

TFL's Capitol Connection, Ep. 7: Pray and prepare

There may be a lull in the Iowa Legislature right now, but it's the quiet before a storm. In this week's Capitol Connection, Chuck Hurley and Drew Zahn explain why now is a time for urgent prayer and preparation:

Chuck gives an update on two bills in particular – the “Heartbeat bill,” SF 2281, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, SF 2338 – both of which have passed out of Senate committee, but need to pass House committee before the “second funnel” date of March 16 if they're to have any chance of becoming law this session.

Chuck also explains that while our hearts are grieving over the 17 children killed in a school shooting in Florida, our hearts also grieve over the roughly 17 children who are killed in abortions every day in Iowa.

Stopping abortions after a baby's heart is beating, however, will face a tough road ahead if it's to become law. That's why, as Drew says, “A battle is coming, a storm is coming,” and your prayers and prepared attention are needed now.

Make sure you [sign up](#) for TFL's free, weekly Legislature Updates, which will keep you informed and in the know on key issues impacting your life during the legislative session!

[Click here now and make sure to check the “Iowa Legislature Updates” box!](#)

The Timeless Voice: Billy Graham's final crusade

TFL's Capitol Connection, Ep. 6: Fast and furious "funnel" action!

"Funnel" week is when the rubber meets the road at the Iowa Capitol, and this past week was funnel week! TFL's Drew Zahn, Danny Carroll, and Chuck Hurley explain what happened in perhaps the biggest week in the entire legislative process:

On the life front, Drew and Chuck specifically broke down the incredible success of the "Heartbeat bill," which, if passed into law, would ban in Iowa all abortions after a baby's heartbeat can be detected!

While we're thrilled the bill has made it through a Senate committee and the "funnel" week, the "Heartbeat bill" still has five more hurdles needed before it becomes law. Your prayers and your support will still be needed if Iowa is to pass this measure, saving thousands of babies and their mothers from the horror of abortion every year.

Chuck also told the story of a young, discouraged lawmaker whose bills did not survive the "funnel." Yet Chuck encouraged him, explaining why this session has so far been one of the most successful and most exciting he's seen in 27 years at the Capitol! Watch the video above to see why Chuck would make

such a bold statement.

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[**The Timeless Voice: What distinguishes Christians at the Capitol?**](#)

TFL's Vice President of Church Engagement Greg Baker asks the question, "What is it that separates Christians from the rest of the world?"

It isn't political party or good deeds or even good intentions. But rather, Greg explains, it's a death penalty issued 2,000 years ago that makes all the difference:

[*Discover more about The Church Ambassador Network's unique work at the Iowa Capitol by clicking here now.*](#)

[**VIDEO: "Heartbeat bill"**](#)

passes Iowa Senate committee

By a vote of 8-5 Monday evening, the State Senate Judicial Committee passed a bill banning abortions in Iowa after the baby's heartbeat can be detected.

Over 100 pro-life supporters packed the committee room to show support to a committee that came up just short of passing a "life at conception" bill last spring. This year, however, the committee came through, voting along party lines to defend babies whose lives can be verified by heartbeat.

The FAMiLY LEADER was at the scene to support the committee and report on the evening's monumental vote:

While this heartbeat legislation still falls short of the gold standard of protecting every life from fertilization, should this bill become law, it would nonetheless save thousands of babies from abortion in Iowa every year.

The FAMiLY LEADER will continue to press for the gold standard, but until the day ALL life in the womb is protected, we can still agree: If her heart is beating ... she's alive!

[Click here for an easy way to SHARE the message, "She's a baby!" now.](#)

TFL's Capitol Connection, Ep. 5: An URGENT appeal for life!

This coming week will be HUGE for life in the state of Iowa. TFL's Drew Zahn and Chuck Hurley explain why and when we need

YOU to come to the Capitol:

As Drew explained, a bill that would save *thousands* of Iowa mothers and babies from abortion will be heard in Senate committee, and we need YOU to come and show the senators your support!

Those details again: **Monday, Feb. 12, 5p.m. (be there by 4p.m.), Room 116 of the Iowa Capitol building**

The bill would ban abortions in Iowa following detection of a baby's heartbeat. Clearly, if a baby's heart is beating, she's alive, and her life deserves to be protected.

The FAMiLY LEADER was there when the "heartbeat bill" was heard in subcommittee, and you can watch video of our testimony and coverage of the key debate below:

In this week's episode of TFL's Capitol Connection, Chuck also updated you on the status of two bills defending religious liberty, both of which have a chance to emerge before the critical "funnel" date of this coming Friday, Feb. 16.

The U.S. Congress overwhelmingly passed a Religious Freedom Restoration Act back in the '90s, but those same protections at the federal level are not currently protecting Iowans at the state level. Please join us in prayer that religious liberty in Iowa would be defended and preserved!

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VIDEO: Testimony heard on fetal heartbeat bill

An Iowa Senate subcommittee heard testimony today on a bill banning abortion after a baby's heartbeat can be heard. The FAMiLY LEADER was there to defend life and to give YOU behind-the-scenes access to what happened on this momentous day:

Join the growing voice of Iowans declaring, "She's a baby!"
Visit www.ShesABaby.com today!

The Timeless Voice: Repentance is pointedly personal

The FAMiLY LEADER Vice President of Church Engagement Greg Baker was convicted recently when asked, "Greg, are you preaching repentance?"

Repentance, Greg realized, is intensely personal and can be divisive. People might not *like* you if you call them to repentance.

But in this video, Greg explains why it's so important not to shy away from repentance when sharing the gospel ... even when sharing at the State Capitol:

TFL's Capitol Connection, Ep. 4: "This might save 95% of babies"

Exciting news from the Iowa State Capitol! The FAMIly LEADER's Bob Vander Plaats sat down with Family Policy Advocates Chuck Hurley and Danny Carroll to discuss the fourth week of the 2018 Iowa legislative session:

The top topics in this week's discussion included:

Life: Danny shared that TFL will be registering in support of a bill being filed that would ban all abortions after a baby's heartbeat can be detected! It's important to note that TFL continues to recognize and advocate that life begins at fertilization, but we will also work to save as many babies' lives as we can until the day that truth is honored. As Chuck pointed out, so long as the bill isn't amended to include various exceptions, "This might save 95 percent of [babies from] abortions!"

Bible in schools: Both Chuck and Danny testified before a subcommittee this week that considered guidelines for teaching an elective Bible literacy class in public high schools. "Slam dunk, we made the case [the course] is constitutional," Chuck said, and the bill passed subcommittee. When asked if such a class would benefit students, Danny quoted a Martin Luther King Jr. speech in which the civil rights activist quotes the Bible's Book of Amos. "Unless you know your Bible," Danny pointed out, "you don't know the Reverend Martin Luther King."

Religious liberty: Following a 1990 Supreme Court decision

that ignored 200 years of American history, the U.S. Senate passed by a 98-2 margin a federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act to put the Court back in its place. President Bill Clinton signed it. But fear mongering and political correctness has made getting such a bill passed at the state level in 2018 a real challenge. In this video, Danny explains why such a bill is “common sense, shouldn’t be that big of a deal.” And yet it is. You can also [click here](#) to watch Chuck defend the issue on a KCCI News report.

The spiritual temperature at the Capitol: In 27 years at the Capitol, Chuck has been to hundreds of legislator Bible studies. But a study this week led by Sen. Jim Carlin, Chuck says, was “one of the best ever.” With a near record crowd, the Thursday morning Bible studies are open to the public and evidence that “hearts are softening at the Capitol”

School choice: In the discussion, Bob mentioned a video commentary he recently filmed on school choice. Watch the full video below:

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[School choice: “Let parents be parents”](#)

Bob Vander Plaats is a former public school teacher and high

school principal. Today, he is president and CEO of The FAMiLY LEADER, and in this video he gives 5 reasons why TFL supports putting Mom and Dad back in charge of their children's education:

1. Let parents choose what's best
2. Let parents raise children
3. Let schools go back to teaching
4. Let the resources follow the child
5. Let local schools run local schools

Watch the video below:

[*Help The FAMiLY LEADER put education and families first. Click here now to support TFL's voice for school choice!*](#)

State of the Union reaction: "Trump delivered"

Bob Vander Plaats has told Donald Trump to his face that he will both cheer him on when he does well and hold him accountable when he goes outside the lines.

In examining President Trump's State of the Union Address Tuesday night, however, Bob says there's only cause to cheer.

Calling the speech one of Trump's most "presidential," Bob took special note of a key line in which the president said, "In America, we know that faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, are the center of the American life. The motto is 'in God we trust.'"

"It was a good night for America," Bob summarizes, "and a good

night for those who share our values.”

But now the challenge, both for America and the president, is to live up to and follow through on the unifying and inspiring words of Tuesday night.

In this short reaction video, Bob presents a prayer and a challenge for the president to lead in a vision that honors God and blesses the American people:

[Keep up to date on The FAMiLY LEADER's work to see a revived America that honors God and blesses people. Click here to join the TFL email list now!](#)

[When the Church's shepherds speak to shepherds of government](#)

Following week 3 of Iowa's 2018 legislative session, TFL's Vice President of Church Engagement Greg Baker shares his heart on how bringing pastors to the Capitol blesses both the government and the people governed by it:

Learn **more** **at:**
<http://thefamilyleader.com/iowa-capitol-project/>