

CITIZEN

STANDING FOR FAMILIES & THE BIBLICAL VALUES THAT STRENGTHEN THEM

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1st Quarter 2025

LEGISLATIVE EDITION: Will Kentucky answer the call for bold, pro-family leadership this session?

President Trump has displayed bold leadership, the 2025 General Assembly should follow suit this legislative session.

Kentucky's 2025 General Assembly is underway, and our policy team has hit the ground running working to educate and advocate for God-honoring policies that will strengthen families across Kentucky.

This "short" 30-day session presents the General Assembly with the opportunity and responsibility to move forward with a bold pro-family agenda to strengthen religious liberty and parental rights, protect children from harm, grow a culture of life, and stop taxpayer-funded DEI and gender ideology madness.

With the recent inauguration of President Donald Trump, it is a new day in America with a renewed sense of excitement as Christians once again have a friendlier face in the White House. With a bold array of executive orders in his first days in office, President Trump began immediately undoing many of the destructive policies of the Biden administration.

Of special note are executive orders signed to close



TFF's policy team on the opening day of the 2025 General Assembly.

down harmful DEI programs within government departments, stop the perpetuation of Leftist gender ideologies by recognizing the reality that there are only two sexes, male and female, while also acknowledging that life begins at conception, and restoring protections for our tax dollars from funding the evil of abortion.

Trump also signed a monumental executive order protecting our nation's children from irreversible, harmful

chemical and surgical mutilation. In the last several years, Kentucky and 22 states have passed Help Not Harm legislation, in partnership with our allies. Your prayers, activism, and support have led to this big victory.

But the fight is not over! We must take additional steps to ensure taxpayer funds at the state level are not used to mutilate anyone, regardless of age. Let us not forget the egregious actions of Governor Beshear just in the last few months attempting to use taxpayer funds to "transition" inmates in prison, and he signed an executive order banning "conversion therapy" that is designed to promote false LGBTQ ideologies and muzzle Christians.

Your engagement with TFF enables us to push back against anti-family policies while working to restore policies that honor the Lord. As I always say, government belongs to those who show up! Please "show up" by encouraging your legislator to be bold and courageous this session!

IN THIS ISSUE: Priority Pro-Family Bills

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**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE AN IMPACT!**

Contact your Kentucky Senator and Representative on each priority, pro-family bill: 3 times by phone and 3 times by email through our online action center.
(see pages 4-5 for priority pro-family bills)

The General Assembly must strengthen religious liberty protections for Kentuckians.

SB 60 and HB 177 would ensure that Kentuckians' first and most foundational freedom is adequately protected.



Kentucky's legislators have an opportunity this session to restore religious liberty to its proper place of protection in our legal system. Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court weakened First Amendment religious liberty protections in the *Employment Division v Smith* case, which allowed the government to restrict religious practices if a law is neutrally applied to religious and secular activities. This problematic decision reduced the First Amendment rights of Americans and created a need for a legislative fix.

In 2013, Kentucky passed its version of the Religious Liberty Restoration Act (RFRA). Unfortunately, since the Democrats still controlled the KY House, it was the weakest version of RFRA passed in the entire country. One of the biggest flaws with the 2013 law is the lack of a cause of action, which would allow Kentuckians to sue under the statute to defend their religious liberty.

Without a cause of action, the current RFRA has had little impact on government actions. Additionally, the terms used in the 2013 law are not legislatively defined. This has resulted in judges making final determinations in how broadly to apply RFRA, leaving the door open for improper judicial activism at the expense of religious liberty. This activism has been encouraged by far-left groups, like the ACLU.

Kentucky's RFRA has left Kentuckians vulnerable to attacks on their religious liberty. In 2020, the Beshear Administration threatened prosecution against Christians attending church on Easter Sunday. The Beshear Administration also retaliated against Sunrise Children Services by threatening to cancel their adoption contract because of their biblical belief in marriage between one man and one woman.

Senator Steve Rawlings and Representative TJ Roberts (*pictured*) have introduced SB 60 and HB 177 to strengthen Kentucky's RFRA to ensure Kentuckians of faith are protected from government interference in how they practice their beliefs. These important bills would guarantee that Kentuckians' first freedom is adequately protected.

SB 60 & HB 177 TALKING POINTS

1. **Kentuckians need a way to defend their religious liberty in court.**
2. **Judges should not have broad discretion in interpreting religious liberty protections.**
3. **Strengthening RFRA will protect Kentuckians of all faiths.**

It's time to restore the Ten Commandments to the Kentucky Capitol and to our classrooms.

The General Assembly should ensure citizens are educated on the impact of the Ten Commandments on our society and legal system.



The Ten Commandments are back in public debate after Louisiana passed a law requiring all public schools to display them in school buildings. The General Assembly is well positioned to follow suit this legislative session.

The U.S. Supreme Court revived this debate by eliminating the *Lemon* test for Establishment Clause claims. In doing so, the Supreme Court made clear that religious symbols can legally be displayed on government property once again. However, the Ten Commandments are much more than just a religious symbol. They also represent legal and moral principles that create the foundation of any civilized society. The United States is no exception to that rule.

Our Founding Fathers were heavily influenced by the principles of natural law. Natural law is the idea that certain principles of law and morality are universal and are accessible through an appeal to human reason. Those universal principles include a prohibition on murder, theft of another's property, and a duty to respect the rights of others. For Christians, we recognize that God is the author of natural law and that these principles find explicit form in the Decalogue. The Declaration of Independence references natural law when it acknowledges the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which

come from our Creator.

Putting the Ten Commandments in public spaces, like schools and the grounds of the Capitol, gives citizens the opportunity to explore the historical traditions of our country and Commonwealth, and educate themselves on why our nation is worthy of admiration. HJR 15 by Rep. Shane Baker (*pictured with TFF policy team*) would restore the Ten Commandments monument to the Capitol grounds. HB 65 by Rep. Josh Calloway and HB 116 by Rep. Richard White would help restore the Ten Commandments to classrooms.

HJR 15 & HB 65/HB 116 TALKING POINTS

1. **Western society was founded on the principles contained in the Ten Commandments.**
2. **Our nation's legal system is grounded in the values expressed in the Ten Commandments.**
3. **Children must be educated on the importance of the Ten Commandments to our nation's history.**

Kentucky must do more to protect children from the harms of cell phones and social media.

Eliminating distractions during school hours and requiring meaningful age verification are key to protecting the next generation.



During the last couple legislative sessions, the General Assembly has taken important steps to protect kids from social harms. They passed SB 150, which banned gender “transitions” on minors, and HB 278, which requires age verification for pornographic websites. The Family Foundation worked hard to support those bills.

However, there is still much work to be done to fully protect kids in Kentucky. One issue of note this session is phones in public schools. At least 9 states, including Florida and California, have already banned phones during class time, and some KY lawmakers are interested in making Kentucky the 10th state to do so.

Cell phones bring the benefit of quick communication, but they also bring considerable distractions as well. This includes social media, gambling apps, and other addictive features. Banning phones during class time would ensure that kids are focused on important subjects, like math, reading, and history, rather than the latest harmful trend.

Additionally, requiring schools to ban social media and gambling apps on their school Wi-Fi would ensure that kids do not have easy access to those overly addictive apps while they are supposed to be learning and preparing for the future. Rep. Josh

Bray (*pictured*) has filed HB 208 to prohibit phones in classrooms.

The General Assembly will also have opportunities to protect kids outside of schools. At least 12 states, including Florida and California, require age verification for social media websites. Kentucky should be the next state to pass such a law. Social media usage is well linked to the large increase in mental health issues amongst children. Requiring age verification would ensure that kids are shielded from those effects until they reach a more mature age.

With a growing bipartisan consensus to create stronger protections for kids online, we encourage the General Assembly to take strong action once again this session.

HB 208 TALKING POINTS

1. Phones have become a major distraction in class and teachers are getting frustrated.
2. Kids need to be protected from the harms of social media.
3. A bipartisan collection of at least 9 states, including Florida and California, have passed similar laws.

Taxpayers in Kentucky should not be forced to support radical gender ideology.

The General Assembly must protect taxpayers and stop Gov. Beshear’s radical gender ideology agenda harming Kentuckians.



Governor Andy Beshear has once again put his support of radical gender ideology above the needs of Kentuckians. During the interim session, the General Assembly exposed his efforts to force Kentucky taxpayers to fund gender “transitions” for prisoners.

While this policy might be a kickstart to Gov. Beshear’s Presidential campaign, it is hardly a respectful use of the tax dollars of hard-working Kentuckians.

Further, it is the perpetuation of a lie – that a person can change their gender.

Thankfully, Rep. Josh Calloway (*pictured*) has introduced HB 154 to combat this wasteful proposal from the Beshear Administration. It would prohibit any state dollars from funding gender “transitions” of anyone, no matter the age. We urge the General Assembly to quickly pass this crucial legislation.

Additionally, the General Assembly will have to deal with Governor Beshear’s illegal executive order that bans so-called “conversion therapy” on minors. In reality, the executive order seeks to punish Christian counselors who use biblical truths in addressing issues surrounding sexuality. Further, the order specifically exempts those

who encourage minors to seek gender transitions, even though such procedures on minors are now illegal in Kentucky thanks to SB 150 from 2023.

Rep. Calloway also filed a bill nullifying this illegal executive order, HB 64. This bill would simply reset the status quo and ensure that Christian counselors are not facing prosecution for their work. While this bill is a good first step, we encourage the General Assembly to pursue additional ways to ensure that Christians are protected by law from this radical nonsense. Otherwise, our rogue governor might attempt to find other ways to punish Kentuckians in the name of gender ideology.

HB 154 & HB 64 TALKING POINTS

1. Taxpayers should never fund gender “transitions” or any kind of LGBTQ ideology
2. It’s time to end Gov. Beshear’s illegal actions and ensure Christian counselors can speak the truth.



These priority pro-family bills seek to enact God-honoring policy!

Let's ensure our families thrive — parents, children, and families matter.

RESTORING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

HJR 15 (REP. BAKER), HB 65 (REP. CALLOWAY), HB 116 (REP. WHITE)

SUMMARY: Both HB 65 and HB 116 would help restore displays of the Ten Commandments to public school classrooms, and HB 116 would also allow for the Decalogue to be used during instruction. HJR 15 would restore a display of the Ten Commandments previously located on Capitol grounds.

- The Ten Commandments played a significant role in the founding of our nation and our Commonwealth.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

STRENGTHENING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HB 177 (REP. TJ ROBERTS) / SB 60 (SEN. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: Would strengthen KY's Religious Freedom Restoration Act to ensure that government is not burdening the religious liberty of Kentuckians.

- Gives Kentuckians the ability to sue in state court to protect their religious freedom.
- Kentuckians of faith should be able to practice their religious beliefs without government intrusion.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS FOR DOCTORS

AWAITING BILL NUMBER (SEN. DONALD DOUGLAS)

SUMMARY: Doctors shouldn't be forced to perform harmful or unethical procedures that violate their oath and conscience. Likewise, patients need to know their doctors have full confidence in the treatments they recommend and perform.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR CHURCHES

HB 37 (REP. JAMES TIPTON)

SUMMARY: Churches with outreach ministries are being forced to register with the state and become tax collectors, which is a burden on the ministries serving our communities. This hurts our Commonwealth.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

PROHIBITING PHONES AT SCHOOL

HB 208 (REP. JOSH BRAY)

SUMMARY: HB 208 would require school districts to ban phones in schools for non-instructional purposes and ban social media on school Wi-Fi. We hope to see additional legislation for general age-verification on social media websites.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

PROTECTING GIRLS' SPACES AT SCHOOLS

HB 163 (REP. MATT LOCKETT)

SUMMARY: Requires public school buildings to have at least 95% of its bathrooms be sex-specific. This protects girls from having to use spaces also used by males, as has been proposed in Fayette County.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

NO TAX DOLLARS FOR GENDER INSANITY

HB 64 & HB 154 (REP. JOSH CALLOWAY)

SUMMARY: HB 64 would reverse Governor Beshear's ban on so-called "conversion therapy." HB 154 would prohibit taxpayer dollars from paying for gender "transitions" regardless of an individual's age.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

BABY OLIVIA ACT HB 397 (REP. NANCY TATE)

STOP ABORTION PILL TRAFFICKING

HB 316 / SB 106 (REP. TJ ROBERTS & SEN. STEVE RAWLINGS)

SUMMARY: HB 397 would require public schools to educate kids on the growth of a preborn child in the womb. HB 316 and SB 106 would make it a felony for an individual to ship or otherwise transport abortion-inducing drugs into the Commonwealth.

 Mark off your 3 calls

 Mark off your 3 emails

YOU can make the difference on each bill!

It's as easy as 1-2-3 — Simply make three calls and send three emails on each of these important bills.

MAKE A CALL!

Legislative Message Line
1-800-372-7181

Simply call the number and leave a message with a receptionist. Here's a sample message:

“Please vote FOR House HJR 15 & HB 65 to restore the Ten Commandments. Also, vote against HB 203 and other attempts to re-legalize abortion.”

SEND AN EMAIL!

Visit Our Action Center
kentuckyfamily.org/takeaction

Simply enter your address to directly email your Kentucky legislators. Here's a sample message:

“Please vote FOR House HJR 15 & HB 65 to restore the Ten Commandments. Also, vote against HB 203 and other attempts to re-legalize abortion.”

Bills hurting families – But, we can stop them!

RE-LEGALIZE ABORTION THROUGH EXCEPTIONS

SB 35 (SEN. DAVID YATES) / HB 203 (REP. KEN FLEMING)

SUMMARY: Re-legalizes abortion by adding exceptions to numerous pro-life laws and undermines the foundational premise of the pro-life position.

- Promotes abortion & makes remaining pro-life protections difficult to enforce.
- Legalizes discrimination based on unchangeable characteristics.
- Weakens informed consent, late-term abortion & live dismemberment bans.
- Requires abortion referrals and allows for taxpayer-funded abortions.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY LAW

SB 102 (SEN. NEAL) / SB 94 (SEN. BERG) / HB 235 (REP. MARZIAN)

SUMMARY: Similar laws are being used to coerce and punish Christian business owners regarding their biblical beliefs on human sexuality.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

SB 33 & 36 (SEN. YATES) / HB 105 & 106 (REP. KULKARNI)

SUMMARY: These bills would legalize marijuana for recreational use for all adults 21 years old or higher.

- Recreational marijuana causes an increase in impaired driving.
- These bills would make it easier for children to gain access to marijuana products.
- Daily use causes long-term mental health issues.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails

CASINO GAMBLING

HB 33 (REP. THOMAS HUFF)

SUMMARY: Would authorize the construction and operation of casinos.

Mark off your 3 calls

Mark off your 3 emails



We're working to amplify your voice in Frankfort.

Our team is promoting biblically sound public policy that points people back to God's good design for the wellbeing of our neighbors.

Each team member of The Family Foundation is working hard during the 2025 General Assembly to create a Kentucky where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.

During this legislative session, our Policy & Church Ambassador Network Teams are working hard to keep you informed, minister to and persuade legislators, and encourage our fellow citizens to get engaged.

Together, we can promote policy consistent with Christian biblical values, which by honoring God, benefit and guide our civic life.

OUR CORE VALUES



Religious
Freedom



Family



Life



Human
Dignity



Human
Sexuality

The Family Foundation Team Serving Kentucky



David Walls



Nick Spencer



Jesse Green



John Raizor



John Wehrle



Martin Cothran



Baxter Boyd

. . .But we need YOU to call your legislators!

We can help prepare the legislator's heart and mind in Frankfort, but it's your call that makes the difference — Please call today!

LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE LINE: 1-800-372-7181

DON'T WAIT

- Good bills won't move unless you call.

BE FULL OF FAITH

- You aren't alone, you are standing with people of faith on Biblical principles.

BE KIND

- Be polite, don't give them a reason to ignore you.

BE DIRECT

- Let them know which bill(s) you're calling about and how you want them to vote.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO CALL

- Multiply your impact by sharing with your Bible study, community group, household, and others.

Trump's executive orders restore sanity.

Commonsense and bold leadership returns to the White House.



In his inaugural address on January 20th, President Trump proclaimed the beginning of America's "golden age." Shortly afterward, he signed numerous executive orders meant to turn that proclamation into reality. Since then, news has continued to break seemingly daily about new orders meant to restore America's cultural and economic prosperity.

In conjunction with comments of Vice President JD Vance at the recent March for Life in Washington, D.C., President Trump signed pardons for those prosecuted under the FACE Act—a law that was being used to persecute people of faith from praying for and ministering to expectant mothers outside of abortion facilities. The President also reinstated the Mexico City Policy and the Hyde Amendment, which prohibit taxpayer funds from paying for elective abortions here in the U.S. or paying for abortions in other countries.

Among other executive orders signed was one that restored common sense definitions of male and female while simultaneously recognizing fetal personhood. Another removed DEI initiatives from the federal government, and even resulted in government employees being forced to remove "preferred pronouns" from their email signatures. The President even signed an order establishing Help Not Harm protections for children at the federal level. Thanks to these executive orders, so many of the things that you have tasked The Family Foundation to fight for at the state level have been accomplished at the federal level.

Despite a fantastic first few weeks, there are many things left to do if America's political and cultural restoration is to continue. Lord willing, President Trump will make good on his promise to increase school choice options for parents, thereby enabling the nation's children to better attain the basic good of knowledge without ideological indoctrination. Lord willing, we will see actions to rectify mistreatment of religious individuals fired, demoted, or sidelined from promotions for failure to submit to vaccine mandates against their conscience. In the Commonwealth, we hope to see the General Assembly move forward with boldness to bring many of these orders down to the state level.

All of this and more remains to be done, but we can still find great reason to rejoice in those things, which have already been accomplished to put America and the Bluegrass back on the path of flourishing once again.

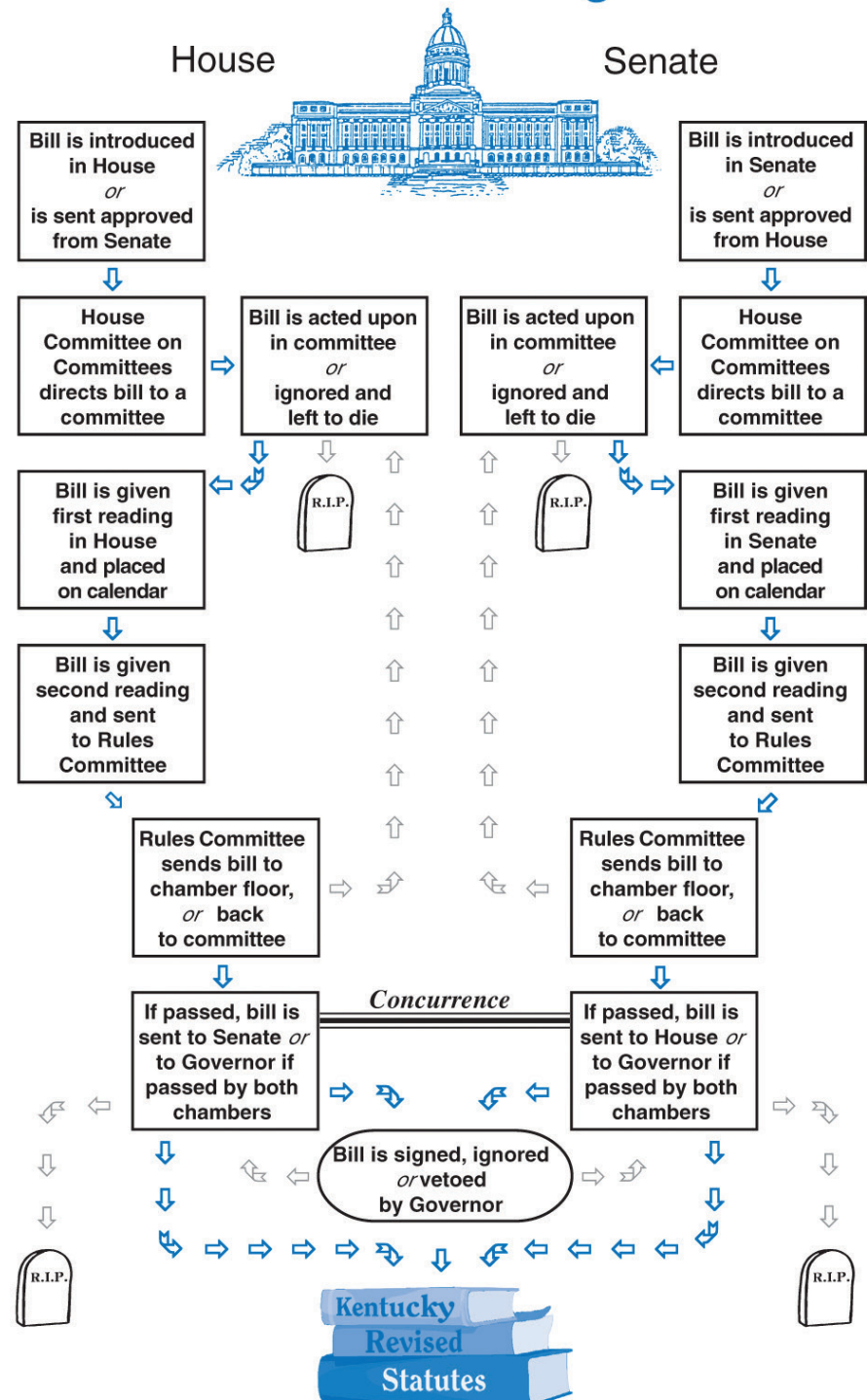
2025 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- February 18 — Last Day for New Senate Bills
- February 19 — Last Day for New House Bills
- March 13-14 — Concurrence
- March 15-26 — Veto Period
- March 27-28 — Veto Override
- March 28 — Sine Die (Last Day of Session)

GOOD BILLS WON'T MOVE UNLESS YOU ACT!

Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181
Send an email: kentuckyfamily.org/takeaction

The Road to Passing a Bill



Religious liberty is the key to stronger families in Kentucky.

OPINION: Nick Spencer on how religious freedom can help Kentuckians flourish.



Nick Spencer
Director of Policy

As the second Trump administration begins, prioritizing the strength and health of families has become an important policy discussion nationally and also in many state capitols.

There are many considerations that go into creating a pro-family political environment, and policy actions that seek to decrease cost, lower tax burdens, or improve funding mechanisms for important services are not inherently bad ideas. However, these measures, while important, do not represent the most fundamental pro-family class of policies. Rather, if governing authorities want to be pro-family, the most foundational and most effective approach according to research is to be pro-religious liberty.

The theory behind recent efforts to lower taxes and increase spending related to the necessities of raising a child is that making child rearing more affordable will thereby provide greater encouragement for couples to have children. Looking strictly at financial calculations, that seems to be a prudent strategy. After all, adjusted for 2022 rates of inflation, the USDA estimates that a middle-income family of four is expected to pay \$310,605 per child from birth to age 18.

As someone who became a new father within the last two years, let me state that measures to increase the affordability of raising children are important, and this article is not meant to suggest that such measures ought to be tossed out if greater religious liberty protections are put into place. However, as research from organizations like The Institute for Family Studies has clearly shown, social spending alone is not a sufficient remedy to declining birth rates, even within developed countries that have historically been known for strong fertility and social programs.

What does have a measurable positive impact on birth rates, according to IFS, is the influence of religion, with “people ages 18-49 who attend religious services regularly hav[ing] 0.27 more children than those who never, or practically never, attend.” This impact of religion cuts across denominations and traditions, and it exposes something through data that is already intuitively known through reason: issues of family formation and growth are inherently cultural, and even theological, in their foundation. It is this cultural foundation that tax cuts and spending increases are particularly poor at correcting.

As such, if the government seeks to encourage family formation and growth, it also must be willing to look outside of traditional financial mechanisms if it is to have a more substantial impact. The way forward rests in strengthening not primarily a family’s economic wellbeing, but in shoring up religious liberty protections for all citizens.

Here in Kentucky, that means updating our Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passing medical conscience protections for healthcare providers, protecting employees from DEI initiatives that would force them to violate their religious convictions on the inherent equality of all persons, and ensuring business owners are not subject to legal action for refusing to use their creative abilities to support what they deem to be immoral acts. Kentucky needs stronger and larger families, and we can lead the way on this issue. Further, we can do it without the massive budgetary impact of social spending. If the General Assembly takes decisive action on religious liberty this session, greater prosperity for families across the Commonwealth is within our reach.

Help promote biblical values!



David Walls
Executive Director

The 2025 General Assembly is underway and our team is working hard for Kentucky families. With momentum building at the national level under President Trump, we truly have a tremendous opportunity – *and responsibility* – to move Kentucky forward as pro-family leader this year.

By financially partnering with The Family Foundation, you help support strategic efforts to promote biblical values that influence our culture and laws, minister to legislators, encourage the Body of Christ and pastors, and promote policies that protect life, family, and religious liberty!

The cost of producing and mailing the Kentucky Citizen has increased significantly in the last two years. Please give as generously as you are able, so we can continue to multiply our impact!

We need your financial partnership to accomplish all that the Lord has called us to in this “short” legislative session. **Will you make a gift to The Family Foundation to**

help us unleash biblical values across Kentucky? Every gift makes an impact!

**The Kentucky Citizen
is a publication of
The Family Foundation**

The leading Christian public policy organization in Kentucky that stands for Kentucky families and the Biblical values that make them strong.

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church and community!**

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