

SPRING 2015

# FAMILY

north carolina

## Religious Freedom

Protecting Free  
Speech and Free  
Exercise in NC

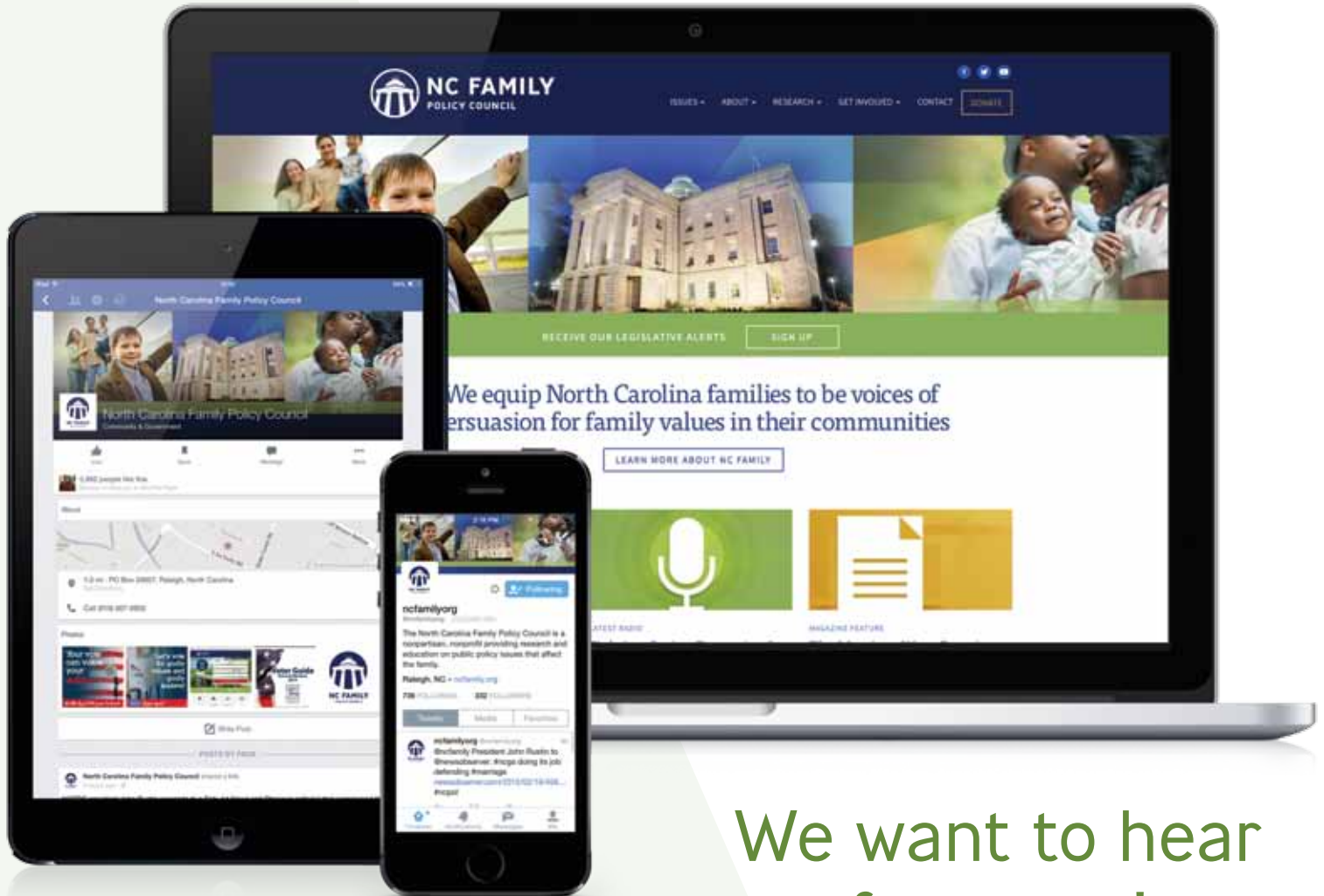
"Medical" Marijuana  
Darkness to Light  
NC Family ACTION

ISBN 0-9785025-1-5





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## Redecorating

For the past month, I've been knee-deep in boxes, bubble wrap, and newspaper, packing up my family's belongings as we moved from a rental to a new house. As grateful as my husband and I are to be homeowners again, moving with two kids in the middle of a school year has been exhausting! Now that most of the boxes are unpacked, we can hopefully start enjoying our new neighborhood.

There are many things I dislike about moving, especially packing up my kids' rooms (who knew our preschooler had over 50 cars!). Still, the organizer in me enjoys the sorting-through process that typically occurs during a move because it provides the opportunity for a major de-clutter. Moving also gives me the chance to "redo" our home's decor. It's amazing how living areas can be improved by the simple rearrangement of furniture or a change of accent items. Of course, the best part of a move is when a new house becomes more than just a different place to live but a home.


As you will see from the Spring issue of *Family North Carolina*, we've done some introspection, "rearranging," and "redecorating" of our own! Over the last year, this magazine has undergone a major design overhaul in an effort to improve *how* we deliver the quality of content our readers have come to expect. The changes include shortening the length of the magazine, tightening article content, reformatting key sections, adding cleaner graphics and new features—and ultimately giving the magazine a fresh and lighter feel!

While our *look* has changed, be assured that the quality of in-depth content inside the magazine remains the same. The Spring issue contains a number of must-read articles, including Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Kellie Fiedorek's Feature on protecting religious liberty, Brittany Farrell's Spotlight on three unique anti-trafficking ministries, and my own article on the perils of marijuana legalization in Colorado.

This issue also includes exciting new content, such as "On the Front Lines," which features a profile of a husband and wife team who are leading a grassroots effort to fight casino gambling in Kings Mountain, NC. You will also learn more about how the NC Family Policy Council and NC Family ACTION are making a difference for families across our state. Our revamped Interview page includes shorter excerpts of recent "Family Policy Matters" radio programs on the issues of life, love, and marriage. And don't miss NC Family president John Rustin's insightful piece on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act legislation currently before the General Assembly.

We hope you enjoy reading the "new" *Family North Carolina*! We are anxious to hear what you think about these changes, so please email your thoughts to [editor@ncfamily.org](mailto:editor@ncfamily.org). We are always seeking to improve, and your feedback is vital to our success.

Equally as important, we rely on you to share the valuable information on the following pages with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Our desire is that the easier-to-read and digest content in the redesigned magazine will better equip our readers to defend traditional family values in the Tar Heel State.

Now, I invite you to turn the page, sit back, relax, and start reading! 

*Alysse ElHage is associate director of research for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is editor of Family North Carolina.*

# FAMILY

north carolina

### Spring 2015

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### Internet

Visit us on the internet at [ncfamily.org](http://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

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**“They were killed simply for the fact that they were Christians.”**

—Pope Francis responding on February 16, 2015, to the news that Islamic State militants had beheaded 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians, whose last words were reportedly, “Jesus, help me!”

**“This debate, at its core, is about one thing ... children.”**

—Katy Faust, who serves on the Academic and Testimonial Councils of the International Children’s Rights Institute, writing in *Public Discourse* in a February 2015 article entitled, “Dear Justice Kennedy: An Open Letter from the Child of a Loving Gay Parent.” Faust urges the U.S. Supreme Court to consider that “redefining marriage promotes a family structure in which children suffer.” The Court is scheduled to rule this summer on the constitutionality of state marriage protection laws.

**“It’s a curse, it’s a curse, believe me it’s a curse.”**

—78 year-old Alex Snelius, who won over \$18 million in the Illinois lottery in 2000, offering some advice to the newest winner of that state’s “Mega Millions” jackpot. Snelius told a local news station that he still plays the lottery but added, “Right now, if I could win the lottery again, I’d probably give it all away.”

**“This isn’t your grandfather’s pot.”**

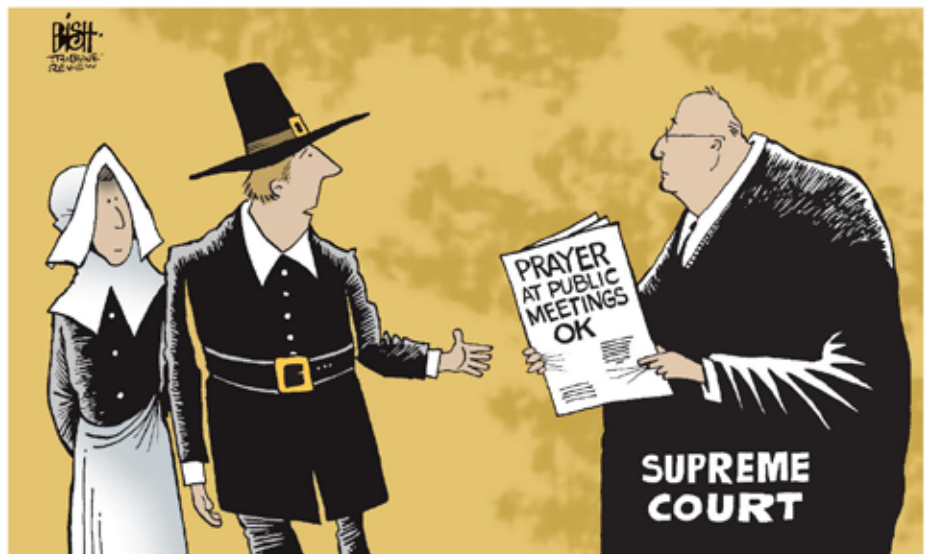
—Former U.S. drug czar William J. Bennett, commenting on the potency of today’s marijuana compared to the marijuana of the late 1960s. Bennett made the comments during a speech at The Heritage Foundation in February 2015, where he discussed his new book, *Going to Pot: Why the Rush to Legalize Marijuana is Harming America*.

**“Battered women’s shelters and graveyards are full of women who had the misfortune to meet a Christian Grey.”**

—Dr. Gail Dines, professor of sociology and women’s studies at Wheelock College in Boston, writing in *Verily* magazine about the movie, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, which was released in theaters nationwide on February 13, 2015. Based on a series of books by the same name, the controversial movie has been condemned by women’s groups and anti-porn advocates for romanticizing domestic violence and pornography.

**Not to speak is to speak.  
Not to act is to act.**

**– Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



**ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO THIS LAND IN SEARCH OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM... THANK YOU**

By: Randy Bish, [www.politicalcartoons.com](http://www.politicalcartoons.com)





At one of Colorado's over 500 licensed "medical" marijuana centers, customers with state-issued patient cards can choose from a variety of pot-infused "edibles," including chocolates, granola bars, lotions, lip balms, lollipops, and cookies. A frequent customer told a local news station he spends between \$600-\$700 a week on marijuana products to treat chronic headaches. While "medical" marijuana has been legal in Colorado for over a decade, under a 2012 ballot initiative that took effect last year, adults can legally purchase marijuana for "recreational" use at one of the state's more than 300 licensed retail "pot shops." According to a February 2015 government report, marijuana retailers in Colorado sold nearly 40,000 pounds of pot in 2014, including over \$2.8 million in edibles, some of which are finding their way into the hands of children.

This February, Alaska joined Colorado, Washington, and Oregon to become the fourth state in the nation to move from allowing "medical" marijuana to legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Despite the objections of the U.S. Congress, a similar law recently went into effect in the District of Columbia. Nationwide, 23 states plus D.C. allow "medical" marijuana.

A string of mostly ballot box victories in nearly half the states has drug legalization advocates feeling somewhat confident that marijuana will be legal nationwide in the near future. In North Carolina, their sights are set on the first step toward normalizing pot in the Tar Heel State—convincing lawmakers to legalize "medical" marijuana, which is the purpose of at least two bills introduced in the 2015 legislative session—House Bill 78 and House Bill 317. Rep. Kelly Alexander (D-Mecklenburg), who is a primary sponsor of both bills, told *The Charlotte Observer* that marijuana legalization in North Carolina is "as inevitable as high tide every morning."

## Bad "Medicine," Wrong Policy Red Flags from Colorado's Marijuana Experiment

written by:  
Alyse ElHage

Before North Carolina buys into the marijuana lobby's PR message that pot is a "harmless" and legitimate "medicine," lawmakers would be wise to consider the impact of legalization in states like Colorado, which was one of the first to legalize the drug for "medical" and recreational use in 2000 and 2012, respectively. As such, Colorado is a literal "testing ground" for marijuana legalization that offers other states a glimpse into the individual and societal impacts of commercializing pot.

### Red Flags

During an October 2014 political debate, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) described his state's rush to legalize marijuana for recreational use as "reckless." On a CNBC talk show, the governor said, "If I could've waved a wand the day after the election (when the ballot measure passed), I would've reversed the election and said, 'This was a bad idea.'"

Hickenlooper's regret is well founded. Colorado's marijuana policies have led to alarming increases in child exposure to marijuana, marijuana-related traffic fatalities, adolescent consumption of the drug, and the trafficking of marijuana to other states.

**Child Exposure.** In Longmont, CO, a two-year-old girl was hospitalized after eating a pot-infused cookie she found in front of her apartment. In Sterling, CO, after a two-year-old boy who died in a house fire tested positive for THC, authorities discovered that his parents—both "medical" marijuana users—had encouraged the toddler and his five year-old brother to smoke pot.

Far from isolated incidents, these examples highlight what Colorado authorities describe as a growing trend of marijuana-related exposures to children in the

state. According to a study by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), "marijuana-related exposures to children ages 0 to 5 on average increased 268 percent from 2006–2009 to 2010–2013." More recently, the Colorado Department of Public Health reports a three-fold increase in hospitalization rates for children with possible marijuana exposure for January to June 2014, compared to 2010–2013.

Many of these children end up at the hospital after ingesting their parents' marijuana-infused edibles that without packaging are impossible to distinguish from regular candy or food. According to Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM), marijuana edibles "often contain 3 to 20 times the THC concentration recommended for intoxication." Marijuana-induced emergency symptoms include severe nausea, vomiting, anxiety, and elevated heart, blood, and respiratory rates.

Colorado is not the only legal marijuana state where more young children are accidentally ingesting pot. A study published in 2014 in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* found "a statistically significant increase in calls to poison control centers for unintentional ingestion of marijuana by children in states that have legalized medical marijuana."

**Impaired Driving.** Road safety advocates are also worried about the impact of marijuana legalization on traffic safety. Other than alcohol, marijuana is the most prevalent drug found in impaired drivers, with short-term effects that include slowed reaction time, impaired motor coordination, and altered decision-making.

According to the HIDTA:

- The percentage of Colorado traffic fatalities where drivers tested positive for marijuana

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## Fast Facts on Marijuana

- The U.S. government classifies marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance because it: 1) has a high potential for abuse; 2) has "no acceptable medical use in treatment in the [U.S.];" and 3) "there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision."
- Today's marijuana is five times stronger than the pot of the 1960s. A 2015 study found that the level of THC in Colorado pot is 18.7 percent, with some retail pot containing 30 percent THC or higher.
- Short term effects of marijuana include: impaired short term memory, slowed reaction time, impaired motor coordination, and altered judgment. Long-term effects include: addiction, poorer educational outcomes and job performance, lower IQ, and risk of psychosis.
- A Duke University study found that "persistent" marijuana use over 20 years is associated with "neuropsychological decline," especially when pot use begins during adolescence.
- Adolescents are at an increased risk for marijuana addiction, which increases from about 1 in 11 (9%) among overall users to 1 in 6 (17%) among teens.
- The top 10 states for teen marijuana use are "medical" marijuana states.

increased from 7.04 percent of total traffic fatalities in 2007 to 16.53 percent in 2012.

- In the first six months of 2014, 77 percent of the 454 DUIDs (Driving Under the Influence of Drugs) documented by the CO State Patrol involved marijuana use, while 42 percent involved marijuana alone.

**Youth Consumption.** In February 2015, nine students at Coal Ridge High School in Colorado were arrested for distributing and consuming marijuana edibles, which they paid a 21 year-old man to purchase from a local dispensary.

Similar to other states that have legalized marijuana, Colorado is also experiencing increased use by adolescents, who obtain pot from their parents, older friends, or Colorado's flourishing black market, and then bring it to school. For example:

- A June 2014 survey of 100 Colorado school resource officers found that "89 percent experienced an increase in student marijuana-related incidents since recreational marijuana was legalized, with 57 percent reporting an average of one incident or more a week."
- In the three years after Colorado commercialized "medical" marijuana,

"there was a 26 percent increase in past-month marijuana use" by 12 to 17 year olds.

- Overall, teen marijuana use in Colorado is 10.7 percent vs. the national average of 7.6 percent.

Concerns about the negative impact of marijuana on adolescent health and development led the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to reaffirm its opposition to marijuana legalization in January 2015. According to the AAP, these harms include: impaired memory/concentration; lower odds of completing high school or college; altered motor control, coordination, and judgment; psychological problems; poor lung health; and a "higher likelihood of drug dependence in adulthood."

**Drug Trafficking.** Experts also warn that a "new" black market is flourishing in Colorado through the illegal diversion of "medical" and recreational pot to other states. Tom Gorman, director of the HIDTA, told the *Denver Post* that, "In a lot of ways, [Colorado's] legal industry has become the black market for other states."

According to the HIDTA, there was a 397 percent increase in "interdiction" seizures of Colorado marijuana headed to 40 other states, including NC, between 2008 and 2013 (from 58 to 288). Postal inspectors seized 493 pounds of pot mailed from Colorado in 2013, compared to over 57 pounds in 2010.

Colorado is facing legal challenges to its recreational marijuana law from at least three neighboring states.


In February 2015, nine former DEA administrators signed an amicus brief

to the U.S. Supreme Court in one lawsuit filed by Oklahoma and Nebraska that seeks to overturn Colorado's marijuana law. In it, they argue the law "has already drained the plaintiff States' resources and imperiled the lives, health, and well-being of their citizens," and that "these injuries will only continue to mount as long as Colorado authorizes the injection of a dangerous substance into the stream of commerce."

## Lessons for NC

It can be tempting to look at the handful of states that have legalized marijuana for recreational use as "extreme examples" that have little to no impact on the rest of the nation. But as Dr. Kevin Sabet, former senior advisor to the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, points out, "The legalization of marijuana is not implemented in a vacuum," but has consequences for "all Americans."

North Carolina will undoubtedly remain a key target for marijuana legalization. But state lawmakers should heed the red flags in Colorado, which followed the marijuana lobby's script of "medical" marijuana first, then full blown legalization, and is now reaping the consequences.

"Every day, we see the acute effects of the policy of legalization," says Christian Thurstone, M.D., attending physician at Denver Health Medical Center. "And kids are paying the price." 

*Alysse ElHage is associate director of research for the North Carolina Family Policy Council. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org).*







# NC FAMILY ACTION

## Get To Know Us A Little Better

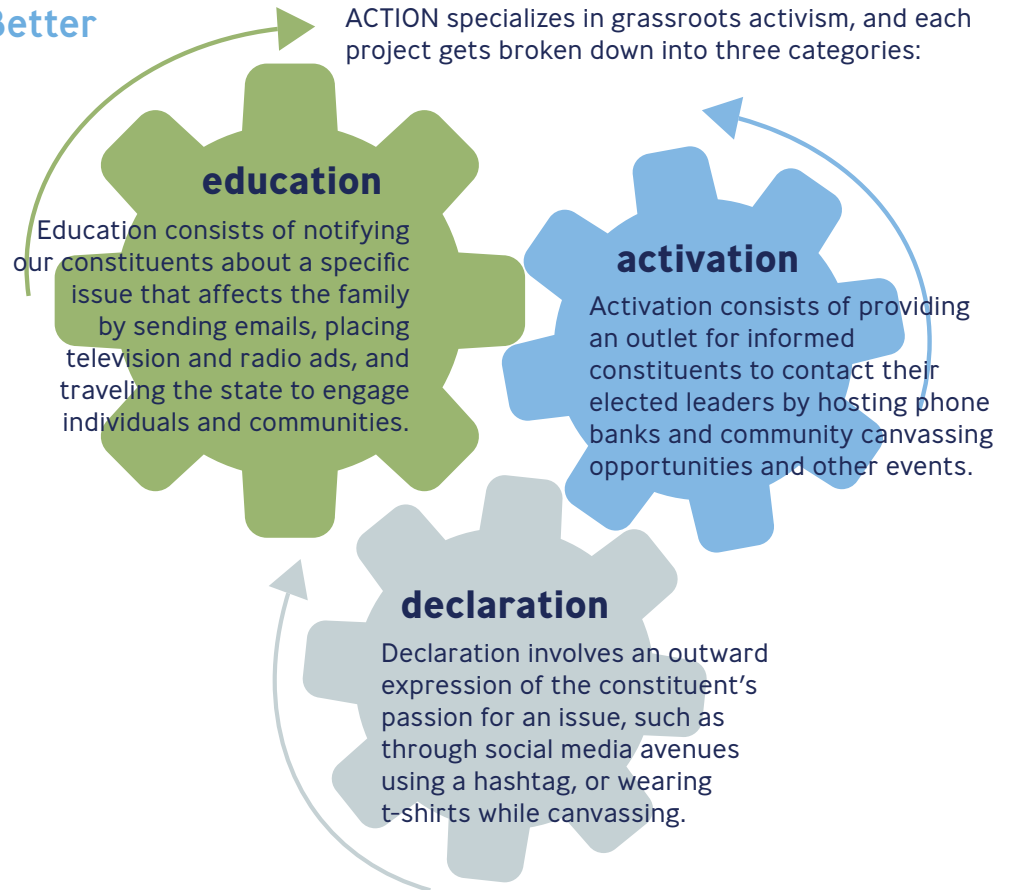
NC Family ACTION (hereafter, “ACTION”) is the sister organization to the NC Family Policy Council and engages in a combination of public policy and targeted political activity. In June 2014, through a grant from our national partner, CitizenLink, ACTION began a two-phase Voter Identification and Get Out The Vote project aimed at identifying and motivating socially conservative voters across the state to act on their civic responsibility to vote.

The first phase consisted of phone calls and door-to-door contacts to survey North Carolinians on a series of four questions about where they stood on Obamacare, marriage, life, and the 2014 U.S. Senate race.

The second phase consisted of contacting like-minded voters identified through the first phase, and urging them to vote their values in the 2014 election. A heavy emphasis was placed on contacting people face-to-face at home, and urging them to not only vote, but also to visit the NC Family Policy Council website to access the Council’s 2014 Voter Guide for information about where the candidates stood on key issues.

ACTION has maintained engagement throughout the 2015 Legislative Session, working to activate and motivate individuals to contact members of the NC General Assembly and encourage them to advance conservative, pro-family legislation, or to oppose legislation that would harm the family.

ACTION specializes in grassroots activism, and each project gets broken down into three categories:



## NC Family ACTION at Work

### Charlotte’s “Non-Discrimination” Ordinance Proposal

In February and March 2015, NC Family ACTION came alongside the NC Family Policy Council to activate over 16,000 Charlotte citizens to call their City Council representatives, and urge them to vote NO on a proposal that would have expanded a number of city ordinances to include special legal protections on the basis of “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” and “gender expression.” Adding these classifications would have allowed men to use women’s bathrooms and women to use men’s bathrooms based on whichever gender they identified with at any particular time, and not their biological sex. Additionally, the proposed ordinance change would have forced Charlotte businesses to comply with the new “non-discrimination” policy. These same types of ordinances have led to legal attacks against florists, bakers, photographers, bed & breakfast operators, and other small business owners across the country that are simply seeking to live out their faith in the workplace, especially as it relates to sexuality and marriage. Through the combined efforts of NC Family ACTION, other pro-family organizations, churches and local citizens, the proposed ordinance change in Charlotte failed by one vote—when the Charlotte City Council defeated the proposal by a vote of 6 to 5 on March 3.



## On Air With ...

Since 1999, the North Carolina Family Policy Council has been producing the 15-minute weekly radio program, "Family Policy Matters," which features interviews with national, state and local experts on a wide range of family policy issues. "Family Policy Matters" airs each week on 20 radio stations across North Carolina and can also be streamed on the NC Family website. Following are select excerpts from a few recent programs, which can be heard in full online at [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org).

### ... Austin Nimocks

**John Rustin:** As one of the leading individuals defending marriage laws across our country, what encouragement would you offer to our listeners who are feeling discouraged by the mounting court challenges and rulings against state marriage protection laws? How important is it that we stay engaged on the issue of marriage?

**Austin Nimocks:** I think as Christians one of the greatest virtues we can have is perspective on what is and what is not happening. If all of our focus is on what's happening in the courts, then we've really taken our eyes off God, and it reminds me of a verse ... out of Isaiah 30, where the Lord says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation in quietness and trust is your strength..." and it goes on to talk about ... when trouble comes, we shouldn't flee from our foes, we should flee to the Lord. We need to trust that God is in control, and that no ruling of the Supreme Court is going to obliterate or destroy marriage. Just like the Supreme Court could not settle the question of abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court will never redefine marriage for our entire country. It can never remove the essence and the truth that moms and dads are important and are necessary in the lives of our children. We just need to rest in that comfort that no matter what the Supreme Court does, it will never be able to suppress the truth, that we serve a God that is greater than the Supreme Court and ultimately the truth will be vindicated... Let's not lose our perspective—let's flee to the Lord, and not from our foes.



Austin Nimocks, Senior Legal Counsel and Director of Legal Advocacy for Marriage and Family at Alliance Defending Freedom, discussed "What's Next in the National Marriage Battle?" on September 6, 2014.

### ... Glenn Stanton

**John Rustin:** Glenn, I think some Christians that have LGBT friends and family members struggle with a little bit of guilt at times when it comes to the marriage issue, and they question whether they can really love their LGBT neighbor and also take a public stand against same-sex marriage. Is it possible to oppose same-sex marriage, for example, and still maintain meaningful relationships with our neighbors who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender?

**Glenn Stanton:** Well, John, [the answer is] absolutely, yes. But the way that this issue has been defined by our opponents creates this understanding that either you accept everything about me, and never resist me in any way, or you have to basically be called a hater. But we can disagree on these fundamental issues, and still be gracious and kind to each other... I think the church needs to demonstrate that, "Yes, [we] can very much disagree with you, but [we] can unconditionally love you in the sense of do anything that [we] need to do for you as a friend." But again that doesn't mean that [we] need to change [our] convictions. What other issue do we have where friendship is predicated on complete agreement on a particular issue? We don't live that way in any other world, and we shouldn't live that way on [the issue of homosexuality or marriage], and it's unfair for the other side to demand that of us, it's unrealistic, and we should point that out.



Glenn Stanton, Director of Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family, discussed his new book, *Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor*, on February 19, 2015.



## ... Rick Santorum



The Honorable Rick Santorum, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania and 2012 presidential candidate, discussed his new book, *Bella's Gift*, on March 12, 2015.

**John Rustin:** Sen. Santorum, tell us about your precious six year-old daughter, Bella, and talk if you would a little bit about what inspired you and your wife Karen to write a book about Bella?

**Rick Santorum:** Well, Bella was a surprise. I mean she was a little girl who was born at the time [when] our youngest was seven years-old, so we had six children at the time, and we were blessed and surprised [to be] expecting another child. And then late in pregnancy, they started to say, "Well, there might be something wrong." And of course, what they always do is they say, "You know you can have an abortion..." And... my response is of course if my daughter was in trouble why would killing her help? And...you just sort of scratch your head, and ask why is it that when children who are 10 years-old have a problem, we do everything we can to save them, but if a little child in the womb does, the immediate thing is, "Well, you can get rid of this child"? And we welcomed Bella into our arms, and she was a little thing just three pounds, and she was in the intensive care unit, and four days afterwards, they came back to us with genetic results that told us... she had a disorder called Trisomy 18, which is "incompatible with life," and they told us to prepare for death. And we did everything we could, huddling around her and praying with her, and she didn't die. She actually was doing very well, so we took her home on Hospice care. We just decided not to wait for her to die, but to celebrate her life and to do whatever we could to welcome her into our family, and appreciate every moment we had with her. And here we are at six and a half years!



John L. Rustin, NC Family President and host of "Family Policy Matters"

### Radio Stations Airing "Family Policy Matters"

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

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

## Defending Religious Liberty

NC Family president John L. Rustin testified before the North Carolina Senate Judiciary 2 Committee on February 24, 2015 in support of Senate Bill 2—Magistrates Recusal of Civil Ceremonies. Rustin told the committee, “This bill balances, in a very appropriate way, the necessity for the issuance of marriage licenses in North Carolina with the need to protect the religious liberties of magistrates and public servants.”



After Senate Bill 2 handily passed the State Senate, Rustin urged the North Carolina House Judiciary 1 Committee to also approve the bill during a March 4, 2015 meeting. The House Judiciary 1 Committee has yet to vote on the bill.



## Setting the Record Straight

On February 18, 2015, NC Family president John L. Rustin responded to a February 14th *News & Observer* editorial that complained about the cost of legislative leaders defending North Carolina’s marriage laws in court. Rustin’s response called out the newspaper’s hypocrisy in pushing our legislative leaders to ignore the will of 61 percent of North Carolinians who voted for the 2012 Marriage Protection Amendment, and reminded readers “about the truth that children are created through the union of their father and mother, and that all of history has shown the best environment for raising children is with their married father and mother.”



## Charlotte Engagement

On March 2, 2015, after four hours of public comment and one hour of committee discussion, the Charlotte City Council defeated a proposal by a 6-5 vote that would have expanded a number of city ordinances to include legal protections on the basis of “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” and “gender expression.” NC Family joined a number of other pro-family organizations, local churches, and individuals in educating Charlotte citizens about the harms that would result from the proposal.



## Up in Smoke

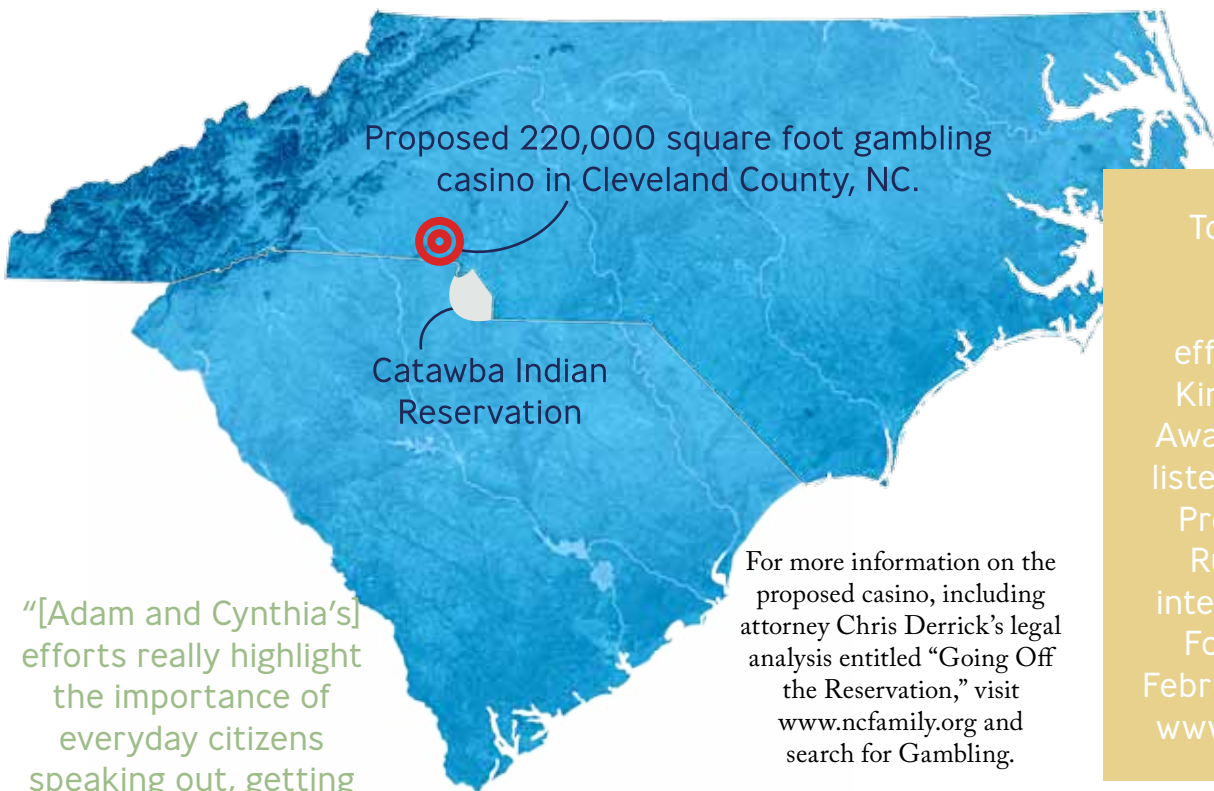
Jere Royall, counsel for NC Family, reminded members of the North Carolina House Judiciary 1 Committee of the dangers of legalizing marijuana even for so-called “medicinal” purposes. During their March 25, 2015 meeting, committee members soundly rejected House Bill 78—Enact Medical Cannabis Act.



## INTRODUCING... Adam and Cynthia Forcade

Kings Mountain Awareness Group  
"Be An Educated Voice"

Adam and Cynthia Forcade are leading the charge against attempts by the South Carolina-based Catawba Indian Nation to expand their gambling pursuits into North Carolina, after being denied requests to build a gambling casino in their home state. Through the Kings Mountain Awareness Group, which the Forcades founded in January 2014, neighbors and representatives are being educated and motivated to stand strong against efforts to bring more Las Vegas-style gambling to the Old North State. The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is currently considering the Catawba Tribe's application to take a 16-plus acre parcel of land into trust on behalf of the Tribe. The Tribe intends to build a 220,000 square foot Las Vegas-style gambling casino along the I-85 corridor outside Kings Mountain, N.C.



"[Adam and Cynthia's] efforts really highlight the importance of everyday citizens speaking out, getting educated, and working to educate others."

– John Rustin  
NC Family President

For more information on the proposed casino, including attorney Chris Derrick's legal analysis entitled "Going Off the Reservation," visit [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org) and search for Gambling.

To learn more about the Forcades' efforts with the Kings Mountain Awareness Group, listen to NC Family President John Rustin's radio interview with the Forcades from February 12, 2015 at [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org).

[www.stopcatawbacasino.com](http://www.stopcatawbacasino.com)

& on Facebook at Kings Mountain Awareness Group

"You as a conservative Christian are not a minority.... What we frequently lack is a voice, and oftentimes a leader willing to get out front and bring our power to bear on local issues. My advice is take a deep breath, jump in, and be the watchman. The Lord will not hold you accountable if people do not listen, only if you don't issue the warning."

– Adam Forcade

"We continue to be amazed at the power a few people can have when they use their voice."  
– Cynthia Forcade





# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM UNDER *fire*

## Why NC Can't Wait to Protect Free Speech and Free Exercise

written by: Kellie M. Fiedorek, Litigation Staff Counsel,  
Alliance Defending Freedom

Freedom of speech, the freedom to believe, and the freedom to act according to those beliefs are principles so hallowed in the American soul that our nation's courtrooms, classrooms, and most corners of the public square have honored and sustained these freedoms for more than 200 years. Any move to censor, subordinate, or erase these basic liberties is tantamount to rewriting the national DNA and should be equally troubling to both political leaders and the voting public.

But in a rather rapid sea change, many state and federal leaders have placed Americans' cherished freedoms on the chopping block. And activists throughout the country—including North Carolina—have made it their sole mission to use the government to restrict and undermine the freedoms and diversity that makes our country great.

On school campuses across North Carolina, for example, school administrators are not only stifling the rights of students to hold certain beliefs, but also the exercise of even their most basic civil liberties in support of those beliefs. **Brianna Cardwell, a student at Randleman High School in central North Carolina**, wore a pro-life shirt to school with the word "abortion" crossed out. She quietly handed out flyers to interested fellow students during non-instructional time as part of her participation in the international Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. An assistant principal confiscated the flyers, ordered her to cover up her shirt, and said Brianna's stance was "offensive and violated the separation of church and state."

In the City of King, North Carolina, public officials told war veterans that they would no longer include the **Christian flag and a statue of a praying soldier** as part of a Veteran's Memorial in their community because atheists were taking offense. And a Buncombe County public library removed a **"God Bless America" sign** from a Constitution Week patriotic display—not because someone actually complained, but because the library feared someone might.

In addition to these examples specific to North Carolina, one need only take a cursory glance at the legal landscape across the country to grasp how important it is for lawmakers to provide clear, common-sense legal standards for navigating the swirling crosswinds of contemporary government culture.

In Olympia, Washington, for example, the state pharmacy board enacted a rule requiring pharmacies to stock and deliver life-ending drugs with no exceptions. Yet, pharmacists can decline to stock *other* drugs for all kinds of business and convenience reasons. And though dozens of pharmacies in the area willingly carry the abortion pills, the State has stood by the rule, **seeking to compel pharmacies like the Stormans family's small grocery store pharmacy, and their pro-life pharmacists**, to provide drugs and devices in conflict with their religious convictions that all human life deserves protection.

## Barronelle Stutzman



Barronelle Stutzman, a 70 year-old florist in Washington State, who is under fire for referring her friend to another florist to design flowers for his same-sex wedding ceremony because participating in the event would violate her religious beliefs about marriage as only the union of one man and one woman.

## The Hahn family



The Hahn family, Mennonite owners of Conestoga Wood Specialties in Pennsylvania, who, along with the owners of Hobby Lobby Stores, won a major religious freedom victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2014. The high court ruled that the federal government could not force the family-owned companies to include abortion pills in their employees' insurance plans.

Washington State government officials have forgotten that tolerance is a two-way street. In Richland, Washington, **Barronelle Stutzman finds her 40-year career as a floral artist endangered** because she referred a long-time friend and customer to another florist for floral design and support for his same-sex ceremony. To Barronelle's astonishment, the Washington State Attorney General turned her decision into a *cause célèbre* and began traveling the state to publicly denounce her, while invoking the full power of his office to punish her. And it wasn't as if the Attorney General needed to help secure flowers for the couple—Barronelle referred them to other capable florists, and they easily found what they needed, including offers for free flowers. Rather, the Attorney General and the ACLU are going out of their way to exile and force a loving 70-year-old grandmother to possibly lose her home and life savings simply for acting on her belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

According to Stutzman: "America would be a better place if citizens respected each others' differences and the government still protected the freedom to have those differences." She continued,

Instead, the government is coming after me and everything I have just because my beliefs are different from the government's. I just want the freedom to live and work faithfully, and to believe what God says about marriage without fear of punishment, just as others have the freedom to believe and say what they want to about marriage.

An improper understanding of religious freedom can even lead to death. In 2012, a woman died in Kansas because its laws

failed to protect citizens' freedom to live according to their faith. **Mary Stinemetz needed a liver transplant**, but because she was a Jehovah's Witness, the surgery had to be done without blood transfusions. Although a bloodless liver transplant was available in Omaha, Nebraska (which incidentally cost less than the transplant with blood transfusions in Kansas), Kansas Medicaid prohibited out-of-state medical treatment except for medical necessity, and the State said that Mary's religious beliefs did not create a medical necessity sufficient to make an exception. If religious freedom was fully protected in Kansas, Mary Stinemetz might be alive today.

In New York City, government encroachment on the freedom to believe and to act according to religious beliefs is best represented by a 20-year-old legal struggle involving the **Bronx Household of Faith**. The small, inner-city congregation has been meeting quietly for decades in a rented public school room—something permitted everywhere in the U.S., except New York City. Still, the city's Board of Education is attempting to deny the church the same equal access to its public facilities that is afforded to any other group or organization. If New York had the proper law in place, fair balance could have already been achieved between the inner-city congregation's ability to exercise its beliefs and the city's interests.

Meanwhile, in Kentucky, officers ticketed and fined **several Amish men, who were driving horse-drawn buggies on the roads**, for not having orange fluorescent triangles on their buggies. Kentucky law makes it a misdemeanor for failure to place one of these badges on a slow-moving vehicle, but the

Amish regard the orange triangles as too flamboyant. The Amish, represented by the ACLU, challenged the law, arguing that the sign requirement violated their rights to free exercise of religion. Notably, the legal standard that the ACLU asked the Kentucky Supreme Court to apply is the same legal standard that North Carolina is seeking. Reasonable alternatives existed to solve the conflict in Kentucky, but without the right law in place, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled against the Amish.

### Federal Religious Freedom Protections

Some of the intrusions on religious freedom stem from genuine ignorance of state and federal laws and of the U.S. Constitution; others represent aggressive efforts to restrict and even silence unwanted voices in the public square. Still others reflect the government's failure to respect and protect Americans' fundamental freedoms. Regardless of the reason, the legal cause of good people seeking to live according to their convictions underscores the vital need for legislation that affirms religious freedom, and restores a sensible balance that celebrates the true diversity of America.

Congress, recognizing these values, enacted the Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (commonly referred to as "RFRA") in 1993. This federal law provides courts with a proven, effective balancing tool to ensure that federal government action does not unreasonably impinge individuals' freedom to follow their faith or convictions. It was enacted nearly unanimously by Congress, signed into law by President Bill Clinton, and supported at

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Over the past two decades, 21 states have passed their own laws to ensure that religious freedom is protected within their borders.

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the time by those on all sides of the ideological and political spectrum, including the ACLU.

Under the guidance of that law, just this year, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court protected the **right of an incarcerated Muslim to wear a half-inch beard** that posed no risk to prison security. The Court found that if beards were permitted for other reasons, they should also be permitted for religious reasons.

Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court also affirmed **the conscience freedoms of the Hahn family**, Mennonite owners of a Pennsylvania wood furnishings

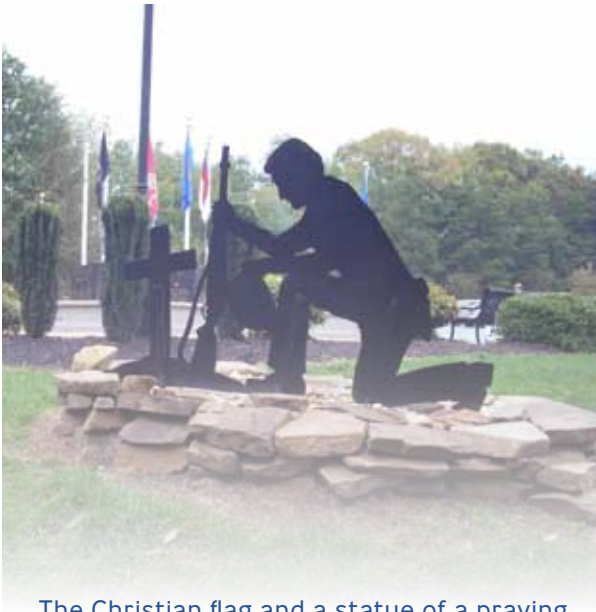
manufacturing company. The High Court ruled that the Hahns and the owners of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., could not be forced by the federal government to pay for abortion pills in their employees' insurance plan.

"It was soul-wrenching," said Anthony Hahn, president and CEO of Conestoga Wood Specialties, who pointed out: "We're pacifists. We're not in the legal world, doing a lot of lawsuits and things. But we felt we needed to. We just did not want to go against what we believe [about the sanctity of human life]."





## King, North Carolina



The Christian flag and a statue of a praying soldier were once featured at the Veterans' Memorial in King, North Carolina, but were removed by city officials in January 2014, following a four-year legal battle that began with a complaint from a local atheist.

## Bronx Household of Faith



Members of the Bronx Household of Faith, a small, inner-city church that is engaged in an ongoing legal battle with New York City's Board of Education over its refusal to allow the church to rent one of the City's empty public school rooms for weekend worship services, even though the City allows other community groups and organizations to meet for virtually any purpose.

Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the federal government could still advance its professed interests without forcing the Hahns and their family-owned business to violate their beliefs that all life is sacred and deserving of protection.

## State Religious Freedom Laws

The Federal RFRA, however, only applies to federal laws and federal government actions that burden citizens' fundamental freedoms. Thus, over the past two decades, 21 states have passed their own laws to ensure that religious freedom is protected within their borders. One of those states, Kansas, enacted its law the year after Mary Stinemetz passed away.

An example of the importance and success of these state laws took place in Pennsylvania, where the city of Philadelphia permitted outdoor *sales* of food in a park, but prohibited a group of churches from distributing *free* food in the park to the needy. The churches ultimately won their case—brought under Pennsylvania's religious freedom law—because the court recognized that there was no legitimate reason to keep the churches from feeding the hungry.

Because North Carolina has not yet added these protections to its laws, North Carolinians' freedoms remain vulnerable to any state and local government action that seeks to thwart maintaining a sensible balance between citizens' constitutionally protected freedoms and compelling governmental interests. While religious freedom is mentioned in North Carolina's Constitution, any state agency or local government could urge the state courts to read a lower standard of protection into the State Constitution. Religious freedom legislation

is therefore necessary to clarify and protect the standard by which religious freedom is protected in North Carolina.

Notably, a glance at our country's history reveals many instances where religious and moral beliefs have been pitted against significant governmental interests. For example, there arguably is no greater role for our government than national security. Yet, even when military service was involuntary, we still made room for conscientious objectors who did not want to carry weapons. Educating our children is important to a healthy and thriving American society, but because education is not a one-size-fits-all proposition, we permit academic freedom for parents who want to educate their children at home or in non-public schools.

Whatever the issue, our country traditionally has attempted to protect everyone's freedom and find room for all to live according to their beliefs. But currently in North Carolina, the scales are tipping away from freedom and toward government overreach and coercion. Legislation is necessary to restore the scales of justice to equilibrium so that the government does not unconstitutionally prohibit North Carolinians from living according to their religious beliefs. 🙏

*Kellie M. Fiedorek is litigation staff counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, which has provided legal counsel on religious freedom and conscience protection laws to federal and state legislators nationwide. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org).*

## Waiting for the First Time

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, "Virgin Territory: What Young Adults Say About Sex, Love, Relationships, and The First Time." June 2014.

53%  of high school students have not had sex.

 86% of young adults say it is important for teens to know "it's okay to be a virgin when you graduate from high school."

66%  of young adults think it would help teens wait longer if they knew less than half of their peers were sexually active.

 69% of young adults say it is "acceptable for someone their age to be a virgin."

## Marriage Redefinition



81% of Americans believe "Government should leave people free to follow their beliefs about marriage."

61% of Americans believe "the Supreme Court shouldn't force all 50 states to redefine marriage."

53% of Americans believe "marriage should be defined as ONLY the union of one man and one woman."

Family Research Council, "61% Oppose Supreme Court Forcing Marriage Redefinition on All 50 States." 24 February 2015.

## Fewer Services, More Death

Susan B. Anthony List, "Planned Parenthood Annual Report: Fresh Evidence of Abortion-Centered, Profit Driven Business Model." 31 December 2013.

**988,783**

In 3 years (2011-2013), Planned Parenthood performed almost one million (988,783) abortions. That breaks down to 333,964 in 2011, 327,166 in 2012, and 327,653 in 2013.



In 2013, abortions constituted 94% of Planned Parenthood pregnancy services. Prenatal care accounted for only 5%, and adoption referral services accounted for a scant 0.5% of services.

**174**

For every adoption referral, Planned Parenthood performed 174 abortions.

## Darkness to Light NC Ministries Serve Trafficking Victims

written by:  
Brittany Farrell



“It’s really a dark issue.”

“It’s just a hard, hard, life.”

Since state lawmakers enacted major legislation aimed at curbing the prevalence of human sex trafficking in North Carolina, a growing number of individuals and groups have stepped up to start, assist, and grow ministries to help and support victims of the modern slave trade. Although such ministries existed prior to the 2013 Safe Harbor/Victims of Human Trafficking law, leaders like Emily Fitchpatrick of On Eagles Wings credit the legislation with heightening awareness of the problem in North Carolina. She has seen “more people stepping up and helping and getting trained,” as well as more survivors getting much-needed services, and more overlooked victims being identified.

While numerous ministries reach out to trafficking survivors in North Carolina, this article profiles three ministries that represent unique services and support that human trafficking survivors desperately need to leave the darkness of the sex trade, and to find healing and hope.

### On Eagles Wings

Emily Fitchpatrick is leading a multi-faceted ministry to assist victims of human trafficking, as well as to engage the community and youth. On Eagles Wings Ministries (OEWWM) works in the Charlotte area to “restore females that have been sexually exploited through the commercial sex industry with emphasis on prevention, outreach, empowerment, and aftercare.” OEWWM interacts with about 50 female survivors of trafficking each year through three local ministries—Hope House, Fields of Hope, and Youth 4 Abolition. The variety of ministries allows OEWWM “to take a more holistic approach to addressing the issue,” according to founder



and executive director Fitchpatrick. She founded OEWM in 2008 in response to what she describes as a “kind of apathy for our girls here ... in our own backyard.” Fitchpatrick wants every woman in the sex industry “to know they have value, ... [that] people believe in them,” and to receive the “nurturing and empowerment to really move forward with goals.”

Before healing can really begin, survivors’ immediate needs must be met. Hope House provides a “residential care program for domestic minor victims of sex trafficking.” Housing up to six girls ages 12-21 for about a one year program, the group home offers “a holistic, trauma-informed model of care,” where the girls receive schooling, therapy, mentoring, healthcare, life skills training, and more. To empower these women, Fields of Hope aims to help survivors find and keep steady employment. This year-long professional development and leadership paid internship program for sex trade survivors teaches women to make handmade products to sell. Prevention is also vital, which is why OEWM introduced Youth 4 Abolition. Members of the chapters “go through a 12 lesson human trafficking educational curriculum and participate in educating their peers on the issue,” all with the goal of preventing more young people from falling prey to traffickers.

### Restore One

Anna and Chris Smith, a young married couple in eastern North Carolina, are undertaking the first known efforts in the nation to provide a safe haven for male youth who have been sexually trafficked. Male victims are often over-looked or treated as a mere addendum when it comes to

outreach and legislation aimed at helping victims of sex trafficking. “We are coming up against the general belief that men and boys should be able to toughen up and don’t need the same services as women,” says Anna. A 2008 Canadian report entitled “Under the Radar” found that boys who had been sexually trafficked overwhelmingly requested some sort of housing assistance. In

death situation and trying to survive.” Anna says that “at any point, [traumatic memories] can be triggered” for sex trafficking survivors. The enduring nature of their wounds is why she says it is so important “to provide restorative care that allows them a safe space to be able to walk through these memories, and to find healing.” According to Anna, that is the ultimate hope of Anchor House—that these survivors “won’t live in

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## Before healing can really begin, survivors’ immediate needs must be met.

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response, the Smiths founded Restore One in 2012 and began planning Anchor House Home.

Currently in the building phase, the home will offer a yearlong four-tiered HOPE program for about a dozen boys ages 12-18 that is “designed to meet the psychological, physical, and sociological needs of sex trafficked and sexually exploited boys.” The program will use “holistic approaches and proven clinical methods that nurture healing and restoration,” including the chance to complete school, group and individual therapy sessions, mentoring, restorative care, alternative therapies like yoga and therapy animals, and job skills training.

Anna, who has a background in social work, said many survivors of human trafficking suffer from severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). “They’re out of the life,” she says, “but their brain doesn’t let them think they are [free] because they were constantly underneath a life or

depression the rest of their lives.... They’ll be able to start forming new relationships and healthy relationships because we believe that God allows the brain to heal.”

### JusticeMatters

The international nature of some human trafficking operations means many victims must battle through immigration laws in addition to emotional, psychological, and physical wounds. JusticeMatters is a non-profit Christian organization that provides “legal services to the vulnerable and marginalized in North Carolina, specializing in helping immigrants and survivors of human trafficking rebuild their lives.” While the group assists survivors who are trafficked for a host of reasons through varied means, many of their clients are victims who have been lured or coerced to enter the country, often through fraudulent means. JusticeMatters executive director Libby Magee Coles points out that their clients who have survived

## On Eagles Wings

[www.oneagleswingsministries.org](http://www.oneagleswingsministries.org)



## Anchor House

[www.restoreonelife.org](http://www.restoreonelife.org)



## Justice Matters

[www.justicemattersnc.org](http://www.justicemattersnc.org)



sex trafficking are “from all over the world,” with a majority from Central and South America.

The legal path for foreign national victims of human trafficking to fully escape their servitude and find safety and healing can be long and complicated. The federal government has established a temporary Visa program specifically for trafficking survivors. Coles points out that part of the purpose of this Visa program “is to support survivors who bravely choose to come forward and assist in the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers.” Communities are safer because of the valuable information survivors provide to law enforcement agencies.

Eventually, victims who qualify for one of these special Visas may be able to apply for permanent residency and citizenship. JusticeMatters helps trafficking victims navigate the immigration processes, determining which legal remedies are most appropriate for each individual survivor. According to Coles, “The time it takes to obtain a Visa depends a great deal on where the client is in their healing process,” and can take anywhere from a matter of months to two years, depending on the specific client and situation. These immigration services are coupled with efforts to empower survivors to rebuild and reengage by reuniting with their families and going back to school and work. JusticeMatters helps survivors seek justice in a way that helps them progress on their path to healing and restoration.

## Preventing the Unthinkable

The consensus among these ministry leaders is that human trafficking “really could affect

anyone,” and is already “happening right here.” The pervasive nature of trafficking means that parents and communities must be vigilant, especially when it comes to at-risk youth populations. Fitchpatrick and Smith, who both work primarily with domestic minors who have been trafficked, agree that the key to prevention is “Parents. Parents. Parents.” Because of the naïveté of youth who are targeted for trafficking, Fitchpatrick says, “Parents need to wake up ... and be aware of who their children are talking to on social media [where pimps recruit].” Coles believes that the biggest difference would be made “if we took all the gifts God has given us and invested them in our communities in ways that don’t seem particularly exciting or glamorous,” like “mentoring kids from broken homes, tutoring, adopting, taking in foster kids, and truly binding up the brokenness in the world, loving the vulnerable in our midst.” Smith points out that, “When the kids feel healthy and supported, they’re not generally going to be at risk to be trafficked.”

Certainly, the staff and volunteers at On Eagles Wings, Restore One, and JusticeMatters represent hundreds, if not thousands, of North Carolinians who are heeding Coles’ call “to love our neighbors in word and deed,” by reaching out and helping trauma survivors among us to their feet as they build a new life in the light and out of the ashes of slavery’s darkness. 🏠

*Brittany Farrell is assistant director of policy for the North Carolina Family Policy Council. For a footnoted version of this article, please visit [www.ncfamily.org](http://www.ncfamily.org).*

## The TRUTH about RFRA

Dear Friends,

As citizens of the United States of America, we are tremendously blessed to live in the freest nation on earth. At its most fundamental roots, our country was founded on the principle of religious liberty. Our forefathers came to the shores of this land in order to escape religious persecution and the dictates of the Crown of England that forced subjects of the government to abide by a specific set of religious beliefs and practices.

Accordingly, the First Amendment to our nation's founding document, the U.S. Constitution, states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Moreover, Article 1, Section 13 of the North Carolina Constitution reads, "All persons have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience."

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (introduced in the North Carolina Senate as SB 550 and in the North Carolina House as HB 348) would codify, or place into our state statutes, an acknowledgement of this fundamental right to religious liberty. It would also establish a uniform method of resolving disputes when an individual believes the government, through a state law, local ordinance, or rule, has infringed upon their religious liberty.

RFRA simply provides an avenue for these disputes to be resolved in a court of law. Ultimately, the court will balance the religious liberty claims of the individual against the "compelling interest" of the state in enacting the law, ordinance or rule, and then make a determination. RFRA does not guarantee the outcome; it simply provides a fair and balanced method for determining an outcome when an individual believes "a human authority" (i.e. the government) has interfered with his or her "rights of conscience."

RFRA applies equally to all citizens of all faiths. It does not choose favorites; it does not pick winners and losers; and it absolutely does not "legalize discrimination" as opponents have ranted. RFRA is entirely impartial, because the courts ultimately determine whether a compelling state interest supersedes a religious liberty claim or vice versa.

If our nation is to remain the freest country on the planet, we must continue to respect, protect and defend each individual's "inalienable

right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of his or her own consciences," and RFRA is designed to do just that.

If we fail in this most foundational endeavor, religious oppression and persecution will become the norm, and our nation will no longer be a beacon of truth and liberty in the world. At some point, our descendants may be forced to flee America's shores in search of a land where they can freely celebrate their religious beliefs and live out their faith day-to-day.

As you ponder this, please consider how fortunate we are to live in a country that still regards religious liberty as an inalienable right of every citizen, and commit to work and pray for the continuance of this most cherished blessing for the sake of our nation! 🙏

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







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