

[TFL's Capitol Connection, Ep. 13: Celebrating a milestone!](#)

The FAMiLY LEADER's Drew Zahn, Chuck Hurley, and Greg Baker find cause to celebrate at the Iowa Capitol in this week's edition of "TFL's Capitol Connection":

Chuck shares there's a growing expectation at the Capitol that the "Heartbeat bill" may yet find its way into law. But until the ink on the governor's signature dries, it's FAR from certain. YOUR voice and your prayers are still needed: [Click here](#) for a quick, easy tool to encourage your legislator to support the "Heartbeat bill."

Greg also shared a major milestone, as TFL's Capitol Project celebrates its [1000th pastor visit](#) to the Iowa Capitol!

Finally, in the video, Drew mentioned that if you have a heart for heartbeat, then your voice is needed NOW, while there's still time to see it passed! [Click here to learn more about how YOU can stand up for unborn babies.](#)

Drew also mentioned the completely FREE If 7:14 prayer app that will unite YOU with tens of thousands of believers around the world in daily prayer for revival. [Click here to learn more at If714.com.](#)

[LEAD – More info >>](#)

TFL joins fight to protect religious liberty at University of Iowa

Once again, an assault on religious liberty has struck the Hawkeye state, this time at the University of Iowa itself. And once again, The FAMiLY LEADER is working behind the scenes to defend every Iowan's freedoms.

Shortly before Thanksgiving, The University kicked off campus a student group – Business Leaders in Christ, or BLinC – because of a dispute over the religious group's beliefs. An openly homosexual student had complained that he had been denied the vice presidency of BLinC because he refused to sign the group's Statement of Faith, which affirms the Bible's authority on human sexuality.

University officials, in turn, sided with the complaint, and – according to [a lawsuit](#) filed on BLinC's behalf – singled out BLinC's Christian beliefs about sexuality, finding that the beliefs themselves were “discriminatory and impermissible.” In fact, the University is demanding BLinC change its Statement of Faith and submit an “acceptable plan” for choosing its leaders before it can return to campus.

“This is premeditated religious discrimination, plain and simple,” said Eric Baxter, senior counsel at Becket, the religious liberty law firm representing BLinC. “A state school cannot demand a change to students' faith any more than the U.S. president could demand a change to the Bible.”

TFL's Vice President and Chief Counsel Chuck Hurley has been working alongside Iowa legislators and Becket conducting

intense legal research and consultation to help the Christian students find either a judicial or legislative solution to the dispute.

“By inserting itself as a theological and moral authority over Christian practice,” Hurley explains, “the government has grossly violated the separation of church and state and trampled the rights of all Iowans. The government has no business determining which pieces of a religious group’s Statement of Faith are and aren’t ‘acceptable.’”

[Give to protect religious liberty in Iowa today! Your donations will help TFL’s Chuck Hurley give tangible aid in defending Iowa’s university students and YOU.](#)

In *BLinC v. University of Iowa*, BLinC is asking the court to stop this religious discrimination and allow it to choose leaders who embrace its mission, just like every other student group on campus.

In fact, there are over 500 student groups at the University. Fraternities and sororities, for example, can limit membership to men and women respectively. Pro-choice groups can reject students who are pro-life and vice versa. Feminist groups may require members to support their cause. And environmental groups can choose leaders who support theirs. But even though BLinC allows anyone to join, the University is uniquely denying BLinC the ability to require its leaders to share its mission and beliefs.

The students of BLinC, however, are sticking to their convictions.

“This is 2017, not ‘1984,’” said Jacob Estell, the student president of BLinC. “Our beliefs weren’t made by us, and they can’t be changed by us either – certainly not just to satisfy Orwellian government rules.”

[This attack on your faith is right on your doorstep! Please](#)

consider a gift of even \$10, \$25, \$100, or more to keep religious liberty alive in Iowa.

CTF 2017, info >>

VIDEO: National media interviews Bob on Trump, religious liberty

The FAMiLY LEADER [shared with you last week](#) U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' landmark memo, clearly defending and reasserting the constitutional freedom of religion. [The Oct. 6 memo](#) marks a significant victory for religious liberty – restricting enforcement of the Johnson Amendment, declaring Americans do not forfeit their religious liberty in the marketplace, and more.

And at the Values Voter Summit on Oct. 13, President Trump declared that he was keeping his promise to ensure that “our nation’s religious heritage would be cherished, protected, and defended like you have never seen before.”

On the Fox Business Network the next day, The FAMiLY LEADER President and CEO Bob Vander Plaats responded to the president’s remarks on Making Money with Charles Payne. Watch the interview by clicking the image below:



[Help The FAMiLY LEADER continue to stand in the gap for you and your religious liberty. Join us by donating \\$10, \\$25, \\$50, or more today!](#)

[VIDEO: Bob speaks to NFL, anthems, and America's greater needs](#)

You don't want to miss a moment: 2017 Family Leadership Summit

One month ago, the 6th Annual Family Leadership Summit inspired and encouraged Christians to join a movement advancing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Watch a 4-minute video recap of the amazing day below:

[Would you like to inspire more great content like this? Support future Summits by donating to The FAMiLY LEADER today!](#)

Watch the entire day's livestream, click here:

To watch individual moments or speakers, click their name below to watch on YouTube:

- [The opening](#)
- [Sen. Chuck Grassley](#)
- [Gov. Kim Reynolds](#)
- [Sen. Joni Ernst](#)
- [Benham Brothers](#)
- [Pastor Jim Garlow](#)
- [Kellyanne Conway](#)
- [Jeff Meyers](#)
- [Church Ambassador Network, Greg Baker](#)
- [Steve Scheibner](#)
- [George Barna](#)
- [If 7:14](#)
- [Rafael Cruz](#)

And, for the first time widely available to the public, click the link below to be taken to a previously created "thank you"

page, where you can listen to audio of the breakout sessions!

[Breakout sessions page](#)

[Watch the 2017 Family Leadership Summit livestream](#)

Want to relive the 2017 Family Leadership Summit? Or were you unable to attend and want to see what you missed?

We've got you covered!

The livestream of the 2017 Family Leadership Summit was captured and archived. Just click below to start watching:

Keep your eyes peeled for future content from the Summit, as we hope to post photos, breakout sessions, individual speaker videos for easier viewing/sharing, and more. You won't want to miss it!

[Would YOU like to inspire more great content like this? Support future Summits by donating to The FAMiLY LEADER today!](#)

[UPDATE: Supreme Court victory, but health care](#)

Looms

Bob Vander Plaats' weekly discussion of the nation's top issues touches on some encouraging news from the U.S. Supreme Court, and encourages lawmakers to choose "principle over politics" on health care:

Come, join thousands of others like you who want to see our nation put "Principle over Politics" again! Join us at the 2017 Family Leadership Summit on July 15. [Click here to learn more and reserve your tickets today!](#)

[**Bob Vander Plaats: Trump delivers 'presidential moment' on Islam**](#)

[**Bob challenges Trump: We need a champion**](#)

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