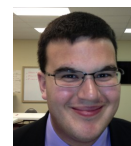


2013 Session in Review, 2014 Plans



Tamar
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Scott



Greg
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The 2013 Legislative Session is officially over and The FAMiLY LEADER gives it mixed reviews. This year's session was perhaps the greatest in history for school choice with huge victories for both private and home school families, gambling expansion was stopped, and the largest tax cut in state history was passed.

But not a single pro-life bill passed the House or Senate, little changes were made to taxpayer funded abortions and abortion providers, and the Iowa Marriage Amendment failed to pass in both the House and Senate.

This year's team included Chuck Hurley, Danny Carroll, Greg Baker and Tamara Scott.

Here is a brief overview of some of the issues we focused on at TFL:

Iowa Marriage Amendment



The Republican controlled House decided against advancing the marriage amendment out of committee. Several cosponsors from last year were reluctant to sign the bill in 2013 and others were late in doing so. We extend our appreciation to the following cosponsors of HJR 6, Iowa Marriage Amendment, which includes 35 of the 53 Republicans and 0 of the 47 Democrats:

ALONS , HEARTSILL , SCHULTZ , WINDSCHITL , KLEIN , SHEETS , DOLECHECK , FRY , BRANDENBURG , GASSMAN , SALMON , KOESTER , PETTENGILL , LANDON , BACON , L. MILLER , VANDER LINDEN , HEIN , HAGENOW , SHAW , ROGERS , FORRISTALL , DEYOE , SANDS , FISHER , DRAKE , SODERBERG , COSTELLO , JORGENSEN , BALTIMORE , RAYHONS , WATTS , GRASSLEY , WORTHAN , and HUSEMAN

The marriage amendment is eligible for consideration during the 2014 session and will be a priority of The FAMiLY LEADER as we look forward to next year.

Education



Education reform was a priority this past session. The FAMIly LEADER along with other interest groups worked to include benefits for home school and private school families. We are very pleased to report that several important provisions related to school choice were included in the final legislation. These included instruction options and reporting relief for home school families. Private schools gained freedom in accreditation and will see an increase in the statewide cap on tuition assistance tax credits. Parent taught drivers education was also legalized for home school parents.

We extend our appreciation to House Republicans who made home school and private school issues a priority. We also extend special gratitude to Representative Salmon and Gassman who led the effort on the House Education Committee.

We also want to thank Eric Goranson with Iowa Association of Christian Schools, Tom Chapman with the Iowa Catholic Conference, and Bill Gustoff with NICHE. It was their hard work that made success a reality.



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Abortion



The FAMiLY LEADER fought hard to prevent tax dollars from going to abortion providers (like Planned Parenthood). Each year millions of dollars find their way into the bank accounts of abortion providers. Our primary focus this year was on the Health and Human Services budget bill. We asked pro-life legislators to refuse to vote for the budget bill if it did NOT prohibit tax funds from going to abortion providers. While the bill passed the House with bipartisan support on the last day of the session, eleven House Republicans held firm and voted NO. They included:

SHAW, SHEETS, SCHULTZ, ALONS, HEARTSILL, SALMON, GASSMAN, FISHER, WATTS, GARRETT AND BRANDENBURG

These heroes deserve our gratitude for standing against the status quo and voting their conscience regardless of the cost. Well done!


Personhood legislation, which protects life at conception, was introduced again this year in the Iowa House by Representative Shaw and several other Republicans. However, it once again failed to get support in the Judiciary Committee and was not given the opportunity to come to a vote.



Senator Dennis Guth, from Klemme, introduced the Human Life Amendment which would amend the Iowa Constitution to say that the inalienable right to life of every person at any stage of development shall be recognized and protected. The FAMIly LEADER will be working on this amendment every legislative session until it is ratified in Iowa. Senator Guth is a champion in the fight to protect life.

We look forward to working with Dan Becker and Personhood USA in the fight to protect life from conception to natural death in future legislative sessions.

Life, Marriage, and Family Rally

TFL hosted their annual Life, Marriage, and Family Rally  this year in the Iowa Capitol on April 23rd. This year Dan Becker with Personhood USA joined us for our rally. The day started with a legislative breakfast. Over 25 representatives and senators came to listen and ask questions of Dan Becker on the Personhood initiative.

[wowslider id="4"] Over 100 people attended the rally that took place on the first floor rotunda of the Iowa Capitol. This year's rally's key focus was on defunding of abortion providers. The rally also focused on marriage, gambling, and other pro-life legislation. Dan Becker along with Bob Vander Plaats, Danny Carroll, Chuck Hurley, Tamara Scott, and Greg Baker addressed the crowd. Following the rally everyone lobbied the Iowa Legislature for two hours on the issue of funding for abortions and abortion providers. Many spent the time to visit with their legislators on this important issue as well as thank them for their service and pray for them and their families.

Divorce/ Gambling/ and Pay Day Loans

The FAMIly LEADER also worked on a wide range of other issues at the Capitol. Our lobbyists worked to stop the gambling industry expanding to online poker. Online poker failed to pass in both the Iowa House and Senate. Also on the issue of gambling, The FAMIly LEADER prevented the passage of a bill that would have ended a critical study done by the state that shines light on the socio-economic effects gambling has on a community. Without this study little would be done about gambling's negative consequences on the family and community.



TFL also worked with multiple organizations to pass more regulations on Payday loan lenders. Payday loans take advantage of some of the neediest in our society by charging them on average 297% by the time they pay off their loan. These new regulations would have required Payday lenders to follow the same rules our banking industry currently follows. Unfortunately, this bill failed to pass in both the House and Senate.



Another bill TFL worked on was a divorce reform bill that was introduced by freshman representative Ted Gassman. This bill would have restored fault based divorce in cases where minor children are involved. The bill did pass in committee, but was not brought up to a vote on the House floor.

Allies

We extend our thanks to all those who visited the capitol this past session and joined us in our lobbying efforts. We especially want to mention Pastor Brad Cranston from Burlington and dozens of his fellow pastors who made the trip

to Des Moines several times during the session.

Possible agenda items for the 2014 session

1. Iowa Marriage Amendment – passage in both chambers
2. Human Life Amendment – passage in both chambers
3. De-fund abortionists – passage in both chambers and signed by the Governor
4. Passage of Education Savings Accounts for private and home school families

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Week #17: A Gosnell in Iowa?

Life is Sacred!

As the Iowa Legislature moves toward adjournment, we are still working for a provision in the Health and Human Services budget to prevent your tax dollars from going to abortionists. The House amendment, H-1378, that we are supporting has a chance of passage this Session. Events on the national and Iowa scene undergird why we need to stop this in Iowa. Consider the following reports:



The Heritage Foundation questions "tax money for abortionists" in light of Gosnell

Sarah Torre at the Heritage Foundation wrote an article linking the Gosnell case to continued government payments to abortionists like him. She concluded her piece with the following statement:

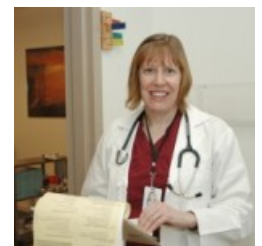


“In light of the brutality that became commonplace at [Gosnell’s abortuary] and has appeared elsewhere, policymakers should rethink continued financial support for an industry that creates and supports the likes of Gosnell.”

You can read the entire article [here](#).

Dr. Jill Meadows – Iowa’s Kermit Gosnell?

The Iowa Republican reports that Iowa has its own version of recently convicted murderer Kermit Gosnell. Read more about Dr. Jill Meadows [here](#).



U.S. Congressman has questions for Iowa

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller recently received a letter from U.S. Congressman Bob Goodlatte, the House Judiciary Committee Chairman. Rep. Goodlatte apparently is asking all fifty state Attorneys General to provide information on their states’ laws, regulations, inspections and litigation of Gosnell-type abortion centers. As of this report, it is unclear if Attorney General Miller plans to respond to Rep. Goodlatte’s request for information. A copy of the letter sent to Virginia’s Attorney General is [here](#).



We understand Iowa's letter is similar.

Concluding Action:

PLEASE let your voice be heard on behalf of Iowa's voiceless—call or email your Rep. and Senator NOW, in the final hours of this Session: “NO MORE tax dollars to abortionists!”

Thank you, and may God bless our efforts together to save the least of these, the tiniest members of our human family!

Education Reform

Governor Branstad's education reform initiative remains alive. Representative Jorgensen, Republican from Sioux City and the House leader on education, said his fellow Republicans will stand firm in support of home-school families and private school relief. A few Senate Democrats are reportedly holding out in resistance to any relief for parental choice in education. Please contact and encourage your state Senator to support home school and private school parents.



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