



Texas Eagle Forum

April 2020

Dear Eagles,

This certainly is an April we will remember for the rest of our lives!

As our Nation heads into another month of combatting the Chinese Coronavirus, we hope and pray you are well. While Texas Eagle Forum will continue to push forward on issues we are adamant about, it is hard to stay focused when our concern is for you, our members. I personally pray you have the hope of Jesus Christ to carry you through this difficult period. We who know Him can go to his Word for encouragement in whatever circumstances we face. If you would like to talk about knowing Jesus as your Savior, I am happy to have that life-changing conversation with you.

Regardless of where we are in the stages of this pandemic, we will have an election in November and a legislative session in 2021. One of the issues Texas Eagle Forum is passionate about is the transgender issue (see this month's lead article in the *TORCH*). We will do everything in our power to make sure Texas protects children from the Left's transgender agenda. There is no way any civilized society can continue to allow their children to be sterilized and mutilated. Young brains are still developing until the ages of 21–25. If we can protect kids until they are fully adult, we will save them and their families from heartache and permanent bodily damage.

Our other primary issue will be our fight to keep marijuana illegal in Texas. I recently participated in a group study and discussion on housing and homelessness. As I am never one to leave others to do all the research, I started comparing states that have legalized pot to the states with the most homelessness. Research shows that marijuana can lead to schizophrenia, psychosis, and bipolar disorder. Legalization of marijuana has caused everything from an increase in cartel activity to a blossoming number of ER visits for children under five who are poisoned by delicious-looking marijuana edibles. States that legalize pot create more underage users, with permanently lower IQ's. We must fight against the newest "big tobacco." A few will get rich off addiction, while we will all pay a price for their gains.

We are grateful to Governor Greg Abbott for declaring Planned Parenthood and other state abortion clinics "non-essential," and thereby stopping abortions in our State. Of course, lawsuits from the Left have already been filed. And we are pleased the Governor has declared gun stores may stay open. One good outcome is anti-gun people are realizing that they want a gun to protect themselves! Saving lives and upholding Second Amendment rights are Constitutionally essential to our liberty as a free Nation.

These are interesting, unexpected, and unimaginable times. A county judge in Houston wanted to release Texas prisoners, saying it was "unconstitutional" to keep them incarcerated during the pandemic. Thankfully, common sense prevailed, and the Governor stopped the release for now. And that is the reason we need to elect good judges, not judicial social-justice warriors.

(over, please)

On the national level, I appreciate President Trump navigating this Nation through the Chinese Coronavirus. Can you imagine how Hillary Clinton would have led us through this crisis? Our President truly loves our Country and her people and is not ashamed to boast about it. God put him in office for a reason. Please remember to pray for him and his administration.

While I do agree a “stimulus” will help those who have lost their businesses and/or jobs due to a government-induced shut down, Congress appropriating a TWO-TRILLION-dollar stimulus package is hard to swallow, especially when frivolous items (pork) were added to the bill. Our children and grandchildren will suffer the consequences of unsustainable debt in years to come.

During this crisis, with many out of work or working from home, charitable giving is understandably not a priority. Texas Eagle Forum strives to be a good steward of your financial gifts, and, while we so appreciate your faithful giving, we also covet your prayers to continue our mission of standing for Texas families.

TEF is praying for you and our Country. We WILL get through this crisis, and, hopefully, find ourselves leading simpler and more fulfilling lives as we reset our priorities to honor God, family, and country.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindi Castilla". The script is cursive and fluid.

Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum



THE TORCH

— Texas Eagle Forum —

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Texas Eagle Forum Website

Be sure and check Texas Eagle Forum's website for legislative updates and news from around the state.

Go to texaseagle.org

Transgenderism: Throwing Science out the Window

By **Tony Perkins**, Family Research Council, 3/5/20

Nobody said puberty was easy. But it is necessary, Dr. Quentin Van Meter told Alabama legislators. He's practiced medicine for decades and, like a lot of doctors, can't believe that people are willing to throw pediatric science out the window just to satisfy a handful of transgender activists. After so many years treating kids, he says, it really is "hard to swallow."

And it's basically come out of nowhere. I talked to Dr. Van Meter about how society has embraced this agenda almost overnight. Twenty years ago, when I was in the Louisiana legislature serving on the Health and Welfare

Committee, if you'd have put a measure in front of me protecting underage kids from transgender surgery and hormones, I'd have fallen out of my chair. Dr. Van Meter, who's practiced pediatric endocrinology for 46 years, has never seen anything like it.

"There's no reason behind [it] other than it's sort of a train rolling on a track very fast at warp speed." It used to be, he said, that gender confusion affected about six out of 100,000 adult males and three out of 100,000 adult females. "It's now estimated," Van Meter explained, "to be in 1.5 percent of the population of kids across the country today."

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“It’s sort of a cult phenomenon,” he insisted, fueled by “Internet access and hysteria.” Now, children who are “miserable in middle school or [adolescence] for any number of reasons, and we all were miserable when we grew up,” are being given [a] “bright, shiny object that promises them extensive amounts of happiness and success—when in truth, that’s not what it really is. So it’s a shiny object that draws attention and draws these kids into a state of making decisions that they should not be able to make.”

“This is an experiment on children without any ethical framework in which to do it...”

Van Meter made that argument in Alabama, one of the many states considering a ban on gender reassignment surgery and hormones for kids. Together with [Family Research Council’s (FRC)] Peter Sprigg, he was pleased with the reaction to the testimony. “Our side really presented beautiful science. Their side presented anecdotes. And [the] legislators could see that clearly. The science is on the side of this issue.” In fact, he went on:

“There is no science at all that says [transgender treatment for children] is safe or effective over the long run because we haven’t been doing it long enough, and

there are no control groups. This is an experiment on children without any ethical framework in which to do it—something that’s an anathema to those of us that do clinical research and are very careful about clinical practices that protect our patients from experimentation.”

But unfortunately, he warns, this campaign to lock kids into a lifetime of pain and misery has tremendous financial backing. “The LGBT community has embraced this, even when it’s essentially harmful to those who might end up being same-sex attracted instead of transgender. It’s almost as if this is an alternate track that has medical and surgical harms attached to it that are just unfathomable in terms of the outcomes. And, so, we’re compounding the injury... It’s the strangest coalition, but it is very powerful.”

Your voice, fortunately, is just as powerful. If you live in a state that’s considering protections like Alabama’s, make sure to weigh in. South Carolina, Florida, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky, Utah, and Georgia are all racing to respond to the cult that’s destroying our kids.

For more information on the truth behind the debate taking America by storm, check out FRC’s “Understanding and Responding to the Transgender Movement.” Or, to study up on what could be happening in your child’s classroom, be sure to read, “A Parent’s Guide to the Transgender Movement in Education.”

NOTE: Texas Representative Matt Krause (R-Ft. Worth) said he plans to introduce a bill in the next session that “prohibits the use of puberty blockers for children under 18.” TEF worked on this issue in the 2019 session and will continue to work for and support legislation that protects children from medical abuse by transgender activists.

Preferred Pronouns Spread to Walmart

The transgender identity movement has spread from elite bastions of higher learning such as Harvard and Wesleyan to the Walmart nearest you. The giant retailer announced this month that it will allow employees to wear buttons that declare their preferred pronouns. The choices are He/Him/His, She/Her/Hers, and They/Them/Their. Those who prefer Ze/Zir, Mx, or some other variant can wear the “Ask me my pronoun” button, presumably aimed at customers who feel the need to know their salesperson’s or cashier’s gender identity.

Walmart’s move is the latest sign of how “preferred pronouns” have taken root the United States, Canada, Britain, and some non-English speaking countries. In the United States, it’s becoming normal practice for schools and colleges, hospitals, media, and government and corporate offices to use the singular “they” or other recently coined pronouns. IBM is among the companies that allow employees to specify their preferred

pronoun in their human resource files. *Forbes* magazine reports on a move to encourage everybody to use them in email signatures—a good thing, as one advocate of the practice said, because, “it normalizes discussions about gender.”

Establishment institutions, from the Associated Press and *The New York Times* to the American Psychological Association and the New York City Commission on Human Rights, are endorsing the use of “they” in the singular to refer to individuals who may be transgender or just do not identify as either male or female. The *Merriam-Webster* dictionary named “they” the Word of the Year for 2019, meaning that it was the most looked-up word on the organization’s website (“quid pro quo” and “impeach” were in second and third places). “The singular they and its many supporters have won, and it’s here to stay,” Jen Manion, an associate professor of history at Amherst College, wrote approvingly in a recent op-ed in *The Los Angeles Times*. SOURCE: WorldNetDaily, 3/18/20



Should Texas Legalize Marijuana?

Tommy Chong makes no secret of his endorsement of being stoned in almost any situation. Even driving. “Everybody’s worried about driving when you’re stoned. Noooo, you’re not going to hurt anybody going five miles an hour,” he says. “But you do get paranoid at the wrong times. One time, I got pulled over by a caution light. I sat there for a long time, man.”

There’s never been a clearer explanation of why you shouldn’t drive when you’re intoxicated—on anything. But now, data show that even when the buzz fades, if you use marijuana regularly, you’re still an on-road hazard to yourself and others.

Researchers from MacLean Hospital’s Cognitive and Clinical Neuroimaging Core and the Marijuana Investigations for Neuroscientific Discovery (MIND) program published a study in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* that looked at chronic users’ driving skills.

Those were people who had used [pot] in five or more of the past seven days, reported using at least 1,500 times in their life, and then abstained for at least 12 hours before participating in the study. The results clearly showed that chronic users have more accidents, drive faster, and drive through more red lights than nonusers. Folks who started smoking weed regularly as teens have the worst driving skills.

SOURCE: Dr. Oz and Dr. Roizen. M.D., “Chronic Marijuana Use Increases Driving Hazards,” 3/18/20.

In addition to driving dangers linked to marijuana use, Smart Approach to Marijuana (SAM) gives more talking points on why recreational marijuana should remain illegal:

- The move to legalize marijuana is really a move to commercialize marijuana for profit. It is today’s version of Big Tobacco, and it should be discouraged.
- We are moving way too fast to legalize in this country without taking into account the costs of such a policy. We need to slow down. The only people who benefit from a rush to legalize are a small number of investors.
- Today’s marijuana is much more potent than in the past—with

- pot edibles, candles, cookies, ice creams, and waxes being up to 99-percent THC [the chemical compound that makes users high]. Compare that to five percent Woodstock Weed.
- More minority kids are being arrested in Colorado for pot since legalization, and car crashes related to marijuana, young adult use, and workplace positives are skyrocketing in legal states.
- More stoned people do not help society. According to the National Institutes of Health, Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic, and World Health Organization, marijuana is addictive and can produce withdrawal and dependence.
- Brain changes: the NIH states that regular marijuana use can reduce IQ by eight points and may be irreversible; it also impairs memory and learning.
- Marijuana can be a pathway to other drugs of abuse: four out of every 10 lifetime marijuana users will go on to use another drug in their lifetime.
- Studies have shown mental illness is on the rise in legal states, as is crime.
- We do not need to legalize in order to reform the criminal justice system. We can remove criminal penalties, expunge records, and offer justice without commercializing today’s highly pure THC pot products.
- The marijuana industry is seeing increased investment from existing giants of addiction. Altria, the parent company of Phillip Morris, recently invested more than \$2 billion into the industry, and has secured a minority ownership into Juul—the vaping giant—in a move to cement future stakes in the industry.

NOTE: Eleven states have legalized recreational marijuana use in the United States. They are Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington, plus D.C. In Texas, the Compassionate Care Act of 2015 allows medicinal use of low dose pharmaceutical THC only to those suffering from intractable epilepsy. Efforts to legalize recreational use of pot in Texas have failed, but will likely be brought up again in the 2021 legislative session. TEF will continue to fight against any legalization of marijuana.

National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7

If there was ever a need for prayer, it is now. The theme for May 7th National Day of Prayer is "Pray God's Glory Across the Earth" (Habakkuk 2:14: For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.). Check the NDP website for prayer events in your area: nationaldayofprayer.org.

"Don't California My Texas!"

Republican "refugees" from a Democrat-controlled state have a message for their new Texas neighbors: Don't vote for what we fled. A group of former California residents, who relocated to the Lone Star State in order to flee harmful liberal policies, launched the Keep Texas Red PAC to help them share that message. The conservative political action committee is aimed at spreading the word to Texas voters about why blue states have failed and why it's imperative for Texas to not follow these blue states. The super PAC will not fund candidates. "Instead, we are 100-percent focused on direct voter outreach, delivering a message of not voting for the same policies that destroyed where we came from," said PAC founder Paul Chabot, who moved to Texas in 2017. "Texas is an amazing state, and research shows that the majority moving here are, like us, Republicans. Yet a large segment of the Texas population votes Democrat without truly living the Democrat nightmare," Chabot said. "They don't know how lucky they are, and we hope they listen to us."

SOURCE: Erin Anderson, Texas Scorecard, 3/11/20

Children Suffering From "Eco-Anxiety"

According to new research in England, a growing number of children are suffering from something that didn't exist until recently: "eco-anxiety." Yes, you read that right. The American Psychological Association defined it in 2017 as "a chronic fear of environmental doom."

According to the British study, 73 percent of children between the ages of eight and 16 said they were worried about the environment. Nearly 20 percent said they had nightmares about the climate crisis, and 17 percent said that "eco-anxiety" has disrupted their eating habits. Congratulations, Al Gore. You've stolen not just Greta Thunberg's dreams and childhood, but those of thousands of children, as well. In all seriousness, I want clean air and clean water, too. I have grandchildren, and I want them to grow up in a world with a healthy environment. But we are failing as parents if we are allowing our children to become indoctrinated and obsessed with left-wing propaganda.

SOURCE: Gary Bauer, End of Day Report, 3/10/20

Pastor Petitions to Keep Space Force Hymn

A pastor and author is petitioning the U.S. Department of Defense to essentially ignore the complaints of an anti-religious group and allow "The Space Force Hymn" to be sung at chapel services. In a letter to the DOD, Rev. David A. Newberry, author of *The History of the United States Space Force and the Space Force Hymn*, urges the DOD to keep the hymn as a pillar of hope, encouragement, and support for space explorers as they witness God's creation in outer space that most men have never seen. "My intent is simply to point out that the Freedom From Religious Foundation has maligned the text of the "Space Force Hymn" ... in order to ban freedom of religion in the Space Force," Newberry writes. "Please allow the "Space Force Hymn (Creator of the Universe)," which is a sacred piece, to be sung in all Space Force chapel services. "'The Space Force Song,' which is another secular patriotic work, can be sung outside of chapel services."

SOURCE: OneNewsNow, 3/17/20

Quote of the Month

"I dislike the 'war' analogy to fighting the Wuhan coronavirus. Frankly, governmental 'wars of analogy' don't have a very good track record. They often result in more government, higher costs, and less liberty... and without salutary results."

~ Michael Quinn Sullivan,
The Texas Minute, 3/18/20

Great American Quote

"We are a Country that, throughout our history, has looked to God for protection and strength in times like these... I encourage you to turn towards prayer in an act of faith. Together, we will easily PREVAIL!"

~ President Donald Trump calling for a National Day of Prayer, March 15, after declaring a national emergency amid the coronavirus pandemic, 3/15/20

Texas Eagle Forum

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