45 PM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WGAS 1420 AM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Fayetteville	WCLN 107.3 FM	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Forest City	WWOL 780 AM	Wednesday, 8:45 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WKEW 1400 AM WTRU 830 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM Saturday, 6:00 AM
New Bern	WSTK 104.5 FM	Saturday, 3:15 PM
Newland	WECR 1130 AM	Saturday, 9:06 AM
Pisgah Forest	WGCR 720 AM	Saturday, 9:00 AM
Raleigh	WTRU 1030 AM	Saturday, 6:30 AM
Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Salisbury	WOCR 93.3 FM	Saturday, 12:15 PM
Sanford	WLHC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Shallotte	WVCB 1410 AM	Wednesday, 10:05 AM Saturday, 4:30 PM
Taylorsville	WACB 860 AM	Wednesday, 5:00 PM
Troy	WJRM 1390 AM	Sunday, 7:30 AM
Wilmington	WZDG 88.5 FM	Sunday, 5:30 AM Sunday, 6:00 PM
Winston-Salem	WBFI 1550 AM WPOL 1340 AM WPIP 880 AM	Sunday, 4:10 PM Sunday, 9:30 AM Sunday, 5:00 PM

Family Policy Matters is also available at ncfamily.org and as a podcast!

Family Policy Matters is now available as a podcast on your favorite podcast app! Search for "NC Family's *Family Policy Matters*."



... Jennifer Roback Morse, Founder of the Ruth Institute

John Rustin: Dr. Morse, based on your research, and generally speaking of course, have you seen the goals and expectations that people have for marriage change within the last several decades? And if so, how have these changes impacted the view of marriage in our culture?

Jennifer Roback Morse: One of the things I see is that young people, first of all, are less apt to get married. They're waiting longer to get married and I find, so often, when they do start thinking about getting married, they're more focused on the wedding than on the marriage. So, they're saving money for a big wedding but they've moved in together! Things like that. They're not thinking long-term about what's going to help the marriage itself.

John Rustin: Clearly, this kind of changing attitude and that shifted focus toward the marriage ceremony versus the life together, is a pretty significant shift in how our culture has viewed marriage. How do you feel that these changes have impacted the happiness and fulfillment that they experience—especially younger couples—while they are married?

Jennifer Roback Morse: Gosh! You know, we've known for some time that cohabitation is not good preparation for marriage. The social scientists found that out quite a while ago. And in fact some years ago, the National Marriage Project came out with a big report on cohabitation and it said—it literally said, "No positive contribution of cohabitation to marriage has ever been found." And this is a report on maybe 20 or 30 years worth of studies.

... Ryan Bomberger, Chief Creative Officer of the Radiance Foundation



John Rustin: Ryan, share a little bit with us if you will about your life journey to this point?

Ryan Bomberger: I'm the one percent that's used 100 percent of the time to justify abortion. My birth mom experienced the horror and the violence of rape, yet she still chose life. And not only that, she gave me the incredible gift of adoption so that I could grow up in a small little family of 15. Ten of us were adopted.

John Rustin: We talk a lot about fatherlessness and trying to address it. What do you think are some of the remedies for that?

Ryan Bomberger: These award shows where all these celebrities go and they're pontificating about all the issues that our society is facing. But they never bring up fatherlessness. Because, in order to bring up fatherlessness, you have to talk about what the ideal is, and that is for the mother and the father, who have created the child, to actually be the ones to take care of the child. And they can't because that talks about natural paradigms and they don't want to do that. Fatherlessness is devastating. You mentioned the higher rates of drugs, higher rates of suicide, high instances of teenage pregnancy, incarceration rates—I mean the list goes on and on—higher rates of abortion. And the reason for that is because mothers, who are amazing, weren't meant to be both mother and father.

Family Policy Matters is a 15-minute weekly radio show and podcast featuring interviews with national, state, and local experts on a wide range of policy issues important to North Carolina families. *Family Policy Matters* airs each week on over 20 radio stations across North Carolina. You can listen and access a full transcript on the NC Family website at ncfamily.org. *Family Policy Matters* is also available on your favorite podcast app!



“We might be in the NFL and we might have just won the Super Bowl, but we all have daily struggles. That’s where my faith comes in. That’s where my family comes in. I think when you look at a struggle in your life, just know that it’s an opportunity for your character to grow.”

—Philadelphia Eagles' Quarterback Nick Foles the day after winning the 2018 Super Bowl



I don’t know the future, but I do know this: the best is yet to be! Heaven awaits us, and that will be far, far more glorious than anything we can ever imagine.

– The late evangelist Billy Graham

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

—John 16:33 (NIV)

“Live like someone died for you.”

—LeCrae, American Christian hip hop artist

“Abortion is advocated only by persons who have themselves been born.”

—The late former president Ronald Reagan

“The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches.”

—The late theologian Charles Hodge



Perspective in the Midst of Political Storms

I think it's safe to say that many of us are deeply troubled by the growing sense of turmoil, division and strife we see in America today. Whether it's the gun debate, wars over sex and gender, partisan bickering, political scandals, or blatant bias in the media, it's easy to be overcome and suffer from a healthy dose of dismay, discouragement, and even disgust.

Each Monday morning, the NC Family staff gathers for a weekly staff meeting and prayer time. In addition to talking about specific work assignments and projects, we take time to pray together, and we often find ourselves engaging in discussions about headline news stories, challenging policy issues, and the general tenor of politics in our state and nation. Our hearts tend to become heavy, as well!

Even if you don't work in the realm of politics and public policy, it is possible to fall victim to what I call "the rip tide of cultural calamity." The more negative news we hear, the more off-track our society seems to be, the more our human frailty and failings come to the surface, the more we can feel like we are being swept out to sea without a flotation device to grasp onto or an anchor line to secure us.

Ephesians 4:14, says that apart from "unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God," we are like infants, "tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."

Ultimately, without a proper perspective, we risk getting pulled into the culture, sucked under the waves, or simply checking out altogether!

Ephesians continues, "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Eph. 4:15-16)

Every Monday, as the NC Family staff gathers, we pray that God will equip us and enable us to effectively speak His truth in love to our culture. By His grace, we are called to engage in this work, not alone, but together—as members of the body of Christ and as a community of believers. **And this includes you, too!**

We also know that in order to effectively speak God's truth in love and to grow in maturity in our relationship with Christ, we first must know His truth. Proverbs 1:7 advises, "The fear of the Lord is

the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." How accurately this describes the root of many of the societal problems we see today!

Consider the wisdom of Proverbs 2, as the writer describes those who fear the Lord and seek His truth:

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men...." (Proverbs 2:6-12)

What a comfort this is in our current day and age, and what a contrast this is to "the rip tide of cultural calamity" that is stirring around us!

Be encouraged that in the midst of strife, angst and enmity, Jesus calls us to work together to anchor our culture with His truth and His love. And as His purposes are accomplished, it is possible for us to experience His peace and perspective in the midst of the storm.

It is a privilege to walk this path with you and the members of the NC Family staff, as together we pursue our vision of "A state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive and life is cherished."

All Our Best,

John L. Rustin 

*John L. Rustin is President
of the North Carolina
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NC FAMILY
POLICY COUNCIL



**In every conceivable manner,
the family is link to our past,
*bridge to our future.***

Alex Haley

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