

What America is missing in the Planned Parenthood videos

Planned Parenthood is feeling the sting of now [two undercover sting videos](#) released by the [Center for Medical Progress](#), suggesting the abortion provider may be profiting from the sale of baby body parts.

But while America is revulsed and Planned Parenthood is scrambling to defend its practice of harvesting body parts for compensation, another major revelation from the videos is **stunningly being overlooked**.

For years, Planned Parenthood has maintained its positive reputation among women, activists, and politicians – despite its blatantly racist past (and arguably present), despite its gruesome and morally repugnant practice of killing babies – because in the end, Planned Parenthood has successfully conveyed the idea that it is a leading advocate for women's health and any criticism of the organization amounts to a “war on women.” In short, our culture has capitulated to the idea that we can *trust* Planned Parenthood to care for women.

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle referred to this as an “ethos,” argument – a persuasive technique that doesn't rely on logic or even emotion, but that appeals to our trust. Ethos, Aristotle taught, is the most powerful, persuasive argument you can make.

And Planned Parenthood had been winning the ethos argument ... **until now**.

In both of the released sting videos, while the world is focused on the sale of body parts, the Planned Parenthood officials have openly admitted they're willing to *change the procedure* of an abortion to harvest the parts they want.

In other words, a woman comes in to the clinic trusting Planned Parenthood to care for her health above all else, and instead, the clinic is using medical procedures it knows are less preferable in order to harvest the baby's body parts. ***Whether for profit or not, the doctor is making harvest a higher priority than the woman's health.***

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“Let me explain to you a little bit of a problem,” Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Medical Directors' Council President Dr. Mary Gatter explains in [the second sting video](#), “If our usual technique is suction, at 10 to 12 weeks, and we switch to using an IPAS [manual vacuum aspirator] or something with less suction, in order to increase the odds that it will come out as an intact specimen, then we're kind of violating the protocol that says to the patient, ‘We're not doing anything different in our care of you.’”

In fact, federal law ([42 U.S.C. 289g-1](#)) requires the attending abortion physician to give the woman “a statement, made in writing and signed by the physician, declaring ... no alteration of the timing, method, or procedures used to terminate the pregnancy was made solely for the purposes of obtaining the tissue.”

“Now, to me that's kind of a specious little argument,” Planned Parenthood's Dr. Gatter continues, “and I wouldn't object to asking Ian, who's our surgeon who does the cases, to use an IPAS at that gestational age in order to increase the odds that he's going to get an intact specimen, but I do need to throw it out there as a concern, because the patient is signing something and we're signing something that's saying, ‘We're not changing anything with the way we're managing you, just because we agree to give the tissue.’”

In other words, this Planned Parenthood official has no

problem lying to a woman about the care she's receiving.

And even though Dr. Gatter, in the same interview, tries to make the argument the two techniques are perfectly interchangeable, the earlier sting video featuring Planned Parenthood Federation of America Senior Director of Medical Services Dr. Deobrah Nucatola suggests something else altogether.

“The kind of rate-limiting step of the procedure is the calvarium, the head is basically the biggest part,” Nucatola explains in regards to the body part that fetches the biggest price. “And with the calvarium, in general, some people will actually try to change the presentation so that it's not vertex, because when it's vertex presentation, you never have enough dilation at the beginning of the case.”

In layman's terms, Nucatola is explaining that the doctor will try to push the baby around instead of coming out head first to come out feet first (what most folks call “breech”), because the woman's cervix isn't open enough at the start of the abortion to deliver a head without crushing it.

“So if you do it starting from the breech presentation, there's dilation that happens as the case goes on,” Nucatola explains, “and often, at last, you can evacuate an intact calvarium at the end. ... We've been pretty successful with that.”

Again, in other words, in order to preserve the most valuable baby part, the doctor changes the procedure (thus lying on the form given to a woman) to make the baby breech, delay the delivery, and harvest the head.

The whole controversy about selling body parts aside, **both Planned Parenthood officials openly admitted to lying to their patients and changing the procedure in order to harvest the most valuable human tissue.**

Are these altered procedures inherently more dangerous to women? I lack the medical expertise to say. If indeed the breech delivery process is more dangerous than a standard abortion procedure, it would only doubly condemn Planned Parenthood.

But regardless, now that America knows Planned Parenthood is lying to women in order to harvest their babies' most profitable parts ... do we still trust Planned Parenthood to put women's health first?

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Author of this commentary, Drew Zahn, is the communications director for [The Family Leader](#), an organization dedicated to strengthening families, by inspiring Christ-like leadership in the home, the church, and the government.

National media stunned by message of truth in love

As the nation wrestles with the hot-button issues of sexuality and marriage, deluged by name-calling and insult, Bob Vander Plaats and The FAMiLY LEADER are leading the way in forging a *civil* dialogue instead.

And national newspapers are starting to take notice.

For Christians, standing firm for what we believe while caring for those who don't believe the same is our God-given duty, the convergence of Philippians 2:3 – “in humility value others above yourselves” – and Ephesians 4:15 – “speaking the truth

in love.”

For the press, however, it’s nothing short of shocking.

In [an article written by the Washington Post](#) and subsequently picked up by the Houston Chronicle and other outlets nationwide, reporter Robert Samuels observed Vander Plaats and homosexual activist Donna Red Wing of One Iowa not only publicly debate their stances on the issue of marriage, but also publicly profess a genuine friendship:

Vander Plaats’s organization, The Family Leader, has derided same-sex marriages such as Red Wing’s as “unnatural.” Red Wing, leader of the LGBT rights group One Iowa, has [formerly] called Vander Plaats “bigoted” and “cruel.”

But when they ran into each other on the day the Supreme Court declared that same-sex couples could marry anywhere in the country, crossing paths between dueling interviews at a local TV station studio, they locked eyes.

And then they hugged.

The news reporter marveled: “I just saw something I never thought I’d see.”

Bob and Donna’s unusual friendship has garnered attention before, in [a Des Moines Register piece](#), [on WHO-TV](#), and when the two discussed the importance of creating a civil dialogue before students [at Drake University](#).

[Click here now to watch video clips from Bob and Donna’s](#)

meeting at Drake.

But it was a lunch forum organized by The Wallace Centers of Iowa last month that caught nationwide attention. Samuels was on hand to witness Bob and Donna explain how they've managed to form a friendship – and a civil dialogue – despite being leading opponents on one of the nation's most contentious issues:

Vander Plaats saw the event, taking place before a heavily liberal audience, as an opportunity. He believed he could win over the group with his humor and humanity and convince attendees that he was neither scary nor villainous. ...

Both Vander Plaats and Red Wing appreciated the oddity of the moment, bantering like talk show hosts.

"I actually like Bob Vander Plaats," Red Wing said.

"I love Donna," Vander Plaats said.

"If any Christian says, 'I can hate Donna,' run from them," he added. "So when Donna opened up this thing about would you like to have coffee, the only thing I felt bad about is I hadn't extended the invitation first."

In a culture where protest signs and sneering labels scream across the front page, The FAMiLY LEADER is working to model a different approach: A discussion of ideas that is both free and open, precisely because it is civil and others-honoring.

Samuels commented:

In Iowa, where the courts legalized same-sex marriage in 2009, Red Wing and Vander Plaats were early to adjust to this new dynamic. The two say they have formed a genuine friendship over coffee dates and phone calls that has fundamentally changed how their organizations interact.

No more calling Vander Plaats a “hater” or a “bigot,” Red Wing insisted at her group. Treat them with love, Vander Plaats said he constantly reminded his staff.

“There are times when I ask myself, before I put an idea out there, ‘How would Donna receive this?’ Because I love her,” Vander Plaats said.

Then he added: “Not that I’m changing my beliefs.”

At The FAMiLY LEADER, we believe in firmly standing on the truth of God’s Word. That’s why we also believe in speaking that truth in love. The two *must* work together (1 Cor. 13:1) if we’re to see a revived America that once again honors God and blesses people.

[Support the work of The FAMiLY LEADER today. Click here to encourage The FAMiLY LEADER to continue proclaiming God’s design for the family and marriage in the spirit of truth and love.](#)

Good news! Iowa governor signs human trafficking bill

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law today as part of Senate File 510 a measure funding efforts to help stop human trafficking in Iowa.

As The FAMiLY LEADER announced earlier ([read all about it by clicking here](#)), the combined effort of organizations, legislators, The FAMiLY LEADER's Capitol team, and most importantly, everyday Iowans like you helped get this measure passed.

"It was people's voices that made the difference," commented Chuck Hurley, vice president of The FAMiLY LEADER and one of the measure's most ardent supporters at the Iowa Capitol. "You were relentless in calling and emailing lawmakers, not letting this issue slip from the forefront of their minds. In the end, they couldn't 'go to bed' until this task was done. And that's because of you."

Hurley called the bill a "huge and unprecedented" blow against an evil industry that has stolen, drugged, and enslaved Iowa girls and boys.

"We now have one fist to smash human traffickers," Hurley said. "That's a huge deal. A second 'fist' is still needed next year in the form of additional investigators and other operational costs, which was not quite possible in this budget year. Nonetheless, this is a huge victory."

[Support more efforts like this by donating to the work of The FAMiLY LEADER. Click here now!](#)

According to the governor's website ...

Iowa legislators vow to protect Natural Law in light of Supreme Court opinion

The following press release was sent out July 1 and signed by nine Iowa state legislators, including: [Sen. Jason Schultz](#), Senate District 9; [State Rep. Tedd Gassman](#), House District 7; [State Rep. Sandy Salmon](#), House District 63; [State Rep. Steven Holt](#), House District 18; [State Rep. Greg Heartsill](#), House District 28; [State Rep. Larry Sheets](#), House District 80; [Sen. Dennis Guth](#), Senate District 4; [Sen. Randy Feenstra](#), Senate District 2; and [State Rep. Stan Gustafson](#), House District 25.

We, the undersigned legislators of the State of Iowa, announce our reaffirmation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

We declare

1. The Declaration of Independence, an organic document of the United States of America, proclaims that all the rights of mankind are anchored in Natural Law. Specifically, all human beings are created equal and have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

2. It is increasingly clear and self evident that all human life begins at conception and therefore, according to Natural Law must be protected and nurtured. Any other decision violates Natural Law as expressed in our

Declaration of Independence.

3. It is self evident that only a sexual union of a male and female naturally creates a human life. Once created, the natural father and mother have a genetic bond to nourish and insure that the child's unalienable rights are supported and protected. These obligations are carried out in a relationship between one man and one woman which balances the strengths and weaknesses of each sex in childrearing. This is the time-tested, societal definition of marriage. Therefore, any marriage relationship other than between one man and one woman violates Natural Law.

4. Natural law is unchangeable. Therefore, violating Natural Law will, by necessity, lead to the eventual elimination of unalienable rights and to increasing tyranny.

5. We cannot and will not abide by any man-made law or edict that encourages, condones or forces any American to violate Natural Law as expressed in the United States Declaration of Independence.

We as legislators agree with the meaning of President Thomas Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptists which said we need a "separation of Church and State." In context it meant that we must always keep the State away from any of the affairs of the Church. At the same time, in order for the United States to function at its best, the people who represent the citizens in government must reflect a strong Judeo-Christian ethic in all we do, including having a solid, unmovable moral basis in our laws.

Therefore, we the undersigned will use every Constitutional tactic possible to ensure the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence are protected. Those principles are what have made America truly exceptional for 239 years.

Standing strong: Responding to common questions about the SCOTUS opinion

Is this “the law of the land?”

This case is *not* the law of the Land. Five men and women can't change that which God established. God defined marriage as the union of a man and woman (Matt. 19:4-6; Gen. 1:27-28). A government that recognizes marriage to be whatever anybody says it is ignores the Laws of Nature and Nature's God.

Furthermore, the Constitution delegates legislative authority to Congress (U.S. Const. Art. I, Sec. 1), not the Court, so *no* Court opinion should rightly be called the “law of the land.”

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Should the government “get out of marriage”?

The government is called to enforce justice, punishing evil and praising good (Rom. 13, 1 Peter 2:14). In upholding biblical marriage, government praises a good that aids society by reducing crime, increasing educational attainment, and encouraging economic well-being for children and families. Furthermore, laws involving custody of children, inheritance, and child neglect all intersect with marriage law and protect individuals from abuse and neglect. Government cannot cease to be involved in marriage.

How should I show love to those who celebrate this decision?

People are not defined by their sexuality, but by the fact that they are image bearers of God (Gen. 1:27). As such, Christians must recognize the inherent worth of all people and

care for them in accordance with the commands of God (Matt. 22:39; Phil. 2:3-4) and the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Yet sin also mars that image and separates all of us from God. All of us need Christ. We ache for all those who have not yet received the joy of a new life in Christ, and we desire that all should come to Him. We recognize that love for God means we must keep His commandments (John 14:15), and love for our neighbor means we must tell them the truth about the need for the Savior and the hope of salvation.

As citizens and participants in the political life of our country, we should firmly oppose those leaders who continue to reject God's design for the family and who celebrate sin. We should pray for those who are against us, and we should stand boldly for the truth for the glory of God and the good of our nation (Prov. 14:34).

Do you feel like you have lost?

Christianity was born into a Roman culture of sinful decadence. But the power of God through the church turned that decadent world upside down (Acts 17:6). While we grieve for our nation, we also remember that our mission is to preach the gospel, baptize, and make disciples. We only lose if we fail to remain faithful to God and His Word.

What can we do?

Pray for revival. Share the gospel. Be ready always to give an answer for the hope that is in us. We now have a great opportunity to show Christ's light in our churches, homes, and the state. We must preach the whole counsel of God and encourage our churches to speak truth to our elected officials. We must be faithful to our spouses and families. And we must vote, run for office, and seek to be involved in government at all levels.

Don't lose heart!

Our challenge now is to love God and our neighbor like never before. We no longer cling to a “once-Christian culture,” but endeavor instead to transform our culture through the power of the Holy Spirit. We must remind people that marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. And finally, once we have put on the whole armor of God, we must do what Paul commanded the Ephesians: having done all ... to stand (Eph. 6:10-20).

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Supreme Court unravels definition of marriage

Today’s Supreme Court opinion, saying the 14th Amendment “requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex,” is not good for America.

The Court succumbed to demands to invent a new constitutional “right” (to same-sex “marriage”) never imagined by our Founders nor “endowed by our Creator.”

The Court did not so much *redefine* marriage, as it worked to *undefine* it altogether, to separate the institution from its anchor in the “Laws of Nature and Nature’s God,” leaving future courts no legal basis for disqualifying any number of relationships from being called a “marriage.”

Furthermore, the Court’s decision was a judicial assault on the separation of powers and the American form of government. At the heart of every American liberty is the freedom for all Americans to democratically address the most pressing social issues of the day.

And yet the Supreme Court overrode the judgment of over 50 million Americans who recently voted to reaffirm natural marriage as the union of a man and a woman. By elevating itself to the sole arbiter of determining policy, the Court is effectively stripping *all* Americans of our freedom to debate and decide major issues through the democratic process.

Nonetheless, the Supreme Court's opinion won't end society's discussion about the future of marriage and laws affecting the family.

When the Supreme Court handed down the *Dred Scott* decision, for example, it didn't end the debate about slavery, but only intensified it. *Roe v. Wade* didn't end the debate over abortion, for we're still working through it today. Likewise, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, doesn't end the debate, but only stirs it.

In fact, *Obergefell v. Hodges* throws a blazing spotlight on three issues, which will become major focuses, not only during this election cycle, but for years to come:

The definition of marriage

First and most obviously, how we as a culture define marriage is suddenly up for debate. On what grounds, for example, can polygamy now be excluded from the legal definition of "marriage"?

The FAMiLY LEADER will remain committed to holding up the gold standard of God's design for the family, affirming the right of every child to be raised by both mother and father, and promoting a view of marriage that prioritizes children's needs over adults' desires. We believe neither Court nor public opinion can change the truth that the union of a man and a woman is the only objective definition of marriage that produces human flourishing.

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Religious liberty

Second, calling same-sex “marriage” a legal “right” starkly contrasts with those who believe it’s a moral wrong.

As we’ve already seen in places where same-sex “marriages” are performed, men and women of faith who have attempted to live out their convictions have been met with derision, fines, lawsuits, the force of government, and the loss of their livelihood.

The FAMiLY LEADER believes Americans should be free to live and work according to their faith without fear of being unjustly punished by their government. Religious liberty must be defended. A government with unchecked power to intrude on any citizen’s freedom is a threat to everyone’s freedom.

The role of the courts

Third, *Obergefell v. Hodges* raises the question of the proper role of the courts. Is America still a land of representative democracy and the rule of law, or is it governed by an oligarchy of unelected officials in black robes?

Even during oral arguments of the case, Justice Antonin Scalia noted the underlying question: “The issue, of course, is not whether there should be same-sex marriage, but who should decide the point. ... And you’re asking us to decide it for this society.”

Justice Anthony Kennedy further recognized the gravity of the power the Court was asked to wield: “This definition [of marriage] has been with us for millennia. ... And it’s very difficult for the Court to say, ‘Oh, well, we ... we know better.’”

Whether the Court should have the authority to make such decisions for society and to decide it does “know better” in

such monumental matters – and how the other branches of government and “We the People” should respond when the Court oversteps its authority – will be a critical debate in America in the coming years.

Ideally, the Court should only serve as a check and balance if the other branches or the people clearly violate the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God. In today’s opinion, the court didn’t defend the Law of Nature and Nature’s God; the judges acted as if they are God. Very disturbing for all of America!

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Further analysis: Will abortions at gas stations be next?

The Iowa Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the Iowa Board of Medicine’s ban on telemed, or “webcam,” abortions is nothing short of the reckless pursuit of a political agenda, heedless of the dangers it creates.

Specifically, Iowans should recognize three ominous and lingering ramifications of this decision:

It prioritizes politics over women’s health

The Court's opinion, which claims women have a constitutional right to an abortion that cannot suffer the "undue burden" of even requiring a doctor be present for the procedure, is dangerous first and foremost to women.



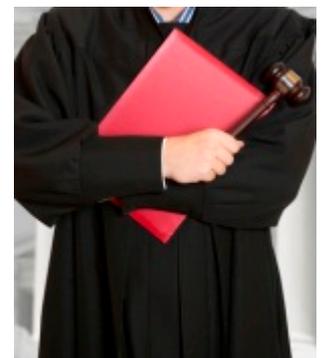
Even though a panel of doctors warned the chemical abortion procedure used in telemed abortions is too risky to undergo without a physician's supervision and were so concerned about the mother's life and health that it banned the "webcam" method altogether, the Iowa Supreme Court said having a doctor present was too much of a "burden" on the "right" of abortion.

But if the commonsense requirement of a doctor's supervision is a step too far for this Court, what possible other restrictions could it logically accept? The judges have opened the floodgates to abortion made so easy, one wonders if quickie abortions at Iowa gas stations will be next.

This decision is so determined to free abortion from any "burden," it ultimately strips women of the most basic health and safety protections. The Court has essentially brought back the back-alley and coat-hanger abortion and called it a protected "right."

The decision illustrates the arrogance of judicial activism

The opinion itself cited two federal courts that required legislatures or administrative bodies to have a "rational basis" for restricting abortion and *deferring* when such basis was present. The Iowa Supreme Court could have followed that precedent and deferred to the Board of Medicine's judgment on whether a doctor's presence should be required at an abortion procedure.



Instead, the Iowa Court followed the example of two other federal courts, including the controversial 9th Circuit Court, and took it upon itself to decide what medical procedures are best for women.

“The Iowa Supreme Court said, ‘We’re going to test whether this is wise and balanced and fair,’” noted The FAMILY LEADER Chief Counsel Chuck Hurley. “That is deeply disturbing. This is a case of judicial activism. The 7th and 9th Circuits had the same arrogance, saying, ‘No, we will decide whether the legislature or the board of medicine made a wise medical decision here.’”

In fact, part of the Iowa opinion highly criticized the medical rationale of the Board of Medicine. In the end, the Iowa Supreme Court, which is made up of seven judges, overruled the Board of Medicine, which has seven doctors.

“Surely doctors on a medical board would know which procedures need a doctor present and which do not, better than the lawyers on the Court would,” Hurley said. “The thing to me that really cries arrogance is that the Court substituted their medical knowledge for that of the doctors on the Board.”

The decision creates a precedent for striking down any incremental check on abortion

Even before *Roe v. Wade* unleashed widespread abortion on America, the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision found a “penumbra” (a nebulous shadow) of a “right to privacy” in the U.S. Constitution. Later, the Court would justify its *Roe v. Wade* decision by finding abortion somewhere within that phantom “penumbra.” Later still, the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case bolstered the crumbling *Roe* ruling by declaring no “undue burden” could be put on a woman’s so-called “right” to an abortion.



That's the basis for the Iowa Supreme Court's opinion that requiring a doctor be present for an abortion is somehow unconstitutional, since requiring a woman to drive a hundred miles to receive an abortion would be an "undue burden."

As far as Hurley is aware, however, **this is the first time the Iowa Supreme Court has found a "right" to abortion in the Iowa Constitution.**

In fact, the Iowa Supreme Court declared in this case the Iowa Constitution is coextensive with U.S. Constitution. In effect, the Iowa Court indicated its decisions on abortion in the future will be tied to the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions, unless it decides to expand its reading of the Iowa Constitution even further to allow for no abortion regulations, period.

None of this bodes well for any future attempts to preserve the sanctity of life in Iowa.

As a statement from Personhood Iowa noted, this opinion is the third time in the last month state and federal courts have "struck down" restrictions on abortion. The U.S. Supreme Court, for example, refused to hear an appeal to enforce North Carolina's ultrasound requirement. Before that, the 9th Circuit Court rejected Idaho's ban on abortion after 20 weeks of development. Now Iowa's Supreme Court has declared the Board of Medicine can't even require a woman to have an in-person examination before an abortion.

"These rulings seem to indicate a trend," Personhood Iowa stated. "Courts are rejecting even the barest restrictions on abortion, no matter how commonsense, bi-partisan, or incremental, because they refuse to challenge a perceived 'right' to abortion. What law then can stand?"

Despite all the progress made in attempting to ensure abortions are "safe, but rare," activist courts – including Iowa's – have revealed they're now willing to strike down any

law that gets in the way of rampant abortion. “Safety” and “rarity” are not values these courts respect.

Activist judges are decimating the incremental approach of restricting abortion. In Iowa, they now have a precedent for striking down virtually anything short a human-life amendment, a constitutional provision for the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

The Iowa Supreme Court has unanimously declared it won't allow commonsense restrictions, not even to protect the health and safety of women, to stand in its way of making abortion as easy and commonplace as possible.

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Women at risk after Iowa court rules on 'webcam' abortions

The Iowa Supreme Court ruled today by unanimous decision to overturn the Iowa Board of Medicine's ban on “webcam” abortions, a practice in which women are provided abortion-inducing drugs remotely, without any in-person examination by a doctor.

The decision clears the way for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland to perform this dangerous procedure.

Regrettably, the court's decision allows abortionists to defy basic medical standards meant to put women's safety first.

The FAMiLY LEADER agrees with the [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) – a non-profit legal organization that [filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case](#) – that the Iowa Supreme Court should have upheld the common-sense ban, which is similar to protections for pregnant women in 16 other states. Abortion is too serious a medical procedure to be performed without in-person care by a licensed physician.

Planned Parenthood and other abortionists must be held to basic medical standards of care, and little is more basic than an in-person examination by a physician before a procedure that poses serious health risks. Regardless of one's position on abortion, everyone should agree that Planned Parenthood should not be allowed to jeopardize women's lives by disregarding established medical protocols.

“Planned Parenthood's main concern should be the health and safety of women, not its bottom line,” commented ADF Senior Counsel Michael J. Norton.

ADF filed its brief in *Planned Parenthood of the Heartland v. Iowa Board of Medicine* on behalf of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Donna J. Harrison, M.D.; Iowa Right to Life; and Susan Thayer, a former director of an Iowa Planned Parenthood facility who resigned her position rather than perform “webcam” abortions.

ADF attorneys also represent Thayer in [a separate lawsuit](#) against Planned Parenthood of the Heartland that accuses the abortion giant of massive healthcare fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

The Family Leadership Summit 2015

Video of each of the speakers at the 2015 Family Leadership Summit is now available!

Take note: The keynote speakers of the 2015 Family Leadership Summit each took their turn "in the chair," being interviewed on an in-depth, personal basis. No stump speeches, these are one-on-one interviews, including questions from both the moderator as well as the audience.

Click below to watch the speakers, listed in alphabetical, not chronological, order:

Shawn D. Akers

[FLS15-Akers](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Gary Bauer

[FLS15-Bauer](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Brian Brown

[FLS15-Brown](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Ben Carson

[FLS15-Carson](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Ted Cruz

[FLS15-Cruz](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Foster Friess

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Lindsey Graham

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Rick Santorum

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Bob Vander Plaats

[FLS15-Vander-Plaats](#) from [The FAMILY LEADER](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Scott Walker

[FLS15-Walker](#) from [The Family Leadership Summit](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The purpose of The Family Leadership Summit is to inspire, motivate, and educate conservatives regarding worldview application and the most pressing issues facing America's families. The Summit will provide Iowans the opportunity to engage with national conservative leaders and hear their leadership vision on the issues that matter most to the future of America.

[>>Click here to visit the Official FLS2015 Web Page.<<](#)

[Click here to watch the full day's coverage, start to finish, originally broadcast live on C-SPAN.](#)

WHO's Jan Mickelson blows lid off explicit student conference

On Friday, June 12, WHO Radio host Jan Mickelson shined the spotlight of his microphone on sexually graphic and obscene material presented to Iowa schoolchildren at an ostensibly "anti-bullying" conference April 3 called the 10th Annual Iowa Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth.

Mickelson invited Iowa State Rep. Greg Heartsill to talk about

an investigation into the conference after parents, students, and teachers in attendance reported the children were exposed to “pornographic,” “vulgar,” and “X-rated” content at the event.



Greg
Heartsill

Heartsill has been joined by over 20 other state legislators who are demanding answers on why taxpayer money was used to expose minors to obscene material. Heartsill and his colleagues deserve recognition and honor for working faithfully to defend and protect Iowa’s children.

Nonetheless, Iowa Safe Schools and Progress Iowa have inexplicably attacked Heartsill for working to safeguard children. The latter organization even took out a full-page ad belittling Heartsill in his hometown newspaper.

On Friday, Mickelson invited Heartsill on to his program to talk about the Iowa Straw Poll, the attack ad, and his courageous work to discover the truth about the conference.

You can listen to the free podcast of Mickelson’s June 12 program, including his conversation with Heartsill (which begins about an hour into the broadcast), [by clicking here](#).

[Read the original FAMIly LEADER report that exposed the shocking content of the Iowa Governor’s Conference on LGBTQ Youth.](#)

[Donate to the work of The FAMIly LEADER by clicking here now!](#)

Opponents, not enemies: Leading the way toward civility

Oz Guinness told attendees of the Iowa Prayer Breakfast April 2 that true liberty requires a *civil* public square, a society where people are free to hold and speak their conscience without threat of coercion or attack.

Which makes what happened on the campus of Drake University in Des Moines only one hour later either a remarkable coincidence or a Divine appointment.

On a beautiful spring morning when just about anyone would rather be out on the campus green than in class, three dozen students crammed into a crowded room on the third floor of Drake University's Howard Hall. The space overflowing, most of the students had to sit on the floor.

They came to hear about an unlikely friendship and a series of civil discussions between two people who stand as public opponents on some of the day's most heated issues, yet who also insist they are *not* "enemies."



Donna Red Wing has been an advocate and activist for LGBT causes for 30 years and today is executive director of One Iowa, the state's leading lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organization.

Bob Vander Plaats is the president and CEO of The FAMILY LEADER, a Christian organization with a mission to strengthen families and a reputation for opposing same-sex marriage.

As leaders in their respective causes, the news media often quotes Vander Plaats and Red Wing as diametrically opposed voices in news reports on marriage and LGBT issues.

Yet in 2013, Red Wing was challenged by the death of a friend who exemplified reconciliation to attempt a conversation with the very person she would be most likely to call an "enemy."

"Who's the person who would be the most difficult to reach out to?" Red Wing asked herself. "I emailed Bob."

Thus began the oddest of friendships, a relationship so out of the ordinary in today's environment of partisan bickering and Internet flame wars that Des Moines Register's Rekha Basu

[wrote a story about the relationship she said “left me nearly speechless.”](#)

Watch video of Donna and Bob telling Drake students about their first, uncertain meeting:

But how do you forge a respectful friendship and civil dialogue when you disagree vehemently?

That was the question students of Drake Prof. Carol Spaulding-Kruse and her class, “Talking with the Enemy: Dialogue in a Polarized Age,” were asking.

“The first thing Donna and I did, I wanted to learn more about who Donna is as a person. She wanted to know, who is Bob as a person?” Vander Plaats explained. “In the media today, people are made into polar opposites, but who *are* you? Understand, I care deeply about the issue, but I care deeply about you. ... I think it’s OK to model that. You can be passionate about issues without tearing each other down.”

“We made an agreement early on that nothing we did in those private, quiet conversations would change what One Iowa cared about or what The FAMIly LEADER cared about,” Red Wing added, “but we did change how we as organizations interacted. For example, nothing goes out of One Iowa that will denigrate human beings, individuals at The FAMIly LEADER, we’re very careful about that. And we’ve noticed The FAMIly LEADER doesn’t attack Donna Red Wing.

“I don’t see us ‘enemies,’” Red Wing continued. “We’re political ‘opponents.’ Our understanding of social justice is very different. But if all that happens in what we do is that our organizations took a civil tone, it doesn’t diminish the passion of our work. It doesn’t diminish what The FAMIly LEADER does.”

“Some of my best conversations, bar none, are with people who

disagree with me," Vander Plaats stressed. "You can sing to the choir all day long, and really, what did you get out of it? ... I like to have intellectual conversation, and quite frankly, no matter where you're at on the issues of the day, our country would benefit from civil dialogue and discussion, intellectual conversation. Not emotions, signs and pointing fingers – we've had enough of that."

In fact, Bob and Donna learned in time there's more to one another than their respective causes and more to their relationship than merely argument.

"It's developing a better understanding of Donna's perspective and Donna's understanding of my perspective," Vander Plaats said. "I think we would both be disingenuous if we [denied], 'Boy would I love to have Donna come on over to my side and say [she] was wrong,' ... and she'd like for me to do that [too], but if you go in with that, you're going to be disappointed a lot."

The pair told Drake students how learning to see one another as people, not just ideological punching bags, led to a civil discourse that even included defending one another.

When an LGBTQ conference for youth turned Vander Plaats into a comic book villain, for example, Red Wing addressed it with the publisher. When a national radio host called Red Wing a "thug" and a "mob boss," Bob emailed Donna that day, saying, "You are not a thug, and I'm going to talk to [the host]."

"That meant the world to me," Donna said.

"Donna knows that genuinely I love her," Vander Plaats told the students, while Red Wing nodded her agreement. "It sounds odd, but I do. I love Donna, and she knows I would do anything for her. And I think she would do the same for me. And we also know that we vehemently, fundamentally, foundationally disagree on some key issues to both of us."

And while their coffee-shop conversations are intentionally quiet and private, Vander Plaats and Red Wing are willing to talk openly about this unusual path they've forged, in large part, because true civil dialogue is both too rare and desperately needed in America.

"Iowa for whatever reason is in the crosshairs of the world's attention, whether we like it or not because of this presidential thing," Vander Plaats said. "But it may be a good way for Iowa to model how to have civil dialogue on big issues, because our country could really use that today."

"In this place and this time, here in Iowa, we get to model how those conversations happen," Red Wing added. "That doesn't mean if there were a bill to eradicate same-gender marriage in Iowa [One Iowa] wouldn't be out there fighting with everything we have."

"Freedom is tough. Freedom is not easy," Vander Plaats said. "In some countries you can think whatever you want, you can believe whatever you want, as long as you don't say it. That's not this country. ... So you have to be willing to engage in these kinds of dialogues if you really want to have a civil, free society."

*The FAMiLY LEADER is committed not only to leading the way on some of our culture's biggest issues, but also setting the example of how to engage in these discussions with civility and respect. Would you consider making a donation to The FAMiLY LEADER today? [**If so, click here.**](#)*

Good news! Iowa passes human trafficking bill

In the final moments before the legislative session closed in Des Moines Friday, lawmakers passed a bill designating nearly \$1 million to help stop human trafficking in Iowa.

“It was people’s voices that made the difference,” commented Chuck Hurley, vice president of The FAMiLY LEADER and one of the measure’s most ardent supporters at the Iowa Capitol. “You were relentless in calling and emailing lawmakers, not letting this issue slip from the forefront of their minds. In the end, they couldn’t ‘go to bed’ until this task was done. And that’s because of you.”

Hurley called the bill a “huge and unprecedented” blow against an evil industry that has stolen, drugged, and enslaved Iowa girls and boys.

If signed into law by Gov. Terry Branstad, the bill will designate funds to train law enforcement officers and many others to combat human trafficking at three levels:

- The first, “front line” of defense will train local, county, and state personnel on how to identify the signs of human trafficking crimes in their daily work
- The second level will train officers how to process human trafficking incidents, so victims can be rescued from their captors and protected long-term against those who would re-terrorize or enslave them
- The third level of training teaches law enforcement how to go after the “kingpins,” to turn local arrests into evidence that can take down not only the kidnapers and pimps, but also the cartels funding and fueling the human trafficking industry.

“We now have one fist to smash human traffickers,” Hurley

said. “That’s a huge deal. A second ‘fist’ is still needed next year in the form of additional investigators and other operational costs, which was not quite possible in this budget year. Nonetheless, this is a huge victory.”

For Hurley, it’s also a personal victory.

“I became a foster parent about 30 years ago. I care deeply about kids and rescuing those in danger,” he said. “But for too long, we’ve been cleaning up after the crime instead of stopping it cold. This funding will help us go after the crime leaders, to eventually cut off the flow – to send a clear message to those who would victimize our children: ‘You’re not welcome in Iowa.’”

[Support more efforts like this by donating to the work of The FAMiLY LEADER. Click here now!](#)

In addition to thanking you, the people of Iowa, for joining us in the fight against human trafficking, The FAMiLY LEADER would like to thank several others who were key in developing this legislation:

- The FAMiLY LEADER Capitol Team: Chuck Hurley, Danny Carroll, and Tamara Scott
- Teresa Downing-Matibag, Ph.D., executive director of Network Against Human Trafficking
- Iowa House Speaker Kraig Paulsen, R-Monticello
- Iowa Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs
- Iowa State Rep. Chuck Soderberg, R-Le Mars
- Iowa State Sen. Bob Dvorsky, D-Coralville
- Iowa State Sen. Kevin Kinney, D-Oxford, a former deputy sheriff with experience working on sex trafficking cases
- Mike Ferjak of the Iowa Attorney General’s Office
- Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller

Several other legislators, activists, and organizations also contributed to this effort. With their help – and yours – Iowa

will soon be a safer place for our children.