

# The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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## With the budget left undone from the 2010 Session, the Governor plans Special Session

*It's all about spending: The Governor has backed off expanded gambling, but Stumbo wants projects and Williams wants savings.*

*[Editor's note: At press time, Gov. Beshear had just announced that he had scheduled the Special Session to begin on Monday, May 24.]*

Anyone who has ever played the child's game of "hot potato" will have some idea of how Kentucky's political leaders view the process of coming up with a budget in these economic hard times. The budget problem itself is fairly simple: State government has become too big and, particularly at a time of economic crisis, there is not enough money to run it. That means someone is going to have to take the courage to take responsibility of cutting back government. But who?

The figure normally responsible for doing this would be the governor. But in Kentucky's case, he was the first one to toss the hot potato. Gov. Steve Beshear made no attempt to confer with elected lawmakers in the state's General Assembly when he threw a budget together that was premised on a policy that legislative leaders in both the House and the Senate had already rejected as a possibility going into the session earlier this year – slot machines at horse tracks.

The Governor's action simply shifted the responsibility of making hard decisions to the General Assembly, which declared that any budget that assumed slot machine revenue was "dead on arrival." When it got to the House, the first stop for any budget, House Speaker Greg Stumbo cordially declared that he hoped the Governor's proposal would be successful. "I wish him well," said the House leader, which really meant that he knew the Governor's plan was headed for the legislative scrap heap.

And sure enough, only a few days later, Stumbo and

### Three men in conflict



**Gov. Beshear, Speaker Stumbo & President Williams**

***Going into the 2010 Regular Session, Gov. Beshear placed gambling into the budget, Speaker Stumbo wanted project spending and Senate President Williams wanted a conservative, balanced budget.***

other House leaders wrote their own budget. The House budget, instead of relying on an illusory stream of revenue from expanded gambling, proposed to borrow about a billion dollars to fund school building projects. But sitting at the other end of the Capitol building was David Williams, the President of the Senate and a long-time

opponent of expanded gambling. Not surprisingly, Williams and the GOP-controlled Senate were not supportive of expanded gambling and they were not too wild about spending money the state did not have, leading the House and the Senate to end the session at odds over the budget. "Just like many of Kentucky's families, right now we can't spend the money we'd like to," said Senate President Pro Tem Katie Stine (R-Southgate).

But as soon as the session ended in a stalemate, the political blame game began. As with all such political stalemates, the good guys get as much blame as the bad, said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation. "These stalemates are used by the media to even up the score. Even though one side stands for fiscal responsibility, they're made to look as much like villains as the real culprits."

*Continued on page 2 – "Budget"*

## Charter Schools for KY? Some say "Yes."

*Schools that serve parents . . . That sounds refreshing!*

When the Kentucky General Assembly failed to pass charter school legislation earlier this year, it cost the state over \$100 million in federal grants, a

*Continued on page 2 – "Charter Schools"*

# Charter schools for Kentucky?

*continued from page 1*

fact that has caused many lawmakers to reconsider their opposition to the idea of charter schools. Even Gov. Steve Beshear is reconsidering the issue and rethinking his own opposition to charter schools. He may even place it on the call for the special session, which would allow state lawmakers to fix their error.

Charter schools are schools chartered by parents and other private citizens that are funded by public money, but that would be free of many of the burdensome regulations placed on other public schools. Earlier this year, the State Senate passed a charter school bill (or at least a bill that had a charter school provision in it), but the bill died in the House of Representatives as they were wrapping up their work.

Only two states received “Race to the Top” grants in the first round of federal grant awards, Delaware and Tennessee. Delaware’s score was 454.6 and Tennessee’s was 444.2. Delaware received \$500 million and Tennessee received \$100 million. Kentucky’s score was 418.8. Had it not given up the 32.6 points by refusing to pass charter legislation, its score would have been 451.4, second only to Delaware’s score.

Opposition to charters schools is being led by the state’s teachers’ unions. “What we have,” said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation, “is an education cartel that is opposed to any kind of educational progress that may threaten the political power of the teachers’ unions.”

One of the talking points of the teachers’ unions is that charter schools are new and experimental and that the whole issue needs more study. Cothran says that many legislators have repeated this argument because it is what teachers’ union lobbyists tell them. “There are lawmakers who will say, ‘We just haven’t had an adequate amount of time to study this issue,’” said Cothran, “but whose fault is that? I don’t know where these lawmakers have been for the last few years. The issue of charter schools has been on the nation’s educational agenda for plenty of time for everyone to have seriously thought about it. I’ve heard this from members of the education committees in the General Assembly. If you are an elected lawmaker responsible for education policy in this state and you don’t know about charter schools, then you need to find another line of work.”



Cothran pointed out that Kentucky is now one of only ten states that does not have charter school legislation. “The teachers’ unions seem intent on keeping Kentucky from moving into the future on education.”

“To miss this opportunity to implement charter schools would not only cost the state tens of millions of dollars but would be a loss for parents and local teachers and win for state educators and teachers’ union bosses who are to the left of the Obama administration on this issue. Charter schools are supported across the political spectrum – from Newt Gingrich to the Democratic presidential administration.”

## Budget

*continued from page 1*

Cothran said that the real blame needed to be placed on House leaders who pushed a budget that would have the state spending money it did not have. “The House plan needs to be called the ‘drunken sailor’ approach to the state budget,” said Cothran. “All it does is put a billion dollars on the state’s credit card, which places a future burden on Kentucky families they should not have to bear.”

Not only does the House want to spend (and therefore borrow) more, the Governor plans on “restructuring” state debt that comes due in June, which, according to Cothran, will simply extend existing debt further into the future. “The Governor wants to use cash the state had intended to use to pay off loans coming due this summer to avoid making hard financial decisions, said Cothran. “Financially speaking, that amounts to more borrowing.” The session is being held in May because of general fund and road fund debt that will be coming due in July and August.

“Almost everyone is for the Senate plan,” said Andy Hightower, executive director of the Kentucky Club for Growth. “It shouldn’t be difficult to reach a compromise. I can’t believe Greg Stumbo would shut down government in order to spend money on projects.” Hightower called the House plan the “Kentucky Stimulus.” “It is nothing more than the Kentucky version of Obama’s stimulus plan and it will fail just like the federal stimulus failed.”

Cothran said The Family Foundation also supports what he called the State Senate’s “stalwart position” against more spending and against more debt. “I don’t have anything personally against drunken sailors,” said Cothran. “I just don’t think they should be in charge of the public’s purse strings.”

# The Family Foundation files *amicus* brief

*The American Atheists group is trying to dictate the language that the Kentucky Homeland Security Department uses.*

Most people do not know that there are over 30 references to God in Kentucky law. But when the New Jersey-based group “American Atheists” learned that Kentucky’s Homeland Security Department mentions that God is the ultimate guarantor of our safety, they filed suit. State Rep. Tom Riner (D-Louisville), who added the God-honoring language to legislation in 2006, has tried to put the message in context saying, “This is simply recognition that government alone cannot guarantee the perfect safety of the people of Kentucky.”

In 2009, Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate struck down the law and likened the reference depending on God for protection to establishing a religion. The ruling is now being appealed. Supporters of the verbiage

cite for their position the preamble to the Kentucky Constitution which says “We, the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy, and invoking the continuance of these blessings, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”

On May 10, The Family Foundation filed a friend of the court brief in support of the reference. “We just believe that Kentuckians don’t want to be pushed around by politically correct purists who want to create government in

their own image,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Foundation. “Our Founding Fathers had no problem depending on God and saying that they depend on God in their governmental documents.”

**“Our Founding Fathers had no problem depending on God and saying that they depend on God in their governmental documents.”**

– Kent Ostrander  
The Family Foundation

At issue is the General Assembly’s stated findings in the statute, one of which says, “The safety and security of the Commonwealth cannot be achieved apart from reliance upon Almighty God as set forth

in the public speeches and proclamations of American Presidents, including Abraham Lincoln . . .”

# Louisville abortion clinic caught on video recording blatantly breaking the law

*The clinics need to be scrutinized more closely because the abortion industry is, and always has been, deceptive.*

When two pro-life activists went undercover to expose the cover-up of child sexual abuse at a Louisville abortion clinic, it created an earthquake in Kentucky's abortion world and the aftershocks are expected to be felt for some time. On April 21, Live Action, a student-led pro-life group based in San Jose, CA released a video of an abortion counselor at EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville circumventing Kentucky's parental consent law and ignoring the sexual abuse of a child.

The video was secretly recorded by Live Action President Lila Rose who posed as a 14-year-old impregnated by her 31-year-old "boyfriend." Even though Rose gave no indication she had abusive parents, the counselor told her how

to get an abortion without her parent's knowledge. The counselor also arranged for Rose to talk with an attorney to get a judicial bypass necessary for her to get an abortion.

In real life, Rose is a 21-year-old history major at UCLA who wants to stop the exploitation of women and see existing law upheld. According to Kentucky law, sexual intercourse between a girl under age 16 and a man 21 or older is considered third degree rape (KRS 510.060). The law also requires anybody who reasonably suspects sexual abuse of a minor to report it. (See sidebar)

This latest revelation of abuse in the abortion industry is one

of many documented across the country by Live Action. "In abortion clinics across the country, our undercover videos document the widespread cover up of sexual abuse," Rose said. "Abortion clinics like EMW in Louisville attempt to fast track underage abortions on vulnerable girls, shut out parents, and blatantly ignore their legal obligation to report the sex predator to police."

EMW director Anne Ahola was outraged when she learned the video went public and told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* "it is amazing how somebody can ... twist something around like that." Ahola called Live Action's tactics "horrible."

But Mike Janocik, assistant director of Kentucky Right to Life disagrees. "What has been going on inside that abortion clinic has been horrible all along," Janocik said. "It is not about caring for women who need help. It is about money. These people have opposed any regulation of their industry, opposed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act,

and opposed ultrasound legislation. It appears to me that EMW is not in a position to criticize.

They just don't want the truth to come out."

Truth in the abortion industry has been in short supply

according to pro-life advocates. They point to the transcript of the video which has the abortion clinic counselor lying to Rose about fetal development. They are also critical regarding the larger pro-life battle over ultrasound legislation that House Leadership has killed the past four years. The bill

requires abortionists to make available the ultrasound of the unborn child to the mother if she wants to see it.

Rose, who will

graduate from UCLA this spring, calls abortion "the biggest human rights abuse that our country is facing." In a press release she urged Kentucky officials to follow the example of the Alabama Health Department. In February, that state health department placed a Birmingham abortion clinic on probation after finding nine legal violations in their own investigation.

"State authorities need to investigate this Louisville abortion clinic and hold them accountable to the law," Rose said. "Until

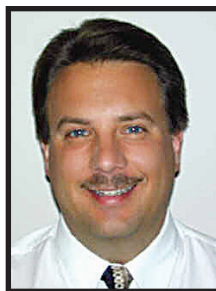
**"Abortion clinics like EMW in Louisville attempt to fast track underage abortions on vulnerable girls, shut out parents, and blatantly ignore their legal obligation . . ."**

– Lila Rose  
President of Live Action



**"What has been going on inside that abortion clinic has been horrible all along. It is not about caring for women who need help. It is about money."**

– Mike Janocik  
Kentucky Right to Life



## KRS 620.030

**Any person who knows or has *reasonable cause* to believe that a child is dependent, neglected or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police; the cabinet or its designated representative; the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise."**

*(emphasis added)*

## Partial transcript – recorded on June 23, 2008

*After being told the fee is \$1075, Lila says, "Oh my God"*

**EMW:** "There is an organization, in Washington, called the National Abortion Federation and they can help you pay for it."

*Then Rose is asked how old she is, she says "14."*

**EMW:** "OK, you have to have a parent with you. The only way that you can get away without having a parent with you, is, there is an attorney here in town. Her name is M\_\_\_A\_\_\_. And she would take you in front of a judge. For you to obtain a judicial bypass."

**Rose:** "Would they need to know about my boyfriend though?"

**EMW:** "Who?"

**Rose:** "The judge."

**EMW:** "Probably. Why, is he over . . . is he not a minor?"

**Rose:** "Yeah, he's a little bit older."

**EMW:** "You know, and I don't know honey." *Counselor then calls attorney who tells them they think it's not going to "be a big deal to get the judicial bypass."*

**Rose:** "How often does this happen?"

**EMW:** "You know we do a lot of surgeries every day. So, um, and we have lots of minors in here so."

**Rose:** "I'm 14, he's 31."

**EMW:** "We have minors in here all the time."

To view the video, go to: <http://liveaction.org/blog/tape-of-clinic-failing-to-report-sex-abuse-sent-to-Kentucky-authorities/>

# Letcher is one step closer to becoming the 117<sup>th</sup> Kentucky county to enact SOB regs

*With there being a total of 120 Kentucky counties, operators of sex businesses can no longer do “whatever they want to do.”*

Letcher County may be tucked away in the remote reaches of Southeastern Kentucky, but church and government

leaders realized their small mountain community was not immune from the negative effects of sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) until restrictions were passed. That all changed on

April 19 when the Letcher County Fiscal Court took action and voted unanimously to pass the first reading of an ordinance to restrict SOBs.

At that meeting, Letcher County Judge/Executive Jim Ward was curious about the larger-than-usual turnout and asked the dozen or so pastors in the gallery to stand. “Now we know how to get the pastors to turn out,” Ward said. Community support made the differ-

ence in this issue according to Richard Nelson, policy analyst for The Family Foundation. “It was the pastors who shared their reasonable concerns with local leaders and it was to them that the leaders responded,” Nelson said.

Frank Holbrook, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Whitesburg,

was one of the ministers in attendance. “Several years ago there was an adult book



**“Several years ago there was an adult book store in Harlan County and I began to think, if that could happen in there, it could happen here.”**

– *Pastor Frank Holbrook  
Cornerstone Church*

store in Harlan County and I began to think, if that could happen there, it could happen here,” Holbrook said. “We realized that we needed to do something about it. We live in a conservative area, churches on every corner. I thought, ‘We are one of four counties across the state without restrictions.’ Why were we

without protections?”

Nelson, who spoke to the Fiscal Court that night, explained that many communities do not believe this is an important issue because they have never had a problem in the past. “Letcher County is vulnerable right now because it doesn’t have any regulations to restrict these businesses,” Nelson told the court. “That creates a magnet effect. Lack of regulations makes your county

more attractive than other counties for SOBs to locate.”

Attracting a sex business was not in the interests of local pastors who say they are already burdened by an

**“It was the pastors who shared their reasonable concerns with local leaders and it was to them that the leaders responded.”**

– *Richard Nelson  
The Family Foundation*



epidemic of drug abuse and related fallout. Several pastors initiated the process when they met privately with local leaders and shared their concerns.

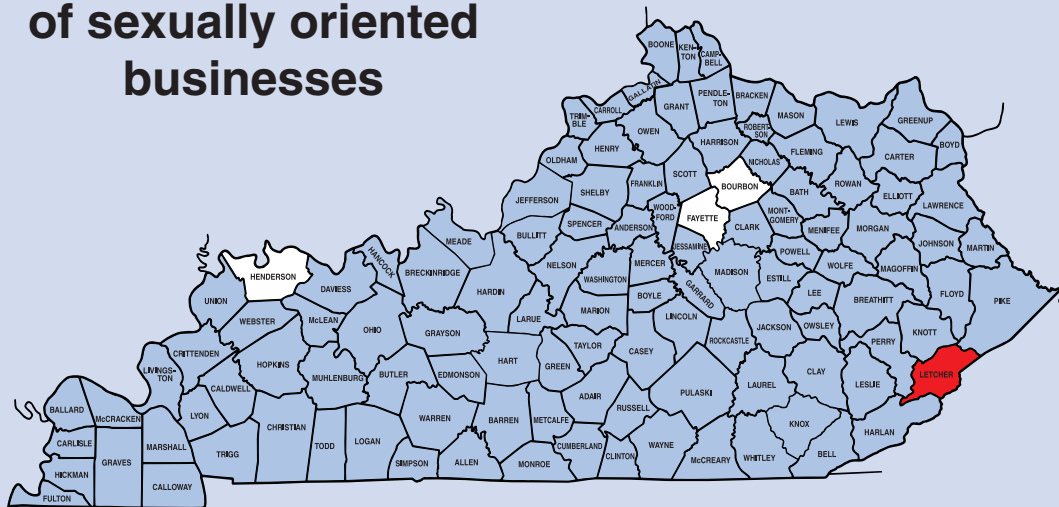
Dock Frazier, pastor of Faith Community Church in Whitesburg, encouraged other pastors to attend the meeting and show their support for the ordinance. “We as Christians are concerned about these issues, but we don’t always know what to do,” Frazier said. “The Family Foundation showed us the problem and helped us to be part of the solution.” Holbrook was equally appreciative. “I want to thank The Family Foundation for making us aware of this,” said Holbrook.

The comprehensive ordinance restricts hours of operation, bans total nudity and sexual activity in strip clubs, imposes numerous restrictions on porn shops and keeps out minors. Several court challenges have been leveled at similar ordinances on the books in other counties according to Nelson, but the ordinances have been upheld all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On April 22, the Kentucky Supreme Court, with a unanimous 7-0 decision, upheld the vast majority of a 2004 Louisville ordinance that initiated significant regulations on Jefferson County’s sex businesses. (*See related story page 5*) Decency advocates breathed a sigh of relief because they have now seen two Kentucky Supreme Court rulings, both unanimous, in their favor.

The second reading of the Letcher County ordinance is scheduled for May 17.

## Kentucky leads the nation regarding county regulation of sexually oriented businesses



**Red indicates Letcher County where the newest ordinance is being initiated. Blue shade indicates the 116 counties that currently have stringent regulations.**

# Unanimous Kentucky Supreme Court ruling upholds Louisville SOB ordinance

*This is another major legal victory for those pressing for a basic standard of public decency across the Commonwealth.*

For the second time in four years the Kentucky Supreme Court has upheld comprehensive restrictions on sexually oriented businesses. The latest challenge was to a Louisville ordinance, enacted in 2004, that was designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of Jefferson County residents. Bill Patteson, spokesman for the Jefferson County Attorney's office, told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, "We are very pleased" with the decision.

In 2006, the Kentucky Supreme Court upheld a McCracken County ordinance with a 7-0 unanimous decision that was challenged on different grounds. The recent decision, handed down by the Supreme Court on April 22, upheld the ban on alcohol sales in strip clubs, total nudity prohibition, distance requirements between dancers and patrons,

hours of operation restrictions, and the \$1000 license fee.

The Court did call the no-touch of dancers when not performing "overly broad" and sent the case back to a lower court for review of that provision. However, Patteson said the no-touching provision could be easily fixed. Family advocates agree, citing other court cases that have upheld no-touch rules on the basis of protecting public health.

Frank Mascagni III, an attorney for two strip clubs, called the court's upholding the ban on the sale of alcohol with nude dancing "shocking." Ron Cook, another attorney representing a strip club, said the ban on alcohol sales might lead some of the businesses to shut down.

The Court said in its opinion: "Mere nudity has never been deemed under our constitution to be expressive of any thought or opinion. It is therefore not constitutionally protected under Section 1(4), and the state and its municipal corporations have broad authority to regulate it under the Kentucky Constitution."

Ten years ago an estimated 200 SOB's operated in the Louisville metro area. In the last five years more than 100 have shut down largely because of solid restrictions and the efforts of concerned citizens who insist that the laws are upheld. Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana (ROCK) has led the effort in Jefferson County.

Family advocates are hailing this victory as another step in the right direction for decency standards in the Commonwealth.



**Mere nudity has never been deemed under our constitution to be expressive of any thought or opinion. It is therefore not constitutionally protected.**

## **CHOOSE LIFE** **license plates**

**Go ahead, get one for your car and drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town.**



**You'll be making a stand for life and for compassionate life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.**

**THIS is Unbridled SPIRIT in Kentucky!**

## Connecting the dots at MSU

*Sexual orientation "protections" leads to benefits first, then marriage.*

On April 6, the Murray State Faculty Senate passed a resolution by a vote of 16-6 urging the university to adopt a domestic partnership plan. It reads:

- **Whereas Murray State University asserts in its non-discrimination statement that it does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation;**
- **Whereas same-sex couples whose marriages have been solemnized in other states are not accorded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky the rights and privileges of married heterosexual couples;**
- **Whereas Murray State University currently offers benefits to spouses of University employees;**
- **Whereas Murray State University does not currently offer benefits to domestic partners of University employees;**
- **Whereas four public universities in Kentucky now offer domestic partner benefits;**
- **Whereas Murray State University must continue to offer benefits comparable to other universities to compete with those universities for potential employees;**
- **Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Murray State University requests that the University develop and implement a policy to offer benefits to domestic partners of University employees.**

Editor's note: In 2008, The Family Foundation Policy Analyst Richard Nelson testified before the Murray State Board of Regents that elevating sexual orientation to protected status would be a springboard to domestic partnerships. The Regents adopted the policy anyway. Now the Faculty Senate passed the resolution above clearly relying on sexual orientation protection as a basis for domestic partnerships. It all leads to legalized gay marriage.

# Evidently, a witch has been found

*It is a sad reality that many who push radical sexual agendas have serious personal problems. Some of them are very costly.*

Back in 2008, The Family Foundation brought attention to members of the General Assembly regarding the lack of political diversity at the University of Kentucky. UK now has whole departments devoted to left-wing political and social activism with no balance in sight. So-called “Women’s Studies” and “Queer Theory” now grace the supposedly “Diverse” curriculum of a university that wants the public to take it seriously—and the legislature to continue to give it taxpayer money.

Anyway, The Foundation published several publications for legislators that featured members of the UK staff. In so doing, Foundation staff simply recounted the university’s own website rhetoric about their staff’s involvement in Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and their cutting edge scholarship in faux academic disciplines. Later, those publications were characterized in a *Lexington Herald-Leader* editorial as an “academic witch hunt.”

Well, we are happy to report that a witch has been uncovered.

More precisely, one of the professors featured as examples of left-wing political activists disguised as teachers was a man by the name of Robert S. Tannenbaum, director of the undergraduate research office in the University of Kentucky’s undergraduate education office. At the time, Tannenbaum was a board member of the Kentucky ACLU and was teaching a course called “I Know My Rights,” which was a course about civil rights law taught by a guy who apparently specialized in computer IT services and who holds an Ed.D.

What a gig.

Well, Tannenbaum may know his rights, but he apparently doesn’t know his wrongs. He was charged on March 2 with four counts of incest with an eighth grader.

No word yet from Lee Todd about whether incest, too, is covered under academic freedom.

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**Well, Tannenbaum may know his rights, but he apparently doesn’t know his wrongs. He was charged on March 2 with four counts of incest with an eighth grader.**

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## Meet the Staff at UK

*Tax and tuition dollars to advocate for the ACLU and abortion rights?*

**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

\* <http://www.uky.edu/AS/GWS/New/faculty/tannenbaum.html>



**Robert S. Tannenbaum** is Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies. He holds faculty appointments in the College of Engineering (Computer Science) and the College of Education (Instructional Systems Design). His areas of interest and research include all aspects of multimedia, especially its use in instructional systems. His responsibilities include finding and supporting ways for undergraduates to engage in research and scholarly activities beyond their regular classroom experiences.

He administers several research-related scholarship programs and edits *Kaleidoscope*, the University of Kentucky Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship. He has taught in the Discovery Seminar Program for four years. In the Fall of 2006, his seminar will focus on Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights.

Dr. Tannenbaum is a member of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky chapter of the **American Civil Liberties Union** and a member of the Advisory Committee for its **Reproductive Freedom Project**.

**Salary = \$107,636**

Editor’s Note: Vindication of our concerns expressed in 2008 is indeed somewhat satisfying, but no one would desire this kind of grievous crime perpetrated to legitimize a perspective. In fact, the purpose of the entire effort in 2008 was simply to show legislators that there was a very narrow-minded group of extremely liberal instructors in the “Gender and Women’s Studies Program” at the University of Kentucky. It was *NOT* a personal attack on any of the instructors. Copied (*above right*) is the actual verbiage regarding Professor Robert S. Tannenbaum that was placed in the legislative handouts

distributed by The Family Foundation to the General Assembly in the Special Session of June 2008. No effort was made to distribute them broadly or even release them to the media at large — they were for the governing body of the Commonwealth. ALL of the material was copied from the UK web site with exception of the *Herald-Leader’s* website contribution of salaries (*printed in red*), The Family Foundation’s accountability questions (*also printed in red*) and the “Meet the Staff at UK” title.

# National Day of Prayer observed *and challenged*

*Can you believe it? The National Day of Prayer is ruled “unconstitutional” by a federal judge!*

On April 15, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb sided with the Wisconsin-based *Freedom From Religion* atheist organization and ruled that the National Day of Prayer (NDP) is unconstitutional. “It goes beyond mere ‘acknowledgment’ of religion because its sole purpose is to encourage all citizens to engage in prayer, an inherently religious exercise that serves no secular function in this context,” Crabb said.

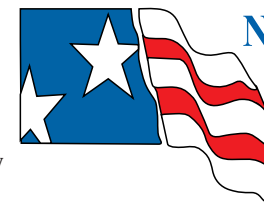
The opinion drew quick reaction from leaders across the nation, including NDP Task Force Chairman Shirley Dobson. “Since the days of our Founding Fathers, the

government has protected and encouraged public prayer and other expressions of dependence on the Almighty,” Dobson said. “This is a concerted effort by a small but determined number of people who have tried to prohibit all references to the Creator in the public square, whether it be the Ten Commandments, the Pledge of Allegiance, or the simple act of corporate prayer – this is unconscionable for a free society.”

Congress established National Day of Prayer in 1952 and, in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May to celebrate it. Despite the lawsuit, NDP scheduled activi-

ties took place across the nation and the Commonwealth on May 6.

Kentucky interim NDP coordinator Betsy Meadows is not deterred by the ruling. “Our beloved Commonwealth needs a mighty move of God . . .” Meadows said. “The hour for all of God’s people to rise up and seek Heaven on behalf of Kentucky is now!”



**NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER**

# Gay groups grandstand on alleged “assault”

The first reports said that a gay Jackson County teen was the victim of kidnapping and attempted murder. Three teens had dragged the victim, Cheyenne Williams, with a chain around her neck, out of her car and tried to push her off a cliff. The mother of the victim claimed it

was because of her daughter’s sexual orientation. She was “nearly killed,” said one report. The gay teen had the presence of mind to record the whole thing on her cell phone, providing proof of what happened. Gay rights activists donned their masks and capes and leaped before the cameras with their verdict.

“It was a hate crime,” said Jordan Palmer, head of the Kentucky Equality Federation.

In fact, it seemed the perfect confirmation of the narrative of gay rights groups, who seem to believe the cultural landscape is replete with roving bands of homophobes looking for gays to bash.

But then the facts started to become clearer. The Kentucky State Police started looking into the incident. Both victim and the assailants were longtime friends, having known each other since sixth grade. Williams went on from the harrowing incident to a job interview, and then to her parents, neither of whom she mentioned it to at the time.

But it didn’t matter to people like Jordan Palmer. It was a hate crime.

When police investigators asked Williams why, instead of filming the incident on her phone, she didn’t call 911, she said she didn’t think they would respond in time. In fact, has anyone thought to ask exactly how a victim of such a crime manages, without the assailants apparently even noticing it, that

the victim is filming the whole thing with her cell phone?

It didn’t matter. It was still a hate crime.

Then police – and the judge – viewed the video. There was no chain around her neck. And Williams was laughing

throughout the whole incident, causing the judge to walk out of the undoubtedly disappointing cinematic experience and give both sides a good talking to. Then she reduced the charges to misdemeanors.

But the people who really need a talking to are people like the Kentucky Equality Federation, who still, unaccountably, think it’s a hate crime.

The *Lexington Herald-Leader* described the Kentucky Equality Federation as “a volunteer organization.” This is

probably accurate, since no one has yet detected anything resembling professionalism. The

group has announced that it is backing Williams up “all the way.” But the group may have trouble backing someone up who herself is backing up. Here is part of the transcript of Williams being questioned by the attorney for one of the accused girls:

Attorney: “Is there any evidence to support the murder charge?”

Williams: “No, ma’am.”

Attorney: “Is there any evidence to support the kidnapping charge?”

Williams: “No, ma’am.”

As most people are figuring out, this was apparently a prank that went too far, conducted by teenagers with a severely low level of common sense and a little too much time on their hands. Teenagers doing stupid things. Imagine that.

The State Police don’t think it’s a hate crime. The judge doesn’t think it’s a hate

crime. No one thinks it’s a hate crime – except the Kentucky Equality Federation.

And once the Kentucky Equality Federation succeeds in hauling the FBI into Jackson County, Kentucky to investigate a good case of stupid teen tricks, they’ve got more planned. Says Palmer:

*“It’s learned behavior, whether they are learning it from their surroundings or they’re learning it from home, they’re learning it somewhere. And we need to reach to those children now and expose them to diversity and non-threatening environments before they grow up and they actually do kill someone.”*

There they go again, saying that stupidity is learned behavior. Don’t they know that stupidity is inborn? Stupid people can’t help being stupid, and they need to be protected. In fact, isn’t there a group somewhere that stands up for the rights of stupid people? Why isn’t there a law preventing people like the Kentucky Equality Federation from picking on stupid people?

In any case, once they’re done trying to convince all the people who now know this is not a hate crime that it is, in fact – despite all the evidence – a hate crime, they’re going to start exposing us to their



**Martin Cothran is senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

brand of diversity, which consists exclusively of the uniform thought that there is some sort of widespread wave of violence against gays by people who hate them. Which, of course, is a dramatic overstatement at best, if not simply false.

As I have pointed out before, anti-gay murders are rare, and actual physical violence against gays by anti-gays is dwarfed by violence against gays by other gays – in the form of domestic violence.

But this doesn’t matter to the Kentucky Equality Federation, who, despite all the evidence, still think it’s a hate crime.

## Voter Registration!

Recognizing that there is no better way to “let your prophetic voice be heard” than by voting . . . **AND** you can only vote if you’re registered, therefore . . .

**The Family Foundation is facilitating a statewide voter registration effort during August and September.**

**Would you like to help in your church or group?  
Would you like to help throughout your county?**

**It takes only a minute to register someone, yet the impact of their vote can last forever.**

**Call us if you can help: 859-255-5400**

# Fiscal responsibility and virtue

Right now, many Americans are like passengers on a runaway train, totally unaware that someone has bent the rails and is leading us in the wrong direction. Our ultimate destination is no longer “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” but rather “taxpayer-funded abortion, ‘Mommy State’ and the pursuit of shared wealth” (the latter of which some call socialism). The point is that, in this election year, America is at a crossroads – it can either



**Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation**

repeal that homosexuality will be “normal-

ized,” even taught in schools in the next few decades.

choose to follow the governments of Western Europe or return to its journey of destiny. The problem we face is two-fold: Imagine that one of the rails on which this train rolls represents the economy, and the

other represents values. Unfortunately, both rails are being turned in perfect parallel so that the nation continues to move forward “on track,” but in a very perverse direction.

The economic ideas of “spread the wealth,” bailouts, company takeovers, regulation of Wall Street, earmarks, Cap and Trade, new taxes, inestimable deficit spending, printing new money and the foreign purchase of our debt is clearly leading us on a collision course with economic disaster, possibly even bankruptcy. But just as important is the perversion of our nation’s values.

The economic indicators of our waywardness are in the news everyday, but do Americans see the similar signs regarding our values vertigo?

For instance, Obamacare has the mechanism for federal dollars and federally authorized insurance policies to facilitate abortion – a brand new and bold step in the wrong direction.

And, the President has stated openly that the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy must be repealed. With everyone understanding that the integration of the military in the late 1940s and 50s as key to moving toward full racial equity, there is the presumption by those pushing this

**It is not just the “small government” libertarians who need to be heard . . . , but also the social conservatives who elevate the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of life and the concept that each citizen has been “endowed by their Creator.”**

marriage. Instead, he evidently believes, a small minority has the right to mandate their re-definition of marriage upon everyone else.

Even the American concept of the rule of law is being turned upside down. We now have people who *illegally* came into this country and are violating America’s established immigration laws, yet charging that they are being discriminated against because they have the right *not* to be questioned about their authorization to be here!

What America needs are new leaders who will get us back on track by guiding our state and federal governments – and thus the economic and values rails – back to greatness. It is not just the “small government” libertarians who need to be heard about a return to the basics of the Constitution and fiscal responsibility, but also the social conservatives who elevate the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of life and the concept that each citizen has been “endowed by their Creator.”

It is interesting that our current pitfall was almost prophesied by our nation’s first vice president and second president, John Adams, when he said after our revered Constitution had been set in place: “Our

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Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”

Let us take his words to heart in these days of confusion, choosing only those to lead us whose convictions are set in sound fiscal responsibility and moral righteousness. To do any less, could give us a place

in history as the generation that abandoned the “city on a hill” called America.



We are currently in the midst of our Spring fundraising effort. As you know, we ask for funds only twice each year in order to protect you from being badgered. (We know you give to other fine organizations as well.)

Please consider giving. A \$10 gift covers the cost of mailing our *CITIZEN* newsletters to you each year. A \$25 gift helps us do a lot more in Frankfort . . . and across the state.

All gifts are 100 percent tax-deductible.

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