

FALL/WINTER 2019

# FAMILY

north carolina

## Pro-Life Optimism

In The Face  
of Abortion  
Extremism

Gambling:  
Not my problem?

Confessions of a  
Gambling Addict

Why Good Christian  
Girls Abort

ISBN 0-9785025-1-5

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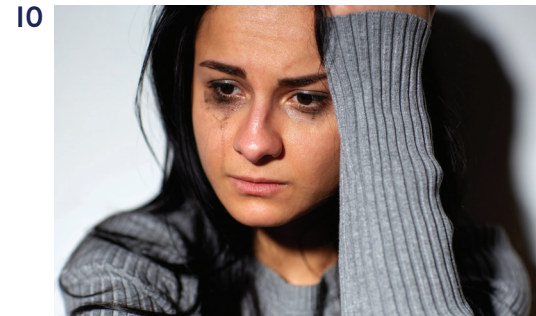
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## DEPARTMENTS




## Worth Fighting For

Recent actions by the U.S. Supreme Court and a seemingly unending war chest of financial resources within the industry have breathed new life into the push for legalized gambling across our nation. Opposition to gambling in some states and communities remains strong, but ignorance and indifference to the devastation gambling brings to individuals and families has opened the door for significant expansion. Meanwhile, the gambling industry targets its advertising with greater and greater precision toward those who are the most vulnerable among us.<sup>1</sup>

“Not my problem!” is the title of the article that tackles predatory gambling and the effect it has in communities where it’s given free reign. The accompanying testimonial from a young professional and self-professed gambling addict is a story we don’t often hear, but which reveals a hidden crisis that gambling promoters don’t want you to know.

Also in this magazine, we bring a note of hope from one who is front and center in the abortion struggle across our nation. Catherine Glenn Foster, president of Americans United for Life, brings a welcome message in the midst of some disheartening victories for pro-abortion forces in some states. Bringing that issue closer to home, Wendy Bonano exhorts parents and teens to “have the talk” about abortion, to confront a startling reality that many young women from Christian homes get abortions because they’re afraid to go home to mom and dad with news about an unplanned pregnancy.

And finally, as we head into the year end and anticipate 2020—and what is likely to be a contentious election year—it’s a good time for us to reassess the way we look at public policy and why we do it. Those of us here at NC Family strive to remember that behind every issue is a person who is made in the image of God. So, even those who vehemently disagree with us on vital issues are human beings of intrinsic worth. Winning a battle in the culture war is never worth sacrificing the ability to share Christ and the hope that is within us.

However, we never forget that the issues we work on represent real people and families who need a knowledgeable advocate to intercede for them in the policymaking arena. We are not simply fighting for abstract ideas, but for the people behind that issue. And that makes us all the more determined to bring our “A game” every day. We hope you enjoy reading *Family North Carolina* magazine! Please feel free to pass this issue along to family and friends or request some extras to hand out at church. 



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



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/31/gambling-industry-third-party-companies-online-casinos>

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### Subscriptions

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The most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones being argued, but the ones that are assumed.

—C.S. Lewis

Faith and family are the invisible double helix of society...whose strength and momentum depend on one another.

—Mary Eberstadt, Author

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.

—Isaiah 40:8

**In your search for relevancy for the Gospel, let us NOT find creative ways to shape God's word into the image of our culture by stifling inconvenient truths.**

— John Cooper, lead singer for the Christian band, Skillet

I think it's an offense to the Holy Spirit to place a price on the Gospel. I'm done with it.

—Benny Hinn as he renounced the "prosperity gospel" that he had espoused during his entire ministry.

"Evangelicals who don't care about the poor can't speak adequately to the gambling issues. By this, I don't simply mean caring about individual poor people but about the way social and political and corporate structures contribute to the misery of the impoverished."

—Russell Moore on why gambling is a justice issue.



# Not My Problem?

## Why people of all ages should care about gambling

By Josh Wester

I'm a Millennial. I oppose gambling. And the reasons are simple. The gambling industry is a predatory enterprise that hurts real people, often those who can least afford it. For me, the problem is not that gambling creates winners and losers. Gambling does do that, but so do many other things such as business or competitive sports. Instead, gambling is problematic for me because it creates winners by *punishing* the losers.

To be fair, I understand the arguments on the other side. It makes sense to me why people of goodwill would support casino gambling or sports betting. Gambling isn't coercive. No one forces patrons to walk through the doors; the act is purely voluntary. And for that matter, gambling is primarily a matter of personal responsibility. Adults determine for themselves not only if they will gamble but how much they are willing to put on the line.

As a Conservative who believes in both individual liberty and personal responsibility, those arguments resonate with me. In general, I'm sympathetic to the argument of Civil Libertarians who contend that the last thing our society needs is more regulation or government interference in our daily lives. But even so, I am convinced that a government that fails to restrict a predatory industry like gambling is neglecting one of its essential duties.

### The role of the state

Reading the works of Augustine of Hippo, the fourth-century Christian theologian, has shaped my beliefs about the role of government. Augustine emphasized a very limited role for the state. What Augustine saw more than a thousand years ago, was that the state lacks the ability to guarantee human flourishing or cultivate individual well-being; it is neither competent nor tasked to do so. He believed the primary responsibility of government was promoting justice and punishing offenders.<sup>1</sup>

Augustine thought the state can't provide happiness; it can't satisfy our deepest wants or desires; it can't tell us what to believe or what kind of people we should strive to be or what the meaning of life is. Instead, the state exists to maintain order and promote justice. And the main way the state does this is by establishing and enforcing laws. More specifically, the state is responsible for making laws that make it possible for its citizens to flourish. And this is why the state has a vested interest in prohibiting things like predatory gambling.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icp.utm.edu/aug-poso/>



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I am convinced that a government that fails to restrict a predatory industry like gambling is neglecting one of its essential duties.

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## The Human Cost

I've seen the numbers. I realize that for many politicians this is a question of dollars and cents. Expanding gambling to include sports betting and more casinos in North Carolina, for example, is likely to increase revenues, which means more money for state government to spend or perhaps provide some tax relief. What kind of Conservative is opposed to that? Similarly, this move also means additional jobs in the state and likely an economic boom for portions of the community immediately surrounding these casinos. Again, where's the bad news?

But here it is. The bad news is that the millions of dollars generated in these casinos actually bear an inestimable human cost. Each year, tens of thousands of people make their way to one of these sites to try their hands at the slot machines, table games, and now, thanks to recent legislation passed by the NC General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper, to place bets on the outcome of college and professional sporting events.<sup>2</sup> People visit these casinos with hopes to relax or score some easy money. But there is a reason the casinos on tribal lands in Western North Carolina are presently spending more than 200 million dollars to expand their businesses<sup>3</sup>—betting against the house is almost always a losing proposition.

## Preying on the Vulnerable

The reality is that gambling ruins the lives of flesh and blood North Carolinians. Among gambling's greatest victims are those in poverty. Seeking relief from their plight, the poor and destitute are easily induced to gamble but can least afford the cost. Inside the casinos and standing in lines at the corner convenience store, it is not at all uncommon to find those with the most limited of means spending funds they cannot afford to spare, in hopes of hitting it big. Rarely are their lives changed for the better.

Some may argue that being poor is no excuse for lacking self-control. Even so, one might ask if lawmakers are morally justified in standing by to watch as the government and the gambling industry prey upon vulnerable citizens and exploit the poor? Ethicist Matthew Arbo argues this point forcefully: "State-sponsored gambling is, statistically speaking, a de facto poor tax. It is continued only because lawmakers cannot bear to make harder fiscal decisions

to raise taxes or cut programs."<sup>4</sup> State authorities knowingly allowing the poor to suffer harm as a means of filling the state coffers is hardly justice.

Yet the reality is that gambling doesn't simply harm the poor. The victims of this industry cut across the financial strata. That's because gambling preys on people through addiction—affecting the rich, poor, and middle class alike. The entire experience of gambling is addictive by design.<sup>5</sup> Win or lose, the casino's goal is to keep the bettor betting. This is why in most cases, even the wins turn into losses.


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**One might ask if lawmakers are morally justified in standing by to watch as this industry preys upon the vulnerable citizens they represent and exploits the poor?**

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Tragically, and too often, those losses carry with them devastating consequences. Lost homes, sold vehicles, depleted college funds, broken marriages; these are just some of the awful realities facing the "losers" of gambling in North Carolina. And now that sports betting is here, things are only going to get worse.

I'm all for freedom and personal responsibility. I believe in free markets and abhor the "nanny" state. But in legalizing and expanding gambling, the state is sanctioning a predatory enterprise, and there is no excuse for it. The state may not be responsible for teaching us to be moral. But it is certainly charged with promoting justice and protecting its citizens.

North Carolina needs more winners and fewer losers. Our state could hardly make a better move than refusing to sanction an industry that greedily profits at the expense of its citizens. 

Joshua B. Wester is Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legalsportsreport.com/34676/nc-sports-betting-law/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article227818404.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/how-the-lottery-exploits-the-poor>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Addiction-Design-Machine-Gambling-Vegas/dp/0691160880>

# Confessions of a Gambling Addict



My name is Jolene.

I grew up in a rural town in Illinois. My dad was a coal miner and raised me. I put myself through college waiting tables. My dad would come visit me when I moved away for school and we would meet on Sundays at the casino. We would have lunch and we would gamble a little bit. After maybe five Sundays, I stuck a \$20 bill into this slot machine and I hit \$4,000, and I knew. I didn't know that it was going to be bad, but I knew something shifted when I won that money.

I never drank. I've never tried a drug. I've been very careful to stay on the straight and narrow path. But I started going to the casino after work. And in no time, I put all that money [I won] back in, and then some.

I was gambling all the time. And that followed me through some career changes. I would gamble at different places, and it was almost like how a junkie would get, like waiting for their next fix. And it became so bad, I would stay up all night long and gamble until I ran out of money. I made really good money, over six figures a year. But after I would pay my absolutely necessary bills, every disposable dime I would get would go in the slot machines. I would cash advance; I'd debit my card down to nothing. I would wait till 12:01 when the money would go in my account and then I would sit there and just blow it all.

It was horrible. This went on and on and on and on. I tried to stop and I couldn't stop. It's a horrible thing to deal with financially. And it's horrible psychologically too. It's just desperation. And there were so many times, I didn't even want to gamble, but the thing grabbed a hold of me and I couldn't stop.

So I started reading all the books I could, podcasts, getting as much information as I could, trying to understand why I was behaving the way I was. Finally, I went and signed up for voluntary self-exclusion, where you legally exclude yourself from all the casinos in the state. That means if you're caught on the premises, they can arrest you. I am now self-excluded from all casinos in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri because those are all places that I could drive.

So I was doing really well for a couple of years, because I had self-excluded from all the casinos, until Illinois passed a measure allowing slot machines across the state. They're in grocery stores, in laundromats, in convenience stores, and restaurants or bars. There are little slot parlors. You drive four or five minutes in any direction, you're sitting in front of one. And a lot of times now, I'll pull over and grab lunch or I'll get gasoline, and there's a slot machine! And there are billboards and banners and everything everywhere: "Play slots!"

And many of these places in the state aren't regulated to the point where they're ID'ing people coming in. So little children are often sitting next to their parents playing the slot machines.

The slot machines carry the highest rate of addiction. You can push the button 600 times in one hour and right now you can bet \$2 a push, so you can lose \$1,200 an hour. I have lost \$3,400 in three hours. So say you put \$2 in a machine, you press the button. It will let you win maybe 30 cents or 40 cents. So if you're betting \$2 \$2, \$2, \$2, \$2 and you're winning 10-15 cents, you're not really losing in your mind 'cause all these lights and sounds are going off, but you are losing. So the psychology behind slot machines in particular, they're designed to psychologically addict the players.

This is a huge problem for me. And from what I can see, it's a huge problem for a lot of people, because you cannot self-exclude from these slot machines. **In Illinois, there are just under 14,000 people on that voluntary self-exclusion list for casinos, but the state is refusing to do it for slot machines. I myself have reached out to the Illinois Gaming Commission and asked repeatedly: Please put something in place for self-exclusion.** I was told the technology is there. It would allow someone to scan their driver's license. So if you put yourself on the self-exclusion list, that would disable the machine. And it would keep underage people from playing, too.

The bottom line is that I am working hard to place barriers between myself and these gambling machines, but the government refuses to help.

My dad still lives in that small town, and he goes up and he plays at the gas station; and he tells me stories about the people that are in there, and they're just heartbreaking stories. I've sat next to someone in one of these parlors who just put her head down, and she started crying and saying, "My kids aren't going to have Christmas this year because I just spent everything!" I have a coworker that just took out a large 401K loan to pay his mortgage 'cause he got himself into trouble with slot machines. And I just read something about a Florida woman whose gambling addiction was so severe that after winning \$13 million playing slot machines, she pumped \$14 million back in, even stealing her in-laws' life savings to fuel her habit.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup><https://abcnews.go.com/amp/US/florida-slot-player-jennifer-dennison-gambles-14-million/story?id=13327209>





I didn't know that this could cause a problem, and you wouldn't think it would. I mean the government sponsors it all over the place. How could that cause serious problems? But it can, and it does!

But the government, they're thinking it's "found" money, like, "Oh, we have this influx of money and we could do this stuff with it." But it's not found money. It's coming out of the community and people's pockets. It doesn't only affect my bank account; it affects my ability to make my car payment, to pay my rent, to put food on the table, for people that go back to school shopping for their children, on and on. It's affecting communities.

This is what can happen. This is not even the worst that can happen. This is something that could ruin your life. I thought it was harmless fun, and it's not. 🍀

**It was horrible. This went on and on and on and on. I tried to stop and I couldn't stop. It's a horrible thing to deal with financially. And it's horrible psychologically too. It's just desperation. And there were so many times, I didn't even want to gamble, but the thing grabbed a hold of me and I couldn't stop.**

# 1



## John Rustin Addresses FPC Conference

NC Family President John L. Rustin attended the annual Family Policy Council conference in Atlanta, where he shared with Family Policy Council directors from around the country about NC Family's work to protect and equip families in North Carolina.

# 2

No. 18-107

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In the  
**Supreme Court of the United States**

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R.G. & G.R. HARRIS FUNERAL HOMES, INC.,  
*Petitioner,*

v.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,  
*Respondent,*  
and AIMEE STEPHENS,  
*Respondent-Intervenor.*

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On Writ of Certiorari to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

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BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* FAMILY POLICY  
GROUPS IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER

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## NC Family Unveils New Video

We've recently unveiled a new video to help spread the word about NC Family. In this video, we hear testimony from members of Congress, state legislators, and ministry partners about our critically important work in the political and policy arena. **See and share our new video at** [NCFamily.org/about-north-carolina-family-policy-council/](https://NCFamily.org/about-north-carolina-family-policy-council/)

## Amicus Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court

As the case of *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* reached the U.S. Supreme Court, NC Family and twenty-three other state family policy organizations signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Harris Funeral Homes. This case will determine whether "sex" in the current federal civil rights law includes "sexual orientation and gender identity."





## Ryan Anderson in Charlotte

Renowned speaker and author Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., presented the keynote address at NC Family's Major Speakers Dinner in Charlotte. Anderson spoke about critical issues facing our current culture and future generations. He urged everyone to remain engaged and active in order to preserve the well-being of children and the family.



## Taking a Stand For Life Vigil

Along with eight other pro-life organizations, NC Family sponsored a Take A Stand For Life rally and prayer vigil outside of the North Carolina General Assembly. This rally drew a crowd of several hundred people, and featured over a dozen speakers, including legislators and abortion survivors.

## CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY

The Cornerstone is an important part of the foundation of any structure. All other stones are set in reference to it and it determines the stability of the entire structure.

Likewise, NC Family's Cornerstone Community is an opportunity for visionary partners to invest in providing a stable foundation for our work in the years ahead.

Becoming a member of the Cornerstone Community represents an important investment in our long-term work.

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- Pledge to give a monthly donation

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# Pro-Life Optimism

## in the Face of Abortion Extremism

Catherine Glenn Foster, M.A., J.D.<sup>1</sup>

As President and CEO of Americans United for Life, America's founding national pro-life group (established in 1971), I travel extensively all across our nation; going up against abortion apologists on the debate stage; exposing Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry's dirty tricks and frequent total disregard for our nation's laws; and educating lawmakers and the good citizens of each state in support of life-saving legislation. Wherever I go, I'm asked for the reasons why I see tremendous promise for America's pro-life future.

I see firsthand that the pro-life movement is winning the battle for the U.S. Supreme Court, with two new pro-life Justices on the bench and the Court's breaking-news announcement that this term, the Justices will hear and decide on a pair of critical petitions from Louisiana. The cases relate to the Bayou State's common-sense law protecting women's health by ensuring a swift transfer from an abortion facility to an emergency room when abortions go wrong. In addition, the Court will also consider whether an abortionist can claim to represent his patients when he sues to overturn patient protections.

Even more critically, we are winning the battle for the hearts and minds of America. The fraying and stains on the 46-year-old rags of the abortion-on-demand law imposed nationwide in *Roe v. Wade* are becoming obvious to everyone, as the pro-life movement partners with women to offer them real hope and life-affirming solutions we can all live with. And indeed, not only do increasing numbers of Americans support humane abortion limitations and common-sense health and safety regulations, we also have saved *millions* of infants' lives over the past 25 years as the U.S. abortion rate—the number of pregnancies that end in abortion—has dropped to where it was in 1972, the year before *Roe*.

Now, to hear pro-abortion mainstream media outlets tell the story, abortion extremism seems to be winning out lately. New York's Reproductive Health Act (S. Bill 240/A. 21), signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo on January 22, 2019—the anniversary of the *Roe* decision—allows non-doctors to perform abortions throughout gestation, repeals New York's "Born Alive" law, and goes so far as to strip out the fetal homicide provisions of New York law, denying protections and justice for even "wanted" babies in the womb. Perhaps we should not be surprised by Governor Andrew Cuomo's celebration of abortion extremism, since he is merely carrying on the legacy begun by his father: former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, who virtually invented the politician's abortion dodge of being "personally opposed to abortion" while promoting its political fortunes. But Andrew Cuomo did his father one better by extending the elder Gov. Cuomo's uncharitable disdain for human life in the womb to pro-life humans outside of it, declaring that "extreme conservatives who are right-to-life... have no place in the state of New York."<sup>2</sup> Indeed, one wonders what more the Empire State could do to encourage women to have abortions, having already affirmed a state "fundamental right to abortion," used Medicaid funding to pay for elective abortions, turned a blind eye to the need for even basic health and safety regulations for abortion businesses, and lit up the Empire State Building pink to "celebrate" New York's commitment to abortion on demand.

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<sup>1</sup> President & CEO, Americans United for Life. The author thanks AUL Legal Assistant Jesse Southerland – a native North Carolinian – for his able research assistance.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/mario-cuomos-abortion-argument-is-a-bloody-legacy>



Not to be outdone by Governor Cuomo, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (a physician) appeared on a Washington D.C. radio show on January 30th to advocate for Virginia's HB 2491, which, like New York's Reproductive Health Act, would have allowed abortion throughout the entirety of pregnancy—and even afterward. Attempting to justify infanticide, Gov. Northam said, "If a mother is in labor...the infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated *if that's what the mother and the family desired*, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and mother..."<sup>3</sup>

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper marched in lockstep with Governors Cuomo and Northam this year, vetoing SB 359, the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act," which would have provided protections for a child born alive during an abortion. And North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein added North Carolina to a federal lawsuit with twenty other states, challenging the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule," designed to keep federal family planning funds out of the hands of abortion businesses.<sup>4</sup>

But in spite of all this, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the number of abortions in New York has been dropping like a rock, as it has across the whole U.S., from 128,036 in 2007 to 93,096 in 2015. Over that period, the abortion rate dropped in Ohio by 27 percent and in Texas by 30 percent, and by similar amounts even in pro-abortion states like California, Hawaii, and New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup> California, which has likewise vigorously promoted abortion and was, like New York, an early state to legalize abortion before *Roe*, has seen a 16 percent decline in the abortion rate between 2014 and 2017, from 19.5 to 16.4 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age.<sup>6</sup> And North Carolina has shared in this promising trend, with a

3 percent decline in the abortion rate just between 2014 and 2017, despite the fact that it has one of the highest rates of abortion on out-of-state residents.<sup>7</sup>

The real story is that the country is becoming

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**The fraying and stains on the 46-year-old rags of the abortion-on-demand law imposed nationwide in *Roe v. Wade* are becoming obvious to everyone, as the pro-life movement partners with women to offer them real hope and life-affirming solutions we can all live with.**

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*more* pro-life, not less, and elected officials like Gov. Cuomo and Gov. Northam who support abortions up to the point of birth are the ones who are out of step. Gov. Northam's extreme pro-abortion bill failed in Virginia, and thanks to Americans United for Life and many others in the pro-life movement, radical pro-abortion bills also failed in New Mexico and Rhode Island in 2019. A similar measure introduced in North Carolina failed to even get a committee hearing, thanks to a strong pro-life movement led by our friends at the North Carolina Family Policy Council.

And that's not all. Not only are we winning against these ill-conceived bills promoting abortion extremism, but 2019 has been a record-breaking year for pro-life bills, with 46 states introducing life-affirming bills, and 58 of those bills in 22 states being signed into law. That's a 25 percent increase since 2018! And thanks to the "Protect Life Rule," Planned Parenthood is now out of the Title X family planning program. The nation's biggest abortion

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/failed-abortion-bill-draws-gop-outrage-against-va-gov-northam-democratic-lawmakers/2019/01/30/4a18f022-24b2-11e9-ad53-824486280311\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/failed-abortion-bill-draws-gop-outrage-against-va-gov-northam-democratic-lawmakers/2019/01/30/4a18f022-24b2-11e9-ad53-824486280311_story.html)

<sup>4</sup> See <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2019/21-states-sue-federal-government-title-x-gag-rule>.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.apnews.com/7e45fe670cf45f1823a45ef9ad2187c>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/abortion-incidence-service-availability-us-2017>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-north-carolina>. In 2017, North Carolina had one of the highest shares of out-of-state abortions in the country at 18.5 percent. Rewire, "Abortion Patients Throughout the South are Traveling to North Carolina for Care," <https://rewire.news/article/2019/09/16/abortion-patients-across-the-south-are-traveling-to-north-carolina-for-care/>.

chain won't get any of those 7.25 million taxpayer dollars, and now North Carolina's community health care clinics are receiving them instead.<sup>8</sup>

We already knew that most Americans support these rollbacks of *Roe's* radical abortion regime. But in February 2019, as state legislatures were getting underway in their sessions, we decided to dig a little deeper into the views of self-described "pro-choice" Americans. Americans United for Life teamed up with YouGov to survey 1,145 Americans from coast to coast on their abortion views. And two weeks after New York enacted the Reproductive Health

## We found out that fully two-thirds of self-identified "pro-choice" Americans oppose late-term abortions!

Act, and just a few days after Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's outrageous comments attempting to justify infanticide, we found out that fully two-thirds of self-identified "pro-choice" Americans oppose late-term abortions! Vast majorities of all Americans (79 percent) reject abortion in the third trimester and denying medical care to a viable child after birth (82 percent). This is unsurprising, given recent technological and medical advances, like advanced ultrasound, that reveal more clearly than ever before the inherent humanity of children in the womb.

Or perhaps the wave of opposition to New York-style abortion extremism stems from the well-recognized understanding—outside the Washington Beltway and the halls of our nation's leading Sunday papers, that is—that late-term abortion is rarely, if ever, needed for the sake of the mother's life or health. **"There's not a single fetal or maternal condition that requires third trimester abortion. Not one. Delivery, yes. Abortion, no,"** Dr. Omar Hamada, an obstetrician-gynecologist and theologian, said recently.<sup>9</sup> Dr. James Studnicki, Vice President and Director of Data Analytics at the Charlotte Lozier Institute, observes:

<sup>9</sup> Washington Post, "Tough questions – and answers – on 'late-term' abortions, the law and the women who get them," Feb. 06, 2019, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2019/02/06/tough-questions-answers-late-term-abortions-law-women-who-get-them/>.

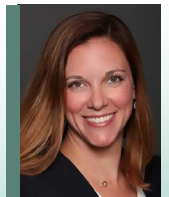
[W]hile the occasional politician or news reporter will still indicate that late-term abortions are most often performed in the case of "severe fetal anomalies" or to "save the woman's life," the trajectory of the peer-reviewed research literature has been obvious for decades: most late-term abortions are elective, done on healthy women with healthy fetuses, and for the same reasons given by women experiencing first trimester abortions.<sup>10</sup>

Studnicki notes that reports from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute over the last two decades have clearly identified the reasons why women seek abortion: financial concerns, lack of partner support, and not feeling ready to parent, often due to school or work<sup>11</sup>—all areas where the local community can come alongside women to offer compassion, hope, encouragement, concrete support, and life-affirming options.

And these reasons haven't changed over the years. Another more recent Guttmacher study focusing on late-term abortions concluded that women seeking abortions after 20 weeks of gestation were *not* doing so for reasons of fetal anomaly or life endangerment as we are often led to believe.<sup>12</sup> Likewise, a study from the University of California at San Francisco—a hotbed of pro-abortion advocacy—found that women who got later abortions were similar in "race, ethnicity, number of live births or abortions, mental or physical health history or substance use" to women who had first-trimester abortions.<sup>13</sup>

No matter how many big lies the abortion industry tells to justify New York-style abortion extremism, it's facts like these that are carrying the debate in North Carolina and around the country. That's why I'm so optimistic about America's pro-life future, and why I'm so proud to stand with our friends and allies in the Old North State to fight to reduce abortion and protect women and children. Our movement is growing and becoming more diverse every day as more and more young people and women, in particular, join with us to stand for life. The hard work we are doing to support women and families is paying off, and we are on the verge of unprecedented victories for mothers and babies. Together, working towards our common good, we will see an end to *Roe* and a return to a nation in which *everyone* is welcomed in life and protected in law! 🙏

Catherine Glenn Foster, M.A., J.D., serves as President & CEO of Americans United for Life



<sup>10</sup> Studnicki, James, "Late-Term Abortion and Medical Necessity: A Failure of Science," *Health Serv. Res. Manag. Epidemiol.* 2019 Jan-Dec; 6: 2333392819841781, published online 2019 Apr 9, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6457018/>.

<sup>11</sup> Studnicki, *ibid.*, citing Finer LB, Frohworth LF, Dauphinee LA, Singh S, Moore AM, *Reasons U.S. women have abortions: quantitative and qualitative perspectives*, in *Perspect. Sex. Reprod. Health.* 2005;37(3):110–118. doi:10.1363/3711005.

<sup>12</sup> Studnicki, *ibid.*, citing Foster DG, Kimport K, *Who seeks abortions at or after 20 weeks?*, in *Perspect. Sex. Reprod. Health.* 2013;45(4):210–218. doi:10.1363/4521013.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1363/4521013>.





# Why GOOD Christian Girls Choose Abortion

By Wendy Bonano

“Deidra” sobbed uncontrollably as she explained why she had to have an abortion. Deidra is a 19-year-old freshman at North Carolina State University, the first in her family to go to college, and has her sights set on being a Physician Assistant. She loves the Lord, is active in her church and her parents have raised her well, teaching her God’s standards of purity and abstinence until marriage. Despite all that, Deidra and her boyfriend went “too far” and now, here she is at Gateway Women’s Care, scared to death and too afraid to tell her parents she’s pregnant. As this intelligent, capable young woman sits in front of me, the words tumbled out...

*I’m so scared to tell my parents I’m pregnant. I have to have an abortion because my parents can never know I’ve been having sex; they would be horrified and I’d rather go through an abortion than have to face them and disappoint them.*

Unfortunately, Deidra’s response is extremely common. It is heartbreaking to witness the genuine fear and indecision that many Christian girls experience when faced with an unplanned pregnancy and how it drives girls to NOT seek help from those who love them the most—their parents. These fears are why “good” Christian girls abort and why their parents will most likely never know.

**I imagine you are thinking, “This would never be my daughter.” I beg you to think again.** More often than not, “good” Christian girls in relationships are determined to abstain from intercourse and therefore are not actively using contraception. Therefore, it takes just one poor decision by either your son or daughter to create an unplanned pregnancy, regardless of all you’ve taught them. Your child’s absence from home, if they’re living away at college, makes an abortion decision easier to hide from you.

## How then should we talk to our children about sex, purity, unplanned pregnancies and abortion?

More than ten years of experience at Gateway Women’s Care has shown me that quite often there’s a piece missing from the “talks” parents have with their daughters and sons. Without knowing it, we are leaving no doors open for our children to come back to us should they stray. We are making good, strong cases for purity until marriage and yet neglecting to communicate the message of grace: that we are there for them no matter what, and should they make a mistake—in this case, get pregnant—it is safe for them to come to us for help and support.

## Simply put: Parents, talk to your children.

Parents, talk to your children about God’s design for sex and marriage, about the benefits of purity and how that plays out practically in our sex-saturated culture. Don’t avoid this conversation since the world will most definitely jump in and fill whatever vacuum you leave. Emphasize to them that we all fall short of the perfect standards of God and that nothing, not even an unplanned pregnancy, will separate them from your love and support.

## The most difficult conversation of your life.

**Young people, if you find you are pregnant**—and I hope and pray that you will never need this advice—understand that talking to your parents will most likely be one of the most difficult conversations of your life. **But DO IT!** Most parents would be horrified at first to hear that their child aborted and did not come to them for help.

- **Plan and rehearse how you will tell your parents. Make it simple and direct.**
- **Avoid getting angry. Your parents’ emotional response is normal and to be expected.**
- **Allow your parents to “vent.” Validate their feelings with responses like, “I know how disappointed you are in me right now.”**
- **Have a plan for going forward. Thinking through your next steps will speak volumes to your parents.**

God has a purpose for every life. An unplanned pregnancy may not seem like a blessing but the Lord can turn your sorrow into joy. God can open your eyes, both parents and children, to see this “unplanned” child as a blessing from Him. 🙏

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” –Jeremiah 29:11*

Wendy Bonano is Executive Director of Gateway Women’s Care, pregnancy centers in Raleigh and Durham



## Mike Long, President of Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina



**Traci DeVette Griggs:** So what you're saying, Mike, is that there's this dramatic shift in culture and in thought towards school choice, and in your opinion is this going to be stopped? Is this a fad?

**Mike Long:** Not at all. When you reach a 20 percent milestone of parents in North Carolina exercising school choice, that's not a fad; that is significant. And what I want people to understand is Parents for Educational Freedom is not at all opposed or against the public schools. We want parents to be able to choose what school best fits the needs of their child. If that is their community public school that they're zip-coded to attend, fantastic. If that is a charter school, if it's a private school, if it's homeschool, we believe parents should be able to decide what school best fits the needs of their child. Not an archaic governmental system that says one size fits all, and just because you live in this zip code, you must go to that school.

## Denise Harle, legal counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom



**Traci DeVette Griggs:** Denise, it seems like allowing biological males to compete on women's sports teams recreates the exact inequities that Title IX was put in place to avoid. Do you agree with that?

**Denise Harle:** Absolutely, and that's our exact argument to the federal government, is that this is destroying nearly 50 years of advances for women under Title IX. Women fought long and hard to be given those equal opportunities and to have discrimination eliminated under Title IX. Some wonderful things have happened. We've seen all sorts of achievements by female athletes: the growth of sports at the collegiate level, and even seeing some of those athletes go on to the Olympics. So, to remove that protection for women and girls would be a huge setback, and it would completely undermine the exact purpose of Title IX.

## Lee Strobel, former atheist turned apologist and best-selling author of *The Case for Christ*



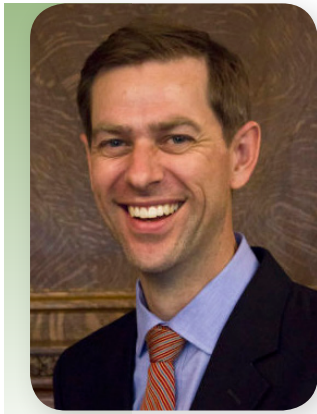
**Traci DeVette Griggs:** Lee, the way we approach sharing our faith is also important. Because sometimes people feel like "Oh no, we're never supposed to talk about religion! If we talk about it and we disagree, they're not going to be my friend anymore!" So there's an attitude that we need to convey, right, to make people feel like we're open to discuss it?

**Lee Strobel:** That's right. I think gentleness, respectfulness, to say to ourselves, "This is someone who matters to God. I'm going to validate them as a human being who was made in God's image and God loves them. Maybe I can help them in their journey and do more listening than talking, asking more questions than giving answers." ... When they see you as being authentic, when they see you as being gentle and kind and the listener and someone who is empathetic, that is a great apologetic in itself. That is a bridge that makes people more willing to ultimately listen to what we have to say.



## Dr. R.J. Snell,

author and Director of the Witherspoon Institute's Center on the University and Intellectual Life



### Traci Griggs:

Dr. Snell, let's talk about how we view the human person and the human body, and how this has changed in our current culture.

**Dr. Snell:** So for someone like myself who believes in God and believes that God created the world, there's a deep commitment to imagining my body and my very identity as something that has been given to me by grace, and which I don't own and is not merely my property. Whereas for a good many people now, there's a sense that the body is property, something that one can manage and control, and even dominate to seek our own ends.



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

## Radio Stations Airing *Family Policy Matters*

Bennett/Asheboro	WYTR 88.1 FM	Saturday, 2:00 PM
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Charlotte/ Gastonia	WURC 960 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 PM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WOGF 1540 AM/ 88.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Durham	WDRU 105.5 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Fayetteville	WCLN 105.7/ 107.3 FM FM	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WTRU 830 AM/ 97.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
New Bern	WSTK 104.5 FM	Saturday 9:06 AM
Newland	WECR 1130 AM	Saturday 3:15 PM
Raleigh	WDRU 1030 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:30 AM
Rock Hill/Charlotte	WAVO 1150 AM	Sunday 11:45 & 12:30 PM
Rock Hill, SC	WAVO 1150 AM	Sunday 9:45, 11:45 & 12:45 PM
Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Salisbury	WOGF 93.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 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, 8:15 AM



**NC FAMILY**  
POLICY COUNCIL

*Family Policy Matters* is a 15-minute 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](http://NCFamily.org). *Family Policy Matters* is also available as a podcast on your favorite podcast app.



You may also stream *Family Policy Matters* online at [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org)



# Behind Every Issue is a Person

By Daniel Darling, Adapted from his book, *The Dignity Revolution*

In the Spring/Summer 2019 issue of this magazine, we included a quote from Dr. Bruce Ashford: “We need to let the Bible frame the way we view things and the way we treat people. No matter what the radio show hosts say, no matter what the political pundits say, no matter what many of our political leaders do, we will cut our own wake. We’re Christians first and foremost.” In this issue, we examine more deeply how this approach to public policy can, at times, put us at odds with our culture and also, at times, with our political friends. But, as Dan Darling states in the following article, it also increases the likelihood that we will be “the hero of the story” in God’s eyes.

## **What God requires.**

To a religious establishment bent on finding loopholes in Jesus’ command to “love your neighbor as yourself,” Jesus told a story about an injured man on a dangerous roadway near Jericho. Two people, with power and agency, passed by this man. A Samaritan is the hero of the story.

Jesus is telling us here about what he requires—and what he prizes—in the citizens of his kingdom. He is not pleased when we look for loopholes and walk on by. He is pleased when we see the vulnerable and cross the road and get involved and make a difference.

What if our public engagement of issues, the way we vote, the people on whose behalf we speak, the way we talk, and the way we listen was shaped less by tribal loyalties and more by the way of Jesus? This doesn’t mean that we won’t have to make difficult voting decisions or that we will all agree on the best public policies. What it does mean, however, is that the axis around which we shape our politics will be shaped by a desire to use our power and our platforms to advocate on behalf of those who may have no voice.



## Imagine.

Imagine a new, human dignity movement, which transcends and ignores and gets beyond existing tribal loyalties.

Seeing people as God sees them—created in his image—means we will often have to refuse to prioritize one interest group above another. It means we will have to stop compartmentalizing our views of human dignity. I've seen younger evangelicals who are rightly, wonderfully drawn to speak out on behalf of refugees and victims of human trafficking and the poor, but who are also tempted to silence on behalf of the unborn because this would put them in agreement with more conservative older generations whom they perceive as the enemy. And I've seen older generations of evangelicals, rightly concerned about the dignity of unborn human life, hesitant to speak out on issues of race and poverty because it might put them at odds with their ideological allies.

I see one cause pitted against another, as if human dignity is a zero-sum game.

We need to stop choosing. We need to start caring about dignity wherever it is undermined and assaulted.

This doesn't mean there won't be differing callings, or that we won't feel compelled to advocate for one particular area where humans are not being treated with dignity. But we should



commit to learning about and sympathizing with all aspects of human dignity, and learn to speak in language and care about issues that reach beyond the amen chorus of our own constituencies.

## Resist letting politics shape our faith.

We must resist letting our politics shape our faith instead of our faith shaping our politics. This will take great courage. But a public witness that never crosses the aisle or that is galvanized by fear of the other party is not a public witness that loves our neighbors well. If we are going to step into the places our King most delighted in visiting—the lowly, the meek, the vulnerable—we cannot let our worldly alliances dictate our words and silences, our action and inaction.

We need a fully orbed pro-life vision that enters the public square and speaks up for human dignity wherever it is compromised, whether in the womb, on the streets of Baltimore, Cleveland and New York, at the nursing home, in the halls of power, or at the border. We are redeemed image-bearers, who have been recreated by Christ in the gospel, and we are now tasked with fighting for human dignity all around us. “[God] has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). And “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” (James 1:27)

## Beyond Politics.

And yet, as much as I am urging Christians to enlist in the fight to contend for human dignity in the public square, I'm urging us to remember that politics isn't everything; in fact, that it is but a small part of what it means to live on mission for God in this world.

**What if our public engagement of issues, the way we vote, the people on whose behalf we speak, the way we talk, and the way we listen was shaped less by tribal loyalties and more by the way of Jesus?**



For every argument we make online or in the office of a public official, there are hundreds of interactions in our daily lives that test whether we really think every person is made in God's image. Human dignity is more than a platform; it's a way of life.

Jesus cared enough about humanity to become a human. The Spirit cares enough about humanity to transform us as humans. And when we ascribe the value to humanity—all humanity—that Jesus did and does, we realize that part of living as a Christian and part of believing as a Christian is to view people the way God views them.

### The Church at its best.

Image-bearing, image-based human dignity is not a new concept. At its best, the church has allowed this belief to shape the way it has acted on behalf of vulnerable people. We could go so far as to say that the church has most fulfilled its task when this belief has been most celebrated.

Yet at the same time, we must admit that, when it comes to treating all people as being made in God's image, the behavior of some Christians and churches has been far from perfect. Tragically, there have been Christians who have used the Bible to either justify or ignore racism, slavery, and genocide. At times the church has had to learn from those

outside the church what it means to treat particular groups in a way that is consistent with what biblical believers profess to believe. I would argue that these dignity-diminishing views and actions have either been a deviation from, or a willing ignorance of, God's view of humanity as revealed in his word. And it is always a recovery of Christian theology that has moved Christians to repent of sinful ideologies and work for justice in the world.

Today the challenges to human dignity are as serious as those that have faced any generation. War, poverty, racism, abortion, violence, slavery, and other injustices prey upon the dignity of humans everywhere. This is why a recovery of a robust Christian vision of human dignity is vital if we are to represent God as his imagers in this world. If our generation would leave a legacy that our spiritual grandchildren will be proud of, and that the world may one day be thankful for, we must learn what it means to really live out what we say we believe: that every person we meet, interact with, or hear of carries inalienable dignity, made as they are in God's image. 🏠



Dan Darling is a columnist and author of several books, including his latest, *The Dignity Revolution*.

## The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."





# “Behind Every Issue...”

The North Carolina Family Policy Council has been working diligently in our state’s political and policy arena for over 25 years. By God’s grace, and through the prayers and support of citizens across this state, this organization has been blessed with consistent growth, success and favor—even in the face of some pretty challenging times, issues and circumstances. We thank God for that every day!

As we pursue our vision of “A state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive and life is cherished,” we actively engage in partnerships with elected and appointed officials, pastors and church leaders, and other citizens across the state. We don’t do this to rack up wins on some political scoreboard, but to do our best to live out the Greatest Commandment as proclaimed by Christ Jesus in **Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)**:

<sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Clearly, Jesus acknowledges not only that loving God and loving our neighbor are fundamental, but that they are uniquely intertwined with the law. We believe that God is an intentional Creator and Designer and that His law, as set out in the Scriptures, purposefully establishes a framework for how we are to live and relate to one another on a day-to-day basis. Jesus says we first must submit to God with all our heart, soul and mind, and then He will enable and equip us to genuinely and authentically love each other.

In the coming months, as you may have noticed in this issue of *Family North Carolina* magazine, NC Family is highlighting the principle, “*Behind Every Issue Is A Person!*”

We think this is important, because in our current vitriolic political climate it is easy to lose sight of what really matters. We can become consumed by rancorous campaigns, embroiled in policy debates, and enraged when others don’t see things the way we do. We can fail to remember that there are real people and real lives behind the issues we are debating and discussing.

“*Behind Every Issue Is A Person!*” A mother, a daughter, a father, a son, an unborn child, an infirmed adult, a victim of trafficking, an opioid addict, an immigrant, a troubled adolescent, a struggling student, a pregnant teen, a divorced parent, a bankrupt businessman, an atheist, a new believer...Each and every one is our neighbor, and Jesus calls us to love each one as we love ourselves.

Every year the leaders of Family Policy Councils from around the country gather together to teach, learn, share and encourage one another. At this year’s meeting in Atlanta we were tasked with answering the question “Why?” Why do we do what we do?

Nearly 40 FPC leaders broke up into small groups to unpack, debate and ponder this most basic question, and we were instructed that our answer could only be FOUR words long! Seriously, four words?

After nearly two hours of digging and discussing, my group wrote four words on our board: “Love God, Love Neighbor!”

The Greatest Commandment—that is why we do what we do!

So, let’s never forget in the heat of the battle, when tension is at its peak and nerves are frayed, that we are not fighting to win an issue or to claim a political victory, but to honor God and to love our neighbor.

After all, “*Behind Every Issue Is A Person!*” 



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



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**NC FAMILY**  
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**...because behind  
every issue is a person**

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