

# Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth not what you think

(WARNING: Sexually explicit summary below)

The [Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth](#) claims to be the largest homosexual youth conference in the nation, but contrary to popular opinion, its purpose is *not* fostering understanding in the schools or preventing bullying.

“Get that idea out of your head right now,” one attendee of the April 3 event told The FAMILY LEADER. “There were only two sessions [among more than 20] that had anything to do with bullying. It’s a conference teaching kids how to: how to be confidently homosexual, how to pleasure their gay partners – one session even taught transsexual girls how to sew fake testicles into their underwear in order to pass themselves off as boys.”

Even the conference’s purpose statement makes no mention of bullying.

“The mission of the Annual Governors Conference on LGBTQ youth is to a) engage and educate students,” the official program states, “and b) encourage networking and activism.”

## So what actually happens at this conference?

An observer The FAMILY LEADER sent to the conference reported several speakers highlighted horror stories of how outcast they felt as kids. They told stories of “coming out” and finding homosexual relationships. They reinforced the narrative that the world “hates,” but the homosexual community accepts. They repeatedly affirmed that it’s OK to be gay.

Several speakers also included elements some will find

disturbing:

- One speaker wore a dress made of condoms, so they could be easily detached and “used as needed.”
- Another told a rousing story of how he used social media to find friends and accidentally stumbled into an orgy.
- One session taught how to properly use “binders” to reduce the visibility of a girl’s breasts and discussed hormone treatments for delaying puberty, assuring kids the drugs were safe.

Our observer also reported on the day’s final speaker, a drag performer named Coco Peru, who delivered an expletive-laden presentation filled with song and a startling piece of advice for the hundreds of high school students bused in from around the state.

Peru’s performance included a song with the lyrics, “People suck. They don’t give a f— about you. People thrive on smashing our pride to the ground. People that suck, f— you.”

Toward the end of the performance, Peru told the kids if they see a car with a bumper sticker that reads, “It’s Adam and Eve for a purpose,” they should, “Reach down inside yourself and give them a blessing ... then slash their tires!”

Peru’s performance was clearly a far cry from an “anti-bullying” speech.

The father of one Des Moines area high school senior told The FAMiLY LEADER his daughter was “absolutely distraught” by what she witnessed and, like several other students and teachers, left the conference early in shock.

“She thought she was attending this conference to learn how students can be supportive of their homosexual peers, how they can bring unity to her school. She went thinking it was going to be on bullying, and she wanted to learn how to be more supportive, inclusive and accepting,” he said.

“When she got there, it wasn’t really on bullying; it was basically a sexual education class for same-sex couples,” he said. “It was crude. One presenter told students who asked whether anal sex hurt that, as a lesbian, it really depended on how big the device is that their partner straps on.

“My daughter went to listen to the comedian, Sam Killermann, thinking it would at least be funny,” the father continued. “But instead, Killermann explained how pleasurable it is for gay couples to eat each other’s behinds and how to use different flavors of [oils] to make it taste better.

“It’s totally unacceptable, above and beyond anything we should have our children subjected to,” the father concluded. “It was over the line, especially for a conference supported by prominent Iowa businesses.”

### **Who’s funding the conference?**

In fact, the brochure lists a number of businesses that sponsored the event, including:

- Principal Financial Group
- Nationwide
- Office Depot
- The TJX Companies, Inc. (T.J.Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods, Sierra Trading Post)

A number of school and religious organizations were listed as sponsors as well:

- The Iowa State Education Association
- The University of Iowa
- Iowa Association of School Boards
- School Administrators of Iowa
- Episcopal Diocese of Iowa



Buses at Iowa  
Governors  
Conference

In addition to the support of teacher unions and education groups, Iowa's public schools also dispatched a parking lot full of school buses and vans from districts around the state to Prairie Meadows in Altoona, where the event was held.

"Iowans signed on to this conference because they believed it was about stopping bullying and helping kids," The FAMiLY LEADER President Bob Vander Plaats said. "But 10 years into these conferences, it's clear those values have flown out the window."

"It's hard to believe if parents knew their children were attending obscenity-laced presentations where they're encouraged to slash tires and use their cell phones to find orgies, they would continue to support it," he continued. "It's hard to believe teachers, school boards, and administrators would want their names and organizations backing these kinds of life lessons. It's hard to believe the governor would want his name associated with it."

"This is a situation where Iowans may just not realize what's really going on," he concluded. "As more and more of this material comes to light, however, I trust Iowans will demand better ways to honestly help kids than continue down this path the Governor's Conference has traveled."

"Just for the record, let me restate that The FAMiLY LEADER would never approve of bullying or the mistreatment of any person, at any time, or for any reason. We support the golden

rule, which says, 'Treat people the same way you want them to treat you'" (Matthew 7:12).

*"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).*

***Were you at the Governors Conference? Shocked by what you saw? Contact The FAMiLY LEADER at [info@thefamilyleader.com](mailto:info@thefamilyleader.com).***

***What can YOU do? Share this story with other concerned parents. Post it on Facebook. Ask your school board or administrators if your school district sent students or teachers to the conference and whether this is the kind of material they want to be endorsing.***

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## **Unprecedented spiritual challenge hits Iowa**

On Thursday, April 9, a Wiccan will open the Iowa House of Representatives in "prayer."

Every day before the legislature is opened, a prayer is offered for Iowa's legislators, asking God to give them guidance. Traditionally this invocation has been performed by a Christian pastor, but it is open to whomever the appointed legislator wishes to invite. Rep. Liz Bennett of Cedar Rapids chose to invite a Wiccan priestess.

It's a development many Christians across the state recognize has spiritual ramifications. Many have asked The FAMiLY LEADER how they can respond.

The simplest and most powerful answer is to pray.

In fact, on Thursday, April 9, several Christian leaders and pastors in the Des Moines area are planning to come to the Iowa Capitol to pray for the Lord's guidance and protection. You can visit [the Facebook page "Prayer at the Capitol,"](#) for example, to hear Pastor Michael Demastus of Fort Des Moines Church of Christ explain in his own words why he's mobilizing a prayer vigil during the same time as the Wiccan invocation.

The FAMiLY LEADER constantly encourages pastors to take a stand for our Christian values, and we are encouraged that pastors are coordinating prayer efforts at the Capitol.

In the United States of America and the State of Iowa citizens have the freedom to worship whomever they wish. It was these religious liberties that helped the church thrive and grow in America. We believe Rep. Bennett has those same rights as well.

It is not the exercising of Rep. Bennett's rights that brings us concern. Rather it is the spiritual heart and condition of our state and nation that would bring us to the point of seeking a Wiccan's guidance on our government that brings us concern.



Since the founding of our nation many Americans have chosen to worship the God of the Bible, the triune and one true God, the Creator of the universe. It is to Him we have prayed and opened legislative sessions in the state of Iowa. It is He whom the Iowa Constitution refers to as the "Supreme Being." It was also to Him Benjamin Franklin urged the Constitutional Convention to pray to at the founding of our nation.

So, yes, Rep Bennett does have the right to have a Wiccan pray. But why? Why not pray to the God who has blessed our nation and our state since its founding?

In 1 Samuel 17 David a small shepherd challenged Goliath because of Goliath's pride to stand against the one true God. And in 1 Timothy 2:5 Paul writes: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

On April 9, Christians in the Des Moines area plan to also use their constitutional right and come to the Iowa Capitol to pray for the Lord's guidance and protection. We encourage you to join them, be respectful, and pray to God to guide our state and its elected officials.

[Join The FAMiLY LEADER in equipping and encouraging pastors – and all Christians – to become leaders in their homes, churches AND government!](#)

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## Take a stand for religious liberty

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence is under heavy fire for signing his state's new religious freedom law.

Misleading media coverage, homosexual activists, celebrities, boycotts, and companies willing to yank millions of dollars in business from Indiana are piling on to punish the governor for his courageous stand.

But Gov. Pence is not standing alone.

The FAMiLY LEADER, Focus on the Family's CitizenLink, the Family Research Council, and the Manhattan Declaration – as well as a groundswell of people like you through the Twitter hashtag #StandStrongPence – are just a few of those standing with Gov. Pence in defending religious liberty and the freedom

of conscience.

“People who created the law could use a little encouragement right now,” CitizenLink told its supporters. “We urge you call them. Let them know you support RFRA, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.”

- Gov. Mike Pence’s office: (317) 232-4567
- Indiana Speaker of the House Brian Bosma: (317) 232-9677
- Sen. President David Long: (317) 232-9416

“You don’t have to go into any great detail; just let them know they did the right thing and they don’t have to change anything in response to the outrageous criticism,” CitizenLink said. “The outcome of this high-profile fight will have impact in every state, not just Indiana.”

*(Note: Since publishing this post, Gov. Pence has signed an amendment to the RFRA bill that weakens the protections afforded by the original draft).*

Opponents of the law have had a wide-open platform in the mainstream media to falsely claim RFRA is “hateful,” that it will somehow give businesses license to discriminate against homosexual patrons.



Indiana Gov.  
Mike Pence

In reality, the law merely reasserts that courts and legislatures shouldn’t indiscriminately trample the First Amendment rights of business owners who can’t in good conscience provide a good or service to an activity they object to on religious grounds.

“What does the law actually do? It’s fairly simple, really,” CitizenLink explained. “It sets a standard that state government must follow when dealing with cases that involve religious freedom. The government must demonstrate that it has a ‘compelling interest’ to get involved, and then, if a remedy is called for, it must use the ‘least restrictive’ solution. ... It does not give anyone a “license” to do anything. It does not say what the outcome of challenges should be. It does offer similar protections to what’s already in federal law.”

“Imagine the shoe on the other foot,” illustrates Bob Vander Plaats of The FAMiLY LEADER. “Should a kosher butcher be forced to either slaughter hogs or face a lawsuit that could put him out of business? Should a Jewish baker be compelled to make a cake with a swastika? Should a homosexual printer be forced to print flyers from a group like Westboro Baptist Church – no one should be forced to print that rhetoric – and if they refuse, should they be sued out of existence?”

“When we walk away from the pillar of religious liberty, it has many ugly side streets and avenues this country does not want to go down,” he says.

“I don’t see why this should be such a controversial issue,” Vander Plaats reasons. “Similar laws have been passed in 19 states. President Clinton signed an RFRA into federal law. Barack Obama voted for an RFRA when he was a state senator in Illinois. Religious liberty in America should be a good thing. It’s the one freedom that gives life and birth to all our other freedoms.”

Much of the pressure Gov. Pence has been under in the media and from celebrities and companies threatening boycott has been misguided or misleading, claiming the RFRA law will do things it won’t. Some of it, like the publicized pressure Pence has faced from Apple CEO Tim Cook, Vander Plaats asserts, is flatly disingenuous and hypocritical.

“Cook wants to criticize Indiana for upholding religious liberty, yet Apple just opened a store in Saudi Arabia, where they execute homosexuals,” Vander Plaats points out. “I suspect Tim Cook, who is openly homosexual, is attacking Indiana because of his fear RFRA might prevent a business from being forced to celebrate same-sex marriage.”

For more on what the RFRA actually does – and what it doesn’t – Travis Weber, the director of the Family Research Council’s Center for Religious Liberty, has written a succinct summary of the federal RFRA, the model for state RFRA’s, including the one just put in place in Indiana: [available here](#).

The FRC is also asking people to join their [“I Stand with Gov. Pence for Freedom” petition](#).

[\*To help The FAMiLY LEADER in its commitment to religious liberty and the freedom of conscience, donate today.\*](#)

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# What RFRA does – and doesn’t – do

[State Religious Freedom Restoration Acts \(“RFRA”\):](#)

[What are they and why are they needed?](#)

By Travis Weber, Esq.  
Director, Center for Religious Liberty  
Family Research Council  
March 2015

**What is a “RFRA”?**

Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) refers to a state law that mirrors the federal statute by the same name and which prohibits the government from burdening religious exercise unless it meets a high level of legal scrutiny. Chuck Schumer, Ted Kennedy, and then-State Senator Barack Obama are just a few examples of politicians who have voted for a RFRA at the state or federal level.

### **Where did the federal RFRA come from?**

Many correctly saw the Supreme Court's 1990 decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*<sup>[1]</sup> as an erosion of religious liberty rights and threat to our freedom to live out our personal beliefs. In response to *Smith*, a coalition of groups from across the religious, political, and legal spectrum—from the Southern Baptists to the ACLU—came together to urge Congress to pass a law restoring strong protections for free exercise claims. The 1993 federal RFRA was sponsored by Chuck Schumer and Ted Kennedy, was passed unanimously by the House and 97-3 by the Senate, and signed President Clinton.

### **So why are state RFRA's needed today?**

In 1997 the Supreme Court ruled in *City of Boerne v. Flores*<sup>[2]</sup> that the federal RFRA did not apply to state and local government action. Since then, *state RFRA's* have been needed to protect against undue state and local government interference in religious exercise. Twenty states have responded as of this writing,<sup>[3]</sup> and another 11 states have similar protections under state court precedent. The law is needed in the remaining states to protect people whose sincere beliefs are in danger of being unnecessarily burdened by the government.

### **What do RFRA's actually do?**

They give courts a tried-and-true balancing test for weighing a person's sincerely held religious beliefs against legitimate state interests; RFRA's do not dictate outcomes.

The language can vary from state to state, depending on the laws already in place, but all RFRA's protect people with sincerely-held religious beliefs from over-intrusive government regulation burdening their religious practice, while winnowing out those using religion as a pretext to escape application of general laws.

### **How does the RFRA balancing test work?**

RFRA's allow a person to ask a court to consider their religious beliefs as a basis for their claim or defense in a judicial proceeding. The standard RFRA contains a five-part test.

To claim RFRA protection, a person first has to prove they have:

- (1) A religious belief, *and*
- (2) Which is also sincere, *and*
- (3) Which has been substantially burdened by the government action in question.

Only then can their claim move forward. At this stage, the burden of proof shifts to the government to show that:

- (1) It has a compelling interest in burdening the religious practice, *and*
- (2) It has only burdened the practice in the least restrictive way possible.

If the government can make both of these showings, its law or regulation is allowed to infringe on the religious practice—even under RFRA. However, if the government fails to make both of these showings, the religious claim will prevail, and at that point the person is entitled to legal protection for their religious beliefs and practices. Just because a RFRA claim is brought does not mean that it will win in every case.

A person must always look to a court's application of RFRA—the law provides a balancing test in court but does not dictate the outcome.

### **Who does RFRA protect? (Hint: Everyone.)**

Everyone with a conscience—regardless of their religion, political views, the content of their beliefs, or how they apply those beliefs—is protected by a RFRA.

That's why, when the federal RFRA was passed in 1993, a coalition of groups from across the religious, political, and legal spectrum—from the Southern Baptists to the ACLU—came together to support it. A review of RFRA and free exercise case law going back decades clearly shows its benefit to people of all faiths as they seek to protect their beliefs and consciences in the face of ever more intrusive government. For example, this religious liberty framework has been appealed by Native Americans seeking to grow long hair in school, Christians seeking to feed the homeless in the face of a hostile local government zoning laws, and even Muslim prisoners seeking to grow a short beard.

Moreover, these laws are not political—they cut across racial and social lines, and apply in a variety of factual scenarios, from property disputes to social welfare to abortion. RFRA's are not fact-specific. They are not race-specific. They are not religion-specific. And they are not political party-specific.

You'd expect RFRA's to find support from a spectrum of Americans of all political persuasions and religions who care about individual freedom from government coercion. RFRA's text and history, along with our judicial system's established practices for analyzing religious claims, demonstrate that these laws merely advance conscience rights for all in the face of ever larger and more intrusive government—nothing more, and nothing less. That's something all Americans can

support.

## **But aren't RFRA's just an excuse to discriminate or hide behind my religious beliefs?**

No. RFRA's do not allow businesses to turn away customers or engage in discrimination as they see fit. Opponents of state RFRA's raise all kinds of hyperbolic hypotheticals, but when asked for examples of where a RFRA has been abused in this way they cannot cite a single example. Indeed, many religious objectors themselves debunk the "license to discriminate" narrative and demonstrate they are not discriminating through their own history of serving all people.

Only a judge can apply a RFRA's balancing test. In no cases do RFRA's allow people to automatically appeal to religion to "opt out" of obeying a law. RFRA's do protect people of all faiths whose sincere beliefs are in danger of being unnecessarily burdened by the government, while winnowing out those using religion as a pretext to escape application of general laws.

Americans of all political persuasions and all religions who care about individual freedom of belief in the face of increasing government coercion should support RFRA's. The law's text and our long history of analyzing religious claims show that RFRA's are the best protection for everyone, allowing people of all beliefs to continue living free of intrusive government.

*Travis S. Weber is the Director of the Center for Religious Liberty at the Family Research Council, where he focuses on all manner of legal and policy issues pertaining to religious freedom. Before joining FRC, Travis worked in private practice, primarily litigating federal civil rights cases. He also handled military-related legal issues and criminal defense matters. Travis is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a J.D. from Regent University School of Law, where he served as the Notes & Comments Editor on Law Review.*

*Travis also graduated with an LL.M. in International Law (with distinction) and a Certificate in International Human Rights Law from Georgetown University Law Center.*

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[1] 494 U.S. 872 (1990). In *Smith* the Supreme Court held that government regulation infringing on religious exercise did not violate the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause as long as it was neutral and generally applicable.

[2] 521 U.S. 507 (1997).

[3] Twenty states have RFRAs: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

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## **Pastors converge on State Capitol ... in love**

Legislators seem to always have people yelling at them from one side or the other, no matter what they do.

How encouraging would it be if lawmakers had someone ministering to them instead?

On Tuesday, March 31, The FAMiLY LEADER brought over a dozen area pastors to the State Capitol to learn about the legislative process and to get directly involved ... by bringing the love of Christ to an often divisive place.

“Pastors bring a unique perspective to the lawmaking process,” explains Danny Carroll, family advocate for The FAMiLY LEADER. “They understand interpersonal relationships and what it means to endure under public pressure. These godly men were able to visit with and pray for several legislators during the morning session.”



The FAMiLY LEADER's Chuck Hurley with pastors at Iowa Capitol

The gathering of pastors included education on several issues of legislative importance – including abortion, anti-bullying, payday lending and human trafficking – as well as opportunities to meet congressional leaders, including Rep. Chris Hagenow, R-Windsor Heights, Sen. Jack Whitver, R-Ankeny, and Pastor Terry Baxter, R-Garner, now a member of the Iowa House.

“We give our thanks to God for the blessing of these gentlemen as well as their willingness to learn more about state government and to get involved,” Carroll said.

### **A pastor shares his experience**

Michael Demastus, pastor of Fort Des Moines Church of Christ, told The FAMiLY LEADER why it's so important – and meaningful – for Christians to reach out and minister to legislators.

“I had the wonderful opportunity to come together with my colleagues in ministry (from various denominations) to attend

The FAMIly LEADER's Pastor's Day at the Capitol," Demastus said. "We gathered together early in the morning to be briefed on the pertinent bills facing the legislature that day. We prayed together and then were let loose to call on our state representatives and senators to dialogue with and hopefully pray with them.

"It is so vital that Christians understand their role in civic government," he continued. "We are commanded to pray for our leaders and those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4). It is also important that Christian ministers help to shepherd and give counsel to those who lead. Many of them, literally, do not know to whom to turn. Why not guide them toward the unchanging and solid wisdom of the Word of God?

"All of the state representatives and senators give of their time and are not paid very well to do the work they do. They have so many voices demanding, criticizing, and asking of them at all times. It is important that we, as Christians, can lend them a supportive and prayerful voice of concern and help," Demastus said. "I am sincerely looking forward to doing this again in the future!"

[\*Join The FAMIly LEADER in equipping and encouraging pastors – and all Christians – to become leaders in their homes, churches AND government!\*](#)

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## March Newsletter

Download TFL's March Newsletter : [Click Here](#)

**THE FAMILY LEADER**  
Strengthening families...

March 2015

**Dear Friend of the Family,**

Between the time I write this letter and you receive it, my youngest son, Logan, will have played his final basketball game. Since long before our kids were born, I played and coached basketball, and when the boys came along, all three of our four boys could play ball. (For those of you who don't know our story, our third son, Loren, was born with severe disabilities, was light-blindness on, but back to basketball - long story short - we've been part of thousands of under high, high school, and college games throughout many years. And it will all be over in just a couple weeks.)

This benchmark in our lives has me experiencing a couple different emotions.

On one hand, I'm very thankful for the experiences that our family has shared through basketball. The game has helped shape each boy, improve people skills, and build character. What a blessing!

On the other hand, there is definitely some sadness. Not so much because our family's life around basketball is coming to a close, although that's part of it, but more that, because it is a stark reminder of how fast time flies.

Through the years there are many opportunities to be impacted by the legacy of life. In those times, we who follow Christ find strength in an eternal perspective the Lord makes available to us through faith. And we find hope in God's Word, which teaches us to hold off our:

**"All men are like grass, and their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever."**

During those seasons where a chapter of life is closing, it can be easy to question or evaluate where we are and where we're going in relation to the big picture. Am I fulfilling the calling God has placed on me? Am I investing the time, talents, and resources with which I've been blessed in a way that honors Him? It is good to ask these sometimes daunting questions.

This reminds me of a conversation I recently had with one of THE FAMILY LEADER's most faithful supporters. He said he would challenge other donors to not build bigger barns to serve themselves - a reference to the parable of the Rich Fool in the gospel - but to invest generously in providing Truth, which lasts forever. This reminded me of another passage in Matthew 6:

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."**

Will you join us with your finances in laying up treasures in heaven? Will you give that our work will bear significant, eternal fruit?

As I write again to update you and ask for your generous support, let me be clear about what THE FAMILY LEADER is ultimately all about.

We're concerned first and foremost with renewing our culture, understanding that pro-family policies and winning elections, important as they are, will be a byproduct of revival, not the other way around. To renew the culture, we depend through faith in Jesus Christ, on the power of God at work around us. We rely on the leading of the Spirit to help us join Him in the work He has called us to. And we are guided by His Word.



**Incredibly inspiring...**

One of THE FAMILY LEADER's most powerful events recently illustrated the priorities I've mentioned above.

I wrote briefly in my last letter about the rally we hosted at the Iowa State Capitol. Inviting Dr. Ted Turner, author and creator of Home on the Range and the Family The First Project helped mobilize thousands of families. In late 2014, our rally included each Iowa legislator and the speaker as well as the Governor and most of the state's elected officials. It was a truly historic event, personified by the presence of the Bible in the hands of our nation's legislators.

As the time has come, some of the legislators have followed back to our rally and our team has completed the video summary of our day on the Hill. You can watch the video by logging onto www.TheFamilyLeader.com/inspiringpastorsprayingbibles-to-legislators. What an incredible image!

When we started distributing Bibles to legislators that day - some of them hand-delivered by pastors or Christian lay people from each legislator's district - word spread quickly through the House and Senate and what was going on. One legislator came out of the chamber and told the people waiting to give him a Bible, "I heard there were people out here praying and these really nice Bibles, so I came out to get some!" Thanks!

One of our favorite stories of the day is about a legislator and a pastor from his part of the state - both of whom I will long remember here. When the pastor offered the legislator the Bible, the legislator seemed offended and was about to walk away, but then he changed his mind. The pastor decided to follow the tradition and direct conversation away from the Bible, so he started to chat with the legislator about some different things going on in their local community. Forty years, after some time and conversation and an overall positive connection, the legislator returned and gave the pastor a copy of the Bible. I truly loved this story and would love to know how these two men's lives are going.

Our most interesting detail, which indicates to me that God has a bigger plan than we do with these Bibles - is the story leading up to our time at the Capitol. The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa - a congregation of liberal-religious organizations - tried to stop us from giving out the Bibles. They were using regulations that prohibited religious officials from receiving gifts valued at a certain dollar amount.

It turned out to be a big battle about nothing thanks to Chuck Hurley, our legislative team leader, doing his homework to make sure we followed the law. Imagine that...an organization called The Interfaith Alliance being anti-Bible!

Friends, will you join us in praying that these Bibles have a deep and lasting impact on each and every elected official who received one? Pray not only that they would open the Bibles and read the words and the articles included within, but that over the act of our being up at the Capitol and handing them would influence and encourage them.



**Report from The Hill**

March 2015

While we're on the topic of the Legislature, let me give you updates on a few issues we're working on up here.

**Life**

House File 28 is a bill in the Iowa House that will require Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to post in an ultrasound and allow the woman a chance to see her unborn child before an abortion is performed. The vast majority of women planning to have an abortion change their minds after they see their unborn child. These ultrasound photos that a child is more than just mere tissue. This bill is currently in the Iowa House.

**Marriage**

State Senator Dennis Gath and Representative Greg Shearwell are providing leadership to defend natural marriage in Iowa. Even though we might consider the fact that a natural marriage provides the best environment for children to be raised, Senator Gath filed a Resolution (R28) which is identical to House Joint Resolution (HJR28). Both bills propose that Iowa be allowed to opt out of the constitutional definition of marriage in Iowa.

Senator Gath, along with fellow Senators Tompkins, Schultz, Chapman, Bousharden, Byler, Anderson, Eversitt, Johnson, Kucenick and Beckard are sponsors of the Resolution. The House members sponsoring the bill include Representatives (from left to right) Kunkler, Wirth, Fish, Benzel, Nelson, Gammann, Hoffer, Shivers, Wroblewski and Butler. THE FAMILY LEADER commends Senator Gath and his fellow Senate Republicans, along with Representative Shearwell and fellow House Republicans for sponsoring these Resolutions to bring people home.

Since 2009 in Iowa, only one branch of government has been allowed to weigh in with its opinion regarding the definition of marriage-the courts (made up of selected judges).

In our representative Republic, the people retain all political power. THE FAMILY LEADER believes the Legislature should have that authority and power (S28 and HJR 28 are the people of Iowa can vote on marriage).

**Human Trafficking**

Simply put, we are working with law enforcement, state officials, and other concerned groups to make Iowa the most family-state in the nation where it comes to our treatment of human traffickers and their victims. Given that one of America's largest industries (40 and 50% of it) is sex through Iowa, human trafficking is taking place right under our noses. The only way to stop this is to create laws that deal severely with those traffickers, and then expect law enforcers to do the job. This will be a long process, and the problem is one that we need to do everything in our power to fix.

**First in the Nation**

As you know, Iowa is not just the first state to be the first in the nation across state. And if you haven't noticed, presidential campaigns are heating up!

The office has been getting calls from every major media organization: Fox News, Bloomberg, The New York Times, USA Today, CNN, and the Huffington Post. They're here for the Iowa caucus and know that an organization like ours, and people like you, will have a tremendous impact on the outcome of the Iowa Caucuses. They want to know what we think about the current field. They want to know what you who support us are saying. They always ask if we're going to moderate anyone. It's a no-brainer here, state days, and the caucus hasn't even fully come to Iowa yet!

Right now, we are in education mode big time. We're educating ourselves on policies affecting Iowa's families. And we're committed to giving you opportunities to be educated about these, too. Forward that each page make

THE FAMILY LEADER.COM

**Coming to a town near you**

It is a joy to get to see our Family Leadership Regional Summits in a community near you to learn from speakers addressing these issues. Here's the schedule:

- St. Paul - April 9
- Grass Lake - May 18
- Concord - June 15
- Sioux Center - September

Also, please get our fourth annual Family Leadership Summit on your calendar. It will be held in Ames on Saturday, July 18, 2015. And the Presidential Family Forum will be on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

The values - the values of conservative, Christian, constitutionalism - must be kept in the process of selecting the next President of the United States of America. There is no one better qualified to lead our nation than a Christian who understands the responsibility to govern. This is going to cost money and it's going to take time - hundreds of thousands of dollars and more. Please allow us to share with you our money-losing message. It's from Luke 12:

**"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required."**

We live in the greatest country in the world and we are blessed beyond what we could ever ask or imagine. We have been given much. We must invest it well.

Please join us with your time, your prayers, and your very best financial gift today.

I hope to see you out and about around the state soon!

**For THE FAMILY,**  
Bob Vander Plaats  
President & CEO

P.S. Please send your most heart-felt contribution to THE FAMILY LEADER today, a gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1000, or \$10000, using the response form and the enclosed envelope, or go to [TheFamilyLeader.com](http://TheFamilyLeader.com) right now and make a secure online donation. Thank you!

THE FAMILY LEADER, P.O. Box 62405 • Des Moines, Iowa 50321 • 515.281.3400 • [www.thefamilyleader.com](http://www.thefamilyleader.com) • [www.FTL.com](http://www.FTL.com)

**If 7:14 - Lead Ministry Sponsor at RiseFest**

The Family Leader's annual mission, If 7:14 is proud to announce Federal Minister's Summer rally at the Westcott 15th Annual RiseFest, to be held in Marion on Father's Day weekend, June 20 - 21, 2015. RiseFest is a family-friendly Christian festival featuring several bands including The Newsboys this year! A lot's to see, eat, and enjoy! Tickets are still on sale. For more information, visit [www.if714.com](http://www.if714.com) or call 800-875-7144. Ticket prices will go up!

**If 7:14** is a urgent call for Renewal - It's Your Newsboys

If 7:14 is a urgent call for Renewal - It's Your Newsboys. THE FAMILY LEADER took seriously after the 2012 Family Leadership Summit when the message was clear: as the business operators who operate depend on the passion and commitment that our group brings in learning things around spiritually, morally, mentally, nationally, internationally, and personally to Renew.

# The FAMILY LEADER Announces July 18 Date for The 4th Annual Family Leadership

# Summit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, March 17, 2015

## **The FAMiLY LEADER Announces New Date for The 4th Annual Family Leadership Summit**

*Pollster Frank Luntz to Host Interactive Discussions with Iowans*

Urbandale, IOWA – The FAMiLY LEADER’s 4th Annual Family Leadership Summit will be held on Saturday, July 18th at Stephens Auditorium in Ames, IA. The original date was August 15th, but due to several other conservative events scheduled for August, The FAMiLY LEADER has moved their Summit to July 18th.

Bob Vander Plaats, President & CEO of The FAMiLY LEADER said, “For the fourth year in a row, The FAMiLY LEADER is excited to offer its annual Family Leadership Summit for Iowans who are eager to learn more about and hear from conservative leaders. Between the Family Leadership Summit, the Iowa Straw Poll, and the first RNC debate, these important events will inspire, motivate, and educate conservatives on the leading issues facing America. A midsummer event on July 18th will be a great opportunity for Iowans to hear directly from – and directly engage with – an extraordinary group of conservative leaders.”

The FAMiLY LEADER is pleased to announce a partnership with Frank Luntz and his team at Luntz Global Partners, [www.lutzglobal.com](http://www.lutzglobal.com). Frank will host individual town-hall forums, along with potential focus groups, to add a unique opportunity for Iowans.

Frank Luntz is one of the most honored communication

professionals in America today. “The Nostradamus of pollsters,” said Sir David Frost, and one of the “hottest pollsters” in America according to the Boston Globe. Frank was named one of the four “Top Research Minds” by Business Week and was a winner of the coveted Washington Post “Crystal Ball” award for his accuracy as a pundit. His focus groups have become so influential that as a presidential candidate, Barack Obama commented, “When Frank Luntz invites you to talk to his focus group, you talk to his focus group.”

The FAMiLY LEADER is also pleased to announce that the National Organization for Marriage is their first national partner for the Summit, [www.nationformarriage.org](http://www.nationformarriage.org). Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage said, “It’s an honor to continue our partnership with The FAMiLY LEADER at the 2015 Family Leadership Summit to advance pro-family, pro-conservative, and pro-freedom conservative values. Iowans play a critical role in presidential politics and it’s a privilege to work with them at this most important Summit.”

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.

Last year’s Summit held in Ames, Iowa, was an extraordinary success, with more than 1,200 attendees and 100 members of the media. Many of the conservative movement’s most prominent leaders joined the Summit last year, such as Dr. Alveda King, Governor Rick Perry, Senator Tim Scott, Senator Ted Cruz, Governor Bobby Jindal, Governor Mike Huckabee, Tony Perkins, Joel Rosenberg, Ken Cuccinelli, and many others. Press releases will be sent as speakers are confirmed.

For more information about The FAMiLY LEADER to go [www.TheFamilyLeader.com](http://www.TheFamilyLeader.com), or learn about last year's amazing Summit, visit [www.TheFamilyLeadershipSummit.org](http://www.TheFamilyLeadershipSummit.org).

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