

FALL 2021

FAMILY

north carolina



Religious Liberty: First or Fading Freedom?

**"Rare," "Safe," and Other
Lies about Abortion**

**Teetering on the Edge:
Gambling in NC**

ISBN 0-9785025-1-5



9 0000

9 780978 502515

Equipping North Carolina families to be voices of persuasion for family values in their communities.



www.ncfamily.org
Sign up for email updates!



NCFamilyorg
Like us on Facebook!



@ncfamilyorg
Follow us on Twitter!



ncfamilyorg
Follow us on Instagram!



Many ways to get equipped!

FEATURES

6 Religious Liberty: First or Fading Freedom?
 Attacks on our religious liberty seem to be mounting at an alarming rate, as conscience rights and deeply held religious beliefs clash with government policies and a culture that is becoming more and more hostile toward people of faith nationwide. Greg Chafuen, legal counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom’s Center for Legislative Advocacy, details current protections for religious liberty, and the threats this First Freedom has and will continue to face in the near future.

14 “Rare,” “Safe,” and Other Lies About Abortion
 In 2020, Americans United for Life released a report that had been years in the making: “Unsafe: America’s Abortion Industry Endangers Women.” The 200-page “Unsafe” report offers an in-depth look at the abortion industry across America and analyzes data from individual states. Julie Tisdale summarizes the troubling findings of this report as it pertains to abortion in North Carolina.

18 Family Policy Matters Radio Show and Podcast
 Read excerpts from some of NC Family’s latest and most popular episodes of the *Family Policy Matters* radio show and podcast, including: NC Lt. Governor Mark Robinson on his new F.A.C.T.S. Task Force; the first-hand struggles of a mother of a transgender identifying daughter; and more!

20 Teetering on the Edge: Gambling in NC
 While various forms of gambling have been legal in North Carolina for years, new research suggests that we are standing on the edge of a gambling boom that would have disastrous ramifications for our state. Chris Derrick, attorney and former Special Counsel to a Commissioner on the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, unpacks this latest research on the proliferation of gambling practices in North Carolina and nationwide, and its correlation to gambling addiction. Derrick also outlines the slew of dangerous pro-gambling legislation that threatens to push our state over the edge and deeper into the pit of predatory gambling.

at issue 4
 What’s in this magazine

etcetera 5
 Quotes, quips, and cartoons

front lines 12
 NC Family in action

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

DEPARTMENTS



Second-Class Citizens?

The First Amendment of our Constitution grants every American the right to live out his or her faith without fear of governmental interference. Yet, lately this has not been the case. In the Winter 2021 edition of *Family North Carolina* magazine, we included a quote from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito on our “etcetera” page where he warned, “Religious liberty is in danger of becoming a second-class right.”

One does not need to look very far to see that attacks on people of faith have skyrocketed nationwide. Even more concerning, an increasing number of judges, lawmakers, and those in power are preemptively siding against religious liberty before attacks even occur. From several state governors treating houses of worship differently from other large-scale gathering places under COVID-19 restrictions, to Congress’s “Equality Act,” which would force acceptance of sexual orientation and gender identity ideology without any protections for people of faith, to the U.S. Supreme Court’s failure to take up the case of Washington State florist Barronelle Stutzman earlier this summer...our nation is becoming more hostile than ever towards those who desire to hold fast and live according to their religious beliefs.

For us at NC Family, and for our close friends at Alliance Defending Freedom, this means we must work harder than ever to prevent people of faith from becoming second-class citizens. In “Religious Liberty: First or Fading Freedom?” legal counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom’s Center of Legislative Advocacy, Greg Chafuen, dives into what religious liberties our law and Constitution grant us, and outlines the various challenges this First Freedom faces right now in our nation.

If the First Amendment is a law we must vigorously defend, then the ruling of *Roe v. Wade* is one we must zealously seek to overturn. The lie that abortion is “safe and rare” has been tossed around for decades, but our friends at Americans United for Life have spent years compiling data on the abortion industry to show the truth. In their “Unsafe 2020” Report, they expose the horrors of malpractice, health code violations, and more within each state’s abortion industry. Julie Tisdale summarizes AUL’s report as it pertains to North Carolina in “Rare,’ ‘Safe,’ and Other Lies About Abortion.”

Finally, our state rests on the precipice of the biggest gambling expansion we have ever seen. Sports betting, more casinos, and other disastrous gambling practices have never been so close to becoming a reality. In “Teetering on the Edge: Gambling in NC,” Chris Derrick reviews the slew of gambling proposals up for consideration at the North Carolina General Assembly and beyond, and how this could impact vulnerable communities and individuals in disastrous ways.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Family North Carolina* magazine! Please feel free to share this issue with your friends and family, and you are welcome to contact NC Family to request some extra copies to pass out in your communities. 📧

Calley

Calley Mangum is the Communications Director for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina.



Fall 2021

Vol. 16, No. 2
ISSN 1935-7761
ISBN 0-9785025-1-5

Editor

Calley Mangum

Design

Leslie Crane

Circulation

Eileen Brown
Heather Greene

Contributors

Eileen Brown, Greg Chafuen,
Chris Derrick, Heather Greene,
Calley Mangum, Jere Royall,
John Rustin, Julie Tisdale

President

John L. Rustin

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

The North Carolina Family Policy Council is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization organized in 1991 and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government. *Family North Carolina* is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Family Policy Council. Copyright © North Carolina Family Policy Council. All rights reserved.

Internet

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

Subscriptions

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



“Public universities **do not** have the authority to act as classroom thought police.”

—6th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Amul Thapar

”
Faith is *not* the belief that God will do what **you** want. It is the belief that **God** will do what is *right*.

—Author Max Lucado

I believe in **Christianity** as I believe that the sun has risen: *not only* because I see it, **but because by it I see everything else.**”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

“The fact that **85%** of women’s health care specialists **don’t** perform abortions tells you everything you need to know that *abortion is not essential health care* because if it was, you wouldn’t have only **15%** of OB-GYNs performing it.”

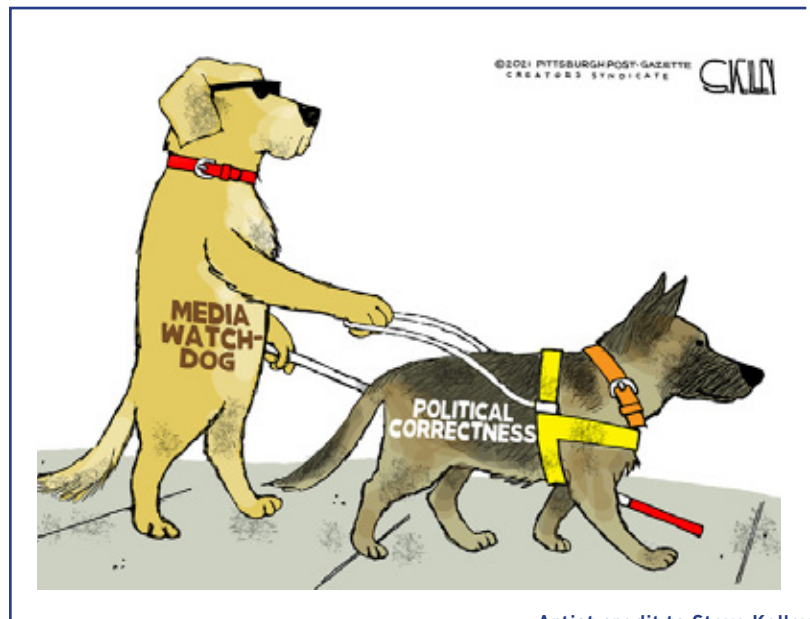
—Christina Francis, chairwoman of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

“Be **kind** to one another, *tenderhearted,* *forgiving* one another, as **God in Christ** forgave you.”

—Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

”
Freedom is never more than a *generation* away from *extinction*—and **women’s freedoms** are *no exception.*”

—Jared Eckert with The Heritage Foundation, on attacks to Title IX



Artist credit to Steve Kelley

Religious Liberty: First or Fading Freedom?

BY: Greg Chafuen

Over the past ten years, many government officials and activists have vigorously attacked religious liberty. Our first freedom has been treated as a second-class right, and some officials have tried to limit Americans' freedom to live out their faith in public.

In the face of these efforts, defenders of religious liberty are still standing for their rights. There have been many victories and some disappointing losses along the way. Now is a time to redouble our efforts to ensure the blessings of liberty for the next generation.

Religious liberty in America today relies primarily on the **First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)**. But these protections have faced significant attacks over the years. As a result, the Free Exercise Clause no longer fully protects religious practices from government-imposed burdens. And politicians have threatened to gut part of RFRA's vital protections. Because of this, we need to reinforce and build upon existing legal protections of religious freedom.

What does the Free Exercise Clause protect?

Thirty years ago, the Supreme Court weakened Americans' right to freely exercise religion in a decision called *Employment Division v. Smith*. The Court held that the government *could* burden religious exercise if it did so with a law that was generally applicable and did not specifically target religion. In other words,

Smith suggests that officials may burden the exercise of faith as long as that wasn't the point of the law and the law applies to everyone.

Just this year, the Supreme Court was asked to correct course in its latest religious liberty case, *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*. In *Fulton*, the Court examined whether the City of Philadelphia could force Catholic Social Services (CSS)—which had provided foster care services to city children for more than a century—to violate its religious beliefs about marriage in order to continue its religious ministry of service. *Fulton* gave the Court an excellent chance to overturn *Smith* and restore the longstanding principle that the government cannot prohibit or burden the free exercise of religion absent truly compelling reasons. Unfortunately, a majority of the Court stopped short of taking this important step.

Instead, the Court left that question for another day, because the City had a problem even under *Smith*: its contracts with providers like CSS allowed for exemptions to its anti-discrimination provisions for secular reasons, but the City had refused to give CSS an exemption for religious reasons. In light of that anti-religious discrimination against CSS, *all nine justices agreed* that the City had violated CSS's free exercise of religion.



Thankfully, *Fulton* means the government can't prioritize secular interests over religious ones when granting exemptions. Friends of religious liberty were thankful for this outcome—but still disappointed that the Court left *Smith* intact.

Instead of keeping *Smith*, the Supreme Court should have followed Justice Alito's 77-page concurring opinion in *Fulton*. As he explained, the Supreme Court should abandon *Smith* because its toleration for any rule that categorically prohibits religious activity, so long as it doesn't target religion specifically, is fundamentally at odds with the text and interpretation of the First Amendment. Instead, the Court should recognize that the Free Exercise Clause protects the rights of Americans to freely practice

their religion. If the government imposes a law that burdens free exercise, it needs to have an interest of the highest order, and it needs to make sure that it burdens religious practice as little as possible.

How Does RFRA Protect Religious Liberty?

Soon after the Court decided *Smith* in 1990, Congress acted to ensure that Americans could continue to live their faith freely in society. Congress did this by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) almost unanimously (introduced by then-Congressman Chuck Schumer and Senator Ted Kennedy), and it was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993.

RFRA restored by statute the same protections for religious liberty guaranteed by the Constitution prior to *Smith*. According to RFRA, the federal government cannot burden a person's exercise of religion unless it has a compelling interest to do so and places as little burden on religious practice as possible. Twenty-three states followed suit, adding RFRA to their state laws to protect against state and local governments burdening religious exercise. North Carolina was not one of these.

Over the past thirty years, RFRA has protected religious Americans from government overreach. But this once bipartisan bulwark of religious freedom has become a stumbling block for the application of far-left policies.

This helps explain why, for example, the so-called “Equality Act” threatens to cancel much of RFRA’s protections. **This Act would force acceptance of the new sexual orientation and gender identity ideology while explicitly removing protections for people of faith provided by RFRA.** Proponents of this Act want to push it through the U.S. Senate (it has already passed the U.S. House). If it passes, religious organizations—including schools, hospitals, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and even churches—could face lawsuits and potential liability just for adhering to their teachings on marriage and sexuality, teachings that the Supreme Court said were based on “decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises.”

Sadly, the Equality Act is not the only legislative proposal that would drastically weaken RFRA. If any of those proposals pass, the primary remaining protection for religious liberty will lie in the First Amendment’s Free Exercise Clause. As discussed earlier, there is still more work to do before the Supreme Court will have the opportunity to fully restore that Clause’s intended protections for people of faith.



Religious Liberty Warriors



Former Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran was suspended and fired after activists who didn’t agree with his Christian views on marriage complained about a men’s devotional book he had written.



Colorado officials tried to punish cake artist, **Jack Phillips** after he declined to create a custom cake celebrating a same-sex wedding because it violated his religious views.



Barronelle Stutzman, a floral artist has suffered eight years of litigation and could lose her business and life savings because she declined to create floral arrangements for a same-sex wedding ceremony.

What Challenges Does Religious Liberty Face Today?

In addition to the threats posed by the proposed “Equality Act,” people of faith and their communities have faced a barrage of attacks from state and local government officials.

Here are just a few examples drawn from the hundreds of clients which Alliance Defending Freedom has represented over the years:

- **COVID policies treated houses of worship worse than secular businesses**
 - Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley and thousands of other churches were treated worse than many secular gatherings by many states’ COVID-19 executive orders.
- **Students and employees are punished for sharing their religious views**
 - Former Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran was suspended and fired after activists who didn’t agree with his Christian views on marriage complained about a men’s devotional book he had written on his own personal time.
 - Jack Denton, the president of the Florida State University Student Senate, was harassed and removed from his position for sharing his personal religious beliefs in private text conversations with other students.
- **Nonprofit groups are excluded from publicly available benefits because they are religious**
 - A preschool operated by Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia was denied a grant by Missouri to provide materials for a safe playground solely because the preschool was run by a church.
 - Montana private schools were denied funds when a Montana court tried to shutter the State’s tuition tax credit program because parents might choose religious schools.

- **Religious organizations are discriminated against by the government for having policies that track with their religious beliefs**
 - Adoption and foster care agencies, New Hope Family Services and Catholic Charities West Michigan, face closure because of their faith-based policies prioritizing the placement of children in homes with a married mother and father.
- **Creative professionals are forced to celebrate and even participate in events that violate their deepest beliefs about marriage**
 - Jack Phillips is a cake artist. He serves everyone but cannot create cakes expressing every message. In 2012, Jack declined to create a custom cake celebrating a same-sex wedding because that cake’s message violates his religious beliefs. Colorado officials tried to punish him for this, but the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately ruled for Jack—condemning the State’s “impermissible hostility” against Jack and his faith.
 - Barronelle Stutzman, a floral artist in Washington State, has suffered eight years of litigation and could lose her business and life savings because she politely declined, based on her faith, to participate in or design custom floral arrangements celebrating the same-sex wedding ceremony of a customer and friend she had served for nearly 10 years.

These cases are just the tip of the iceberg, representing only a few examples of the many lawsuits brought against religious people in the U.S. today.

There are many more cases involving threats to religious liberty in the courts now, and every indication suggests that these cases will proliferate as officials try to keep religious people, churches, and organizations from freely living out their faith.





What Comes Next?

Despite these problems, there are signs of hope. ADF has won 13 significant victories at the U.S. Supreme Court in the past ten years, and many more victories for religious liberty in lower courts all around the country. The momentum for freedom is growing.

Moreover, the U.S. Supreme Court has vindicated the rights of religious Americans in a series of landmark decisions over the last five years. The Court has held that states cannot deny publicly available benefits to religious organizations merely because they are religious (*Trinity Lutheran* and *Espinoza*); they cannot interfere with internal practices of religious organizations (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*); and they cannot show hostility towards people of faith (*Masterpiece Cakeshop*).

Despite these promising results, there is still much to be done. There are many more cases involving threats to religious liberty in the courts now, and every indication suggests that these cases will proliferate as officials try to keep religious people, churches, and organizations from freely living out their faith. And for every case where someone stands up to defend their religious freedom, there are untold more where the right is violated without a fight.

As we continue to defend the right of every American to live out their faith without fear of government punishment, we must remember to pray. Please pray for freedom's future. And remember that, as President Ronald Reagan noted, "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." By God's grace, our first freedom will flourish. 🙏

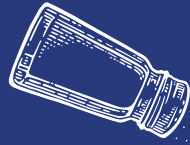
For every case where someone stands up to defend their religious freedom, there are untold more where the right is violated without a fight.



Greg Chafuen,
legal counsel for
Alliance Defending
Freedom's Center for
Legislative Advocacy



NC FAMILY
POLICY COUNCIL



NC FAMILY'S

Salt & Light

STUDENT SEMINARS

A hands-on civic education!

NC Family is excited to host high school and college aged student groups for our Salt & Light Student Seminars!

Salt & Light Student Seminars include:

- Discussion with NC Family Staff on the importance of Christian engagement in public policy
- Message from NC Family President John Rustin on the "3 P's" of effective advocacy
- Experiencing a real-life committee debate on critically important bills of interest *
- The option of touring the NC General Assembly
- Meeting with your state legislators **

** In person or virtually depending on group size ** When the legislature is in session*

NC Family has already hosted several Salt & Light Student Seminars, and we look forward to welcoming more groups for these educational, informative, and inspirational programs!

If you are interested in setting up a Salt & Light Student Seminar for your school or church group, contact NC Family at (919) 807-0800 or mail@ncfamily.org

NC Family's Salt & Light Student Seminars typically include 2 hours of instruction time (not including a visit to the NC General Assembly), and can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 25 students.



1

Salt & Light Student Seminars

Once the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, NC Family was able to welcome a number of student groups to our office in Raleigh for our Salt & Light Student Seminars. These high school students got to hear from NC Family President John L. Rustin on lobbying, watch a livestream of a legislative committee debate, and travel downtown to the General Assembly to meet their legislators. (See page II for more on how you can organize a Salt & Light Student Seminar for your school or church group).



2

Testifying at the General Assembly

NC Family President John L. Rustin and Counsel & Director of Community Impact Jere Royall have testified multiple times before various House and Senate committees in support of and opposition to bills since the legislature went back into session in January. We have advocated for the sanctity of life, opposed the legalization of medical marijuana, and stood against the legalization of sports gambling for collegiate, professional, and amateur sports.



3

Media Interviews

With many hot-button issues up for consideration this legislative session, NC Family has participated in multiple media interviews in recent months. We spoke with: WRAL on our opposition to proposed changes to North Carolina's public school social studies standards; Spectrum's In Focus with Loretta Boniti on our state's gambling boom and the potential Catawba Casino in Kings Mountain; and Christian Broadcasting Network as part of its feature on the growing community of Parents of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria Kids.



4

2021 Greenville Reception

In April, NC Family welcomed our friends and supporters in the Greenville area to a special reception at Stokes Family Farm. This event, different from our usual dinners, featured a more casual and relaxed atmosphere. Guests enjoyed food from local nonprofit Third Street Catering, and heard a special 30th Anniversary message from NC Family President John L. Rustin.



“Rare,” “Safe,” AND OTHER LIES ABOUT ABORTION

BY: Julie Tisdale

In 1973, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade* made abortion legal throughout the United States. Since that time, the rhetoric has been consistent: *Roe v. Wade* ensured the right to safe and legal abortion; removing that right would have “fatal consequences;” and abortion is “one of the safest medical procedures.”

But is it true? Did making abortion legal through *Roe* also ensure that it was safe? Are women protected by the abortion industry? What about the unborn babies?

Abortion Across America

Last year, Americans United for Life (AUL) published a report entitled “Unsafe: America’s Abortion Industry Endangers Women.” In its nearly 200 pages, the report offers an in-depth look at the actual state of the abortion industry across America and analyzes data from individual states. It’s a sobering picture. In case after case, women are subjected to unsanitary conditions, untrained staff, and improper facilities and equipment. Patients’ privacy is neglected, facilities fail to follow state regulations, and warning signs of child abuse are ignored. The report specifically lists violations by more than 300 abortion clinics, and that is just in the states from which they were able to obtain data. **All in all, AUL’s report shows an industry that is anything but safe for the women who entrust these providers with their bodies and their health.**

AUL accessed inspection reports from state health departments that are responsible for oversight of abortion providers. These are public records available



through standard Freedom of Information Act processes. Despite this, fifteen states submitted no inspection reports because they do not license or inspect abortion clinics. This is shocking when you consider the mantra repeated so often that “abortion is health care.” Another fifteen states have such weak inspection and regulatory frameworks that it’s difficult to get an accurate picture of the conditions in abortion clinics. This leaves just 21 states (with DC counted separately) in which AUL was able to obtain sufficient reports to accurately assess the safety of abortion clinics for the women who use them.

CATEGORY	NC CLINICS WITH VIOLATIONS
Unsafe and Unsanitary Abortion Businesses	10
Lack of Privacy, Lack of Respect for Patients	11
Improperly Trained and Screened Staff	5
Unlicensed and Unqualified Staff	3
Expired Medications and Medical Supplies	5
Improper or Poorly Maintained Equipment	5
Failed Health and Safety Policies	6
Unsafe Handling of Medications and Testing	7
Faulty Buildings	1
Lack of Informed Consent	5

Abortion in North Carolina

North Carolina was among the 21 states with robust regulatory regimes and inspection reports that were available to the AUL researchers, although “Unsafe” notes, “The inspections seem to have dropped in scope and consistency since 2017 when a new administration took office.”

All state inspection reports for abortion clinics in North Carolina back to 2013 are available online. In ten different categories, the researchers found documented failures by North Carolina abortion providers to meet the legal standards placed on them by the state. And it wasn’t just one bad actor. Those violations were found in fourteen different clinics in nine different cities – almost every abortion provider in the state. Some had as many as eight or nine different types of violations.

ABORTION CLINICS WITH VIOLATIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA



Many of these violations are quite serious, in one case so serious that the clinic involved was immediately shut down. North Carolina abortion clinics were cited for, among other things:

- medical supplies that were years expired
- months between cleanings of sterilization equipment, despite policies dictating they be cleaned weekly
- failure of a physician to sign voluntary witnessed consent forms as required by law, in one case for a patient just 14 years old
- failure to observe women for the legally required minimum of one hour post-abortion before discharge or to obtain a signed form to verify they left against medical advice
- failure to ensure at least one RN was present at all times when patients were having procedures at the clinic
- failure to record the estimated length of gestation (age) of the unborn child
- failure to ensure registration with the state Board of Pharmacy for physicians dispensing drugs for chemical abortions
- failure to secure medication against tampering or contamination allowing non-nursing staff to administer injections without evaluating their competency
- failure to provide screens or curtains for patient privacy

Serious risks to women's health

The violations themselves are hugely problematic. Failure to sterilize equipment is a very serious issue in a surgical setting. Infection is one of the more common and serious risks associated with abortion. Yet, in clinic after clinic, inspection reports reveal a failure to take cleanliness seriously.

Abortions can also result in internal injuries such as uterine perforation or cervical laceration. Sometimes, there can be significant bleeding which requires medical attention. Consequently, North Carolina law requires that women be observed for at least an hour after an abortion procedure and, if they insist on leaving, the clinic is supposed to obtain a signed "against medical advice" form. The law also requires that patients' temperatures and pain levels upon discharge be recorded. Yet in one Planned Parenthood facility, women were routinely discharged after only about half the time required without any signed "against medical advice" forms. In another, temperatures and pain levels were never recorded, meaning that the abortion clinic had no way to assess whether women were beginning to display early signs of potentially serious complications.

The reports also revealed a failure of some doctors to examine the "products of conception" (POC) after abortions. In fact, in some cases, the estimated length of gestation wasn't even recorded, making it impossible to verify that the POC is consistent with the age of the baby, but also leaving inspectors unable to confirm that abortions were only being carried out early enough in the pregnancy to comply with state law.

Consistently, there was a failure on the part of abortion clinics to even do basic things well. In one clinic, doctors weren't wearing masks. The report

In some cases, the estimated length of gestation wasn't even recorded [...] leaving inspectors unable to confirm that abortions were only being carried out early enough in the pregnancy to comply with state law.

quotes the regional director of Planned Parenthood's Winston-Salem clinic as saying, "I thought we only had to provide PPE and it's up to the employee to wear it or not...A lot of our [doctors] don't use masks during procedures. We do not monitor the use of PPE."

In still another clinic, medications that were supposed to be injected were instead administered orally. When asked about it, the physician said, "I don't order [the medication]. The clinic decides. I just sign. ... The nurse and clinic are independent from me." Administering a drug in the wrong way can cause issues around absorption, dosage, and efficacy. But there's also a "not my job" attitude that is disturbing from a physician to whom women entrust their bodies.

Threats to women's dignity

There were also other violations that, while not physically dangerous, would be unimaginable in normal medical settings. In one clinic, women's medical histories were taken in busy hallways, where anyone could listen in on the conversations—a clear violation of HIPAA regulations. In another, there were no privacy screens or curtains at all in the recovery rooms, meaning that women weren't even afforded the basic dignity of private space following their abortions.

A cavalier attitude toward patient safety is prevalent in these clinics. When abortion providers fail time and time again to take health and safety regulations seriously, it raises important questions about whether the health of the women they're supposed to be serving is even a priority. Medical practitioners who care about women will want to ensure that they're given the best care possible, that their bodies are protected from harm, that they're treated with dignity, and that their privacy is protected. State inspectors found that, across North Carolina, women could not count on these basic protections when they sought care in abortion clinics.

The abortion industry consistently claims that abortion is safe, but the sorts of infractions found in clinic after clinic across the country and right here in North Carolina raise serious questions about the care being given to women in these settings. And these are just the physical safety risks, to say nothing of the psychological effects of abortion, the risks to future pregnancies, and the death of a child that is always the results of a "successful" abortion. **Abortion is anything but safe.**

A careful response

Women should carefully consider whether the people operating clinics where these sorts of basic health and safety violations occur are really the best sources of information and care when they find themselves faced with an unplanned pregnancy. Are these places where they are likely to be treated with dignity, care, and respect, and where their best interests will be protected? This report would seem to indicate not. Women should understand that their needs would be best served by an OB/GYN who doesn't depend on performing abortions for his/her living, or by a pregnancy care center that can offer pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and advice, and has no primary financial interest in abortion.

Lawmakers, too, should take note of these findings. Clearly, the abortion industry is rife with the sorts of safety violations that put women's lives and health at risk. This should concern all legislators who care about women and lawmakers should ensure that inspections continue to be carried out regularly, that standards are high, and that records of these inspections continue to be published online where they can be accessed by women considering abortions.

For nearly 50 years, Americans have been told by abortion advocates that abortion is safe, that keeping it legal protects women, and that abortion clinics are providing essential health care. AUL's "Unsafe"



The sorts of infractions found in clinic after clinic... right here in North Carolina raise serious questions about the care being given to women in these settings.

report makes it clear that nothing could be further from the truth. It is important that we support legislation that helps protect women from an abortion industry that, time and time again, demonstrates a woeful disregard for those women's well-beings.

As Christians, we also need to be part of the solution, offering real and meaningful support to women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies. By supporting them during their pregnancies, helping them to access comprehensive prenatal care, offering assistance as they begin to parent, or adopting children when moms decide not to parent, we can offer the sort of care and dignity that abortion clinics fail to provide. 🙏



Julie Tisdale,
freelance writer
who lives in Raleigh.



North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson



John Rustin: Now the F.A.C.T.S. Task Force—and F.A.C.T.S. is an acronym that stands for Fairness and Accountability in the Classroom for Teachers and Students—the F.A.C.T.S. Task Force that you have created has a very specific purpose. Talk about that a little bit. What prompted you to create this task force?

Lt. Gov. Robinson: We started this task force to give parents, teachers, and students a place where they could bring their complaints, and not just have them heard, but actually figure out a way to do something about this. This is a problem not just in North Carolina; it is a problem all across the country. And it's not just about indoctrination in the classroom; it's also about bias in the classroom and about bias at our schools where conservative voices, Christian voices, are being pushed out of the conversation, or not being allowed to be part of the conversation. We have got to change that; we have got to make sure that everybody in the classroom has a voice and that everybody in the classroom is being treated fairly.



Melissa Henson, Program Director of the Parents Television and Media Council

Traci DeVette Griggs: Are there industry rating standards with streaming services—like Netflix or Hulu or Amazon Prime Video—that we can expect?

Melissa Henson: Right now with streaming services, it's kind of like the Old West: there's no sheriff in town. There is no streaming industry equivalent of the Motion Picture Association of America. There doesn't seem to be any sort of governance over the streaming industry. And so these streaming services are sort of making up their own minds or deciding for themselves what they're going to do with respect to parental controls. And that's very dangerous.



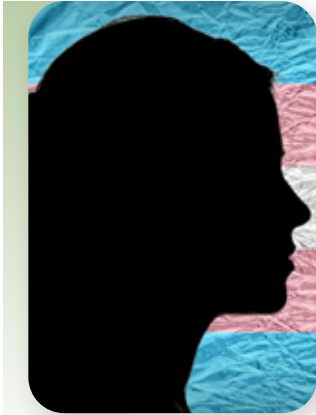
Dr. Brad Wilcox, Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia

Traci DeVette Griggs: All right, let me play devil's advocate here. Is it possible that our nation's drop in divorces was due to offices being closed down?

Dr. Wilcox: Yeah, no, I think part of the story is, who wants to be going to an attorney's office or going to court in the middle of a global pandemic? That's certainly part of the story here, but we have seen in previous major collective traumas—like the Great Recession of about a decade ago—a similar decline in divorce as well. So, the point that I'm kind of getting at here is that I think in the face of some major collective trauma, some major kind of collective emergency, a lot of people become more likely to turn towards family and friends rather than turn away from them, including turning away from one's spouse.

Kristie,

North Carolina mother of a transgender identifying daughter



John Rustin: Kristie, I want to give you an opportunity to just share any advice that you would provide to other parents who are experiencing something similar to what you and your family have gone through.

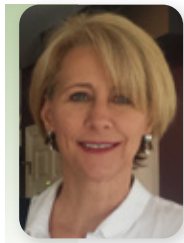
Kristie: Well, I would say go with your gut instincts. If you know that this is not right then stand

firm and don't play into your child's fantasy that they can change their sex, because their sex is immutable; they cannot change that. [...] Just stay connected with your child, continue to love your child no matter what, because as parents we just want what's best for our child. Focus on their health and well-being. And pray! I recommend just continue to pray that your child will open up their heart to God and talk about it. That's another important thing. You have to be willing to talk about it; do not suffer in silence.

You may also stream *Family Policy Matters* online at www.ncfamily.org



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



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*

Belmont/Charlotte	WCGC 1270 AM	Sunday, 11:45 AM
Bennett/Asheboro	WYTR 88.1 FM	Saturday, 2:00 PM
Charlotte/Gastonia	WCRU 960 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 PM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WOCR 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	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WTRU 830 AM/ 97.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Newland	WECR 1130 AM	Saturday, 9:06 AM
Raleigh/Durham	WETC 540 AM	Saturday, 11:00 AM
Raleigh	WDRU 1030 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:30 AM
Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Salisbury	WOCR 93.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Sanford	WLHC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 11:00 PM
Taylorsville	WACB 860 AM	Wednesday, 5:00 PM
Troy	WJRM 1390 AM	Sunday, 8:15 AM
Wake Forest	EPIC 103.5 FM	Saturday, 1:00 PM
Wilmington	WZDG 88.5 FM	Sunday, 5:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Winston-Salem/ Piedmont Triad Area	WPIP 880 AM	Sunday, 4:15 PM



Teetering on the Edge: Gambling in NC

BY: Christopher W. Derrick, Esq.

The baseball legend (and great philosopher) Lawrence Peter “Yogi” Berra once said: “If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll end up somewhere else.”

Twenty-five years ago, Congress established the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC) in an effort to determine where the United States was going on the road of legalized gambling, and where it might end up if it continued down that road. The NGISC completed its final report in 1999, finding that at least 15.4 million Americans had a gambling problem—one that for many had resulted in criminal activity, homelessness, bankruptcy, suicide, domestic violence, and divorce. Fearing where America was headed, the NGISC recommended that the United States pause in traveling down the road of legalized gambling or face the consequences of ending up somewhere else:

“Without a pause and reflection the future does indeed look worrisome. Were one to use the experience of the last quarter century to predict the evolution of gambling over the next, a likely scenario would be for gambling to continue to become more and more common, ultimately omnipresent in our lives and those of our children, with consequences no one can profess to know.”

The United States ignored the NGISC’s instructions for a pause, and if we flash forward to 2021, it’s clear that the country ended up in the “somewhere else” foreseen by the commission. Legalized gambling is now practically omnipresent in American life, with casinos found in at least 43 states, state-sponsored lotteries operating in all but four states, and sports bets being legally placed in 21 states.

While perhaps North Carolina moved more slowly than some, our state never really paused on its way down the road of legalized gambling. Since 1996, Cherokee tribal gambling has exploded from its beginnings as a single video poker hall into a gaming destination, with locations in Cherokee and Murphy offering unlimited Class III gaming, live table games, and sports betting. The North Carolina Lottery began selling tickets in 2006 and has had record sales every year of its operation, collecting more than \$3 billion from the citizens of North Carolina in fiscal year 2020. And despite being clearly illegal for over a decade, convenience gambling in the form of internet sweepstakes is still readily available throughout the state.

Earlier this year, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) released its “National Survey of Gambling Attitudes and Gambling Experiences,” the first major national research study on gambling since the NGISC report. The NCPG Survey was conducted six months after the 2018 Supreme Court decision in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, that repealed the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act and made it possible for states to legalize sports betting. The NCPG Survey found that 73 percent of Americans had gambled in the previous year, and that about seven percent of those bettors exhibited problem behavior.

Even with the historic growth in legalized gambling over the past quarter century, the NCPG believes that we are only *right now* at the beginning of “what is likely to be the largest and fastest expansion of gambling in our nation’s history,” and that sports betting will be the primary driver of that expansion.

Looking to the horizon, it appears that North Carolina could very well participate in, and suffer from, this unprecedented expansion of gambling.

Although still illegal in North Carolina (other than on the premises of the two Cherokee tribal casinos), our state could soon become a hotbed for sports gambling if a few legislators have their way. Senate Bill 688 would legalize sports betting statewide, and its proponents believe that if passed, sports-loving North Carolinians would make their state the fourth most lucrative sports betting market in the United States (behind only New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois).

Casino gambling in North Carolina is also on the verge of monumental expansion. After years of failing to get casino gambling in its home state, the South Carolina-based Catawba Indian Nation is now close to building a gambling casino development in North Carolina. In January, Governor Cooper entered into a tribal-state compact with the Catawba to allow the tribe to offer full Las Vegas-style gambling at its proposed 200,000+ square foot gambling casino right off I-85 in Kings Mountain. Additionally, H.R. 1619 in Congress would grant the Catawba all the necessary rights to proceed with the Kings Mountain casino, and for the first time ever, allow a tribe to conduct off-reservation gambling outside the state that governs its gambling activities. Congress may also entertain legislation this year that could provide the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina with full federal recognition, including the right to pursue gambling operations in North Carolina.

But that's not all. Two bills currently before the North Carolina General Assembly would regulate video game terminals and video lottery terminals, and one would broadly legalize casino-style convenience gambling throughout the state. And the actions of Virginia's legislature could soon make non-tribal, destination casino gambling more accessible for some North Carolina residents. Our neighbors to the north recently authorized the construction of casinos in five of its cities, including a \$400 million Caesars casino just across the North Carolina state line in Danville (set to open in late 2023), and a Hard Rock casino in Bristol (opening in 2022).

The NCPG Survey indicates that North Carolinians should be extremely concerned about this potential "next wave" of gambling expansion, especially given the types of gambling that would become more readily available and the potential for a dramatic increase in problem gamblers. For example, sports bettors—who tend to be young men—are the most vulnerable to problem gambling. The NCPG Survey shows that sports gamblers are three or more times as likely to report frequent risky behavior than those gamblers who did not bet on sports, and those betting weekly on sports are over five times more likely to report frequent risky behavior. Compared to non-sports

gamblers, those wagering on sports were over five times more likely to say they've needed to rely on others to pay their debts or bills.

Looking to the horizon, it appears that North Carolina could very well participate in, and suffer from, this unprecedented expansion of gambling.

The NCPG Survey also reveals casino visitors are more likely to show high levels of problematic play. Of those who visit casinos on a weekly basis, 14 percent reported relying on others to pay their bills "many times," and only 34 percent disagreed with the statement that "my chances of winning get better after I've lost."

In his summary statement as a commissioner on the NGISC, Dr. James Dobson stated that a mountain of evidence presented to the commission demonstrated the direct link between problem gambling and "divorce, child abuse, domestic violence, bankruptcy, crime and suicide." The founder of Focus on the Family concluded that "the Commission's findings, from any reasonable perspective, depict a depth of pain and devastation in this country that compels a change in the way betting activity is regarded. Clearly, gambling is a destroyer that ruins lives and wrecks families."

Twenty-five years after the creation of the NGISC, North Carolina stands at the threshold of a new, and perhaps unprecedented, expansion of gambling. Unless its citizens and legislators follow the NGISC's directions and take quick and decisive action to halt the growth of sports betting and new casino gambling in the state, North Carolina could soon find itself so far down the road of legalized gambling that it will be unable to return from the devastating "somewhere else" warned of by Dr. Dobson and his colleagues so many years ago. 🏠



Christopher W. Derrick,
Esq, attorney and
former Special Counsel
to a Commissioner
on the National
Gambling Impact
Study Commission

A Stream of Life in a Time of Drought

Every day it seems like the world is spinning further out of control. COVID-19 infection rates are spiking again around the globe. The Taliban has wrested control of Afghanistan after an announced American troop withdrawal, and many of that nation's citizens are fleeing for their lives. Catastrophe has hit the island nation of Haiti once again as the post-earthquake death toll numbers in the thousands. Biological men identifying as women became some of the most celebrated contestants in the Tokyo Olympic games as transgenderism is embraced more and more into the world's psyche.

Closer to home, the U.S. Congress is spending **trillions** of taxpayer dollars with little regard to the burden it will place on future generations. The humanitarian crisis at our southern border is only growing, and racial tensions across America continue to rise as critical race theory and other controversial philosophies are being forced on our students in public schools and universities.

Here in North Carolina, our Governor continues to veto life-affirming, life-saving legislation—this time a bill that would ban abortions motivated because of the sex or presumed race of the unborn child or a diagnosis of Down syndrome. At the same time, many self-identified conservative, pro-family legislators are embracing harmful policies like the legalization of marijuana and a massive expansion of predatory sports gambling. And children and parents alike are at their wits' end as they attempt to navigate the ever-changing “science” and standards of COVID-19 vaccines, masks, and in-person versus virtual learning.

With all that is happening around us, it is easy to feel disillusioned, overwhelmed, and even in despair.

However, as I shared in a commentary at the beginning of 2021, as believers and followers of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we remember our faith is not in man or our circumstances, but in God, the Creator of the universe and the author and perfecter of our faith.

Jeremiah 17 instructs,

⁵This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

The following was my prayer for us in January and remains my prayer for us in the coming days:

May God grant us the resolve to sink our roots deep into His stream so that we may demonstrate to our neighbors, our nation, and the world, that the Lord Jesus Christ is not shaken by our worldly circumstances but remains sovereign over all things. May His gracious Spirit enable us to be a light in this nation, and, like green leaves in a parched and barren land, bear witness to His love, grace, mercy, and truth. May God help us resist the urge to despair, but, instead, resolve to do all that we can, through His power and strength, to restore civility, trust, and reason in our land. And, as we bear fruit—as He promises we will do—may He be glorified and honored, and may others come to know Him in a deep and personal way. Amen!

To God Be the Glory! 🙏



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



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



“ We do not want to be the kind of society that disposes of a child because of how God created it.

– Rep. Dean Arp (R-Union)