

# **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.*

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## **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.](#)

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## [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!

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!\*](#)

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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 \[www.ShesABaby.com\]\(http://www.ShesABaby.com\) today!\*](#)

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## **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:

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## **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!\*\*](#)

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# 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!](#)

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# 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/>

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# Congressional prayer: "So much more than a tradition"

TFL's Vice President of Church Engagement Greg Baker explains why opening prayer may be the single, most important part of governing a state.

*Are YOU in the loop on the Church engaging government for the advance of God's kingdom? Click here so you don't miss a thing!*

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# [“The best human trafficking event in 27 years”](#)

TFL’s Director of Family Policy Chuck Hurley takes you inside the Iowa governor’s office for this historic day.

[For more insider looks at the Iowa Capitol, click here to sign up for TFL’s free, weekly legislative updates, and makes sure to click the “Iowa Legislature Updates” box!](#)

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## [TFL’s Capitol Connection, Ep. 2: “Prayer doesn’t only move mountains”](#)

The FAMiLY LEADER’s Bob Vander Plaats, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll sat down to discuss the second week of the 2018 Iowa legislative session:

The trio opened with a discussion of two proclamations issues by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds this week: one echoing President Trump’s proclamation on Religious Freedom Day, and a second on human trafficking.

The religious freedom proclamations led Bob to quip, “I guess prayer doesn’t only move mountains, but it produces proclamations!”

**Human trafficking:** Chuck called the day Reynolds signed the human trafficking proclamation “the best human trafficking

moment at the State Capitol that I've ever seen," as the day also included awards given "for real change, for lives saved" and news that over 70 hotels in Iowa have been trained and are already identifying evidence of human trafficking.

Yet Chuck also warned, "There's a hitch in that getalong," as Gov. Reynolds' budget did not match the rhetoric, actually *decreasing* the funds for human trafficking prevention.

**Religious liberty:** Danny gave an update on the case of Business Leaders in Christ, or BLinC, a student group that was kicked off the University of Iowa campus for its religious beliefs. Legislators this week heard testimony of how the group's student leader has since been targeted "maliciously and viciously" and the "unseen toll" it has taken on this young man. The testimony, Danny said, has "incensed" Iowa legislators, and there are efforts both in the courts and Legislature to protect religious liberty rights on campus.

**Bibles in school:** About a dozen House Republicans are working to give school boards permission to use an elective course on the Bible. In this discussion, Danny says, "They're serious about bringing the Word of God into students' education."

Chuck added that the course the legislators are advocating has already passed in Kentucky and been approved by the courts, as it clearly passes First Amendment muster. He also pointed out the need: Even secular university professors are admitting the Bible is so central to Western Civilization that students "are not equipped for college" without a working knowledge of the Bible and its influence on art, law, literature, and more.

**Life:** Finally, Chuck said, the battle for life at the Legislature has great momentum, but, "It's a spiritual struggle; it's a legislative struggle; it's a legal struggle." Your prayers are earnestly, desperately needed if meaningful pro-life legislation is going to clear the hurdles and be passed this year.

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