



CAPITOL CONNECTION

WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

30 Years of Fighting for You, Your Family & Your Values!

Much has changed in our world since the founding of Wisconsin Family Council (WFC), Wisconsin Family Action's (WFA) sister organization, in 1986. But at least one thing has not: WFC continues to be the leading pro-family organization in The Badger State, to which we say, "To God be the Glory!"

FOR 30 YEARS, WFC has strengthened Wisconsin's families through public policy education, issue research, and grassroots activism.

FOR 30 YEARS, WFC has been committed to using good research, sound arguments and articulate presentations to make the case for pro-family, pro-life, and pro-liberty values in the public square.

FOR 30 YEARS, WFC has educated and mobilized Wisconsin voters and distributed nonpartisan voter guides in churches and across the state.

FOR 30 YEARS, WFC has defended religious liberty, stood firm on protecting Wisconsin's churches and promoted your Christian values.

And after 30 years of successfully engaging on the important issues here in Wisconsin, we want to take a moment to recognize our organization's most valuable asset – you. **YOU** are the reason WFC is celebrating 30 years of strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin. **YOU** are the reason Wisconsin Family Council has been able to make a real difference here in The Badger State.



Left to right: WFA Executive VP James Maillette, WFA President Julaine Appling, Packers' Hall of Fame member Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, and from Wall Builders, David Barton and Tim Barton

As you continue to partner with WFC now and in the years to come, the voice of Wisconsin's families will continue to grow as we stand together on core values and principles in our churches, our communities, our legislature, and beyond.

Thank you for walking with Wisconsin Family Council for 30 YEARS as WFC honors, with you and on your behalf, the Lord God in the public arena. Your prayers and your financial partnership have sustained WFC as a pro-family, pro-life, pro-liberty organization that proudly perseveres on behalf of you, your family, your faith and your freedom. We trust God grants us 30 more years of service for you.



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by Wisconsin Family Action

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In the Face of Lawlessness, Who Will Stand With WFA?

On May 13th, President Obama escalated his war on traditional American values, following through on a threat he had been making for the previous several weeks. Through a letter from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Education (DOE), President Obama effectively dictated to every public school district in the country that his progressive transgender agenda be adopted. In a thinly veiled way, he is threatening to withhold federal funding from districts that refuse to provide transgendered students with unfettered, unquestioned access to restrooms and changing rooms of their choice.

Based on how events have transpired over the last seven years, it should come as no surprise that President Obama has chosen once again to overstep his authority. However, his willingness in this case to completely ignore making even a feigned respect for proper legal procedure is truly a matter for grave concern. If this is allowed to stand, if the Obama administration can unilaterally decide to change the meaning of the word *sex* as used in Title IX, (a meaning Congress specifically established 44 years ago), without going through the legislative or even judicial procedures that have been laid out and followed since the founding of the United States, nothing is off limits. The president

may not be a king or dictator in title; but in the way he is asserting his power and authority, there is little tangible difference. The modifying of law by executive decree should be a revolting, heretical concept to real Americans, regardless of where they stand on the issue at hand. One would think in this case, where the issue is about the fundamental privacy, safety and dignity of all students, the outrage would be at an almost unprecedented level.

And yet there are very few self-proclaimed conservative elected officials here in Wisconsin willing to voice even a tepid opposition to such lunacy. For many of those serving in Madison, "keep your head down and hope it goes away" seems to be the official unofficial unified response to the President's actions. Save for a select few state legislators, Wisconsin Family Action, and some principled grassroots conservatives from around the state, no one is willing to speak out against President Obama's further usurpation of states' rights and power. Too few are willing to stand and fight. Too few are willing to hold to their principles. For most, the time to stand for what is right is always tomorrow, always after the next election.

Thankfully, Wisconsin's Attorney General Brad Schimel, acting in concert with Governor Walker, recently signed on to a

lawsuit pushing back against this dangerous agenda being unlawfully foisted on the entire country.

But unfortunately for all the accommodationists who infest the current political landscape, there are times when there is simply no room for compromise. Times when the only option is to stand and fight for both your conservative principles and for the rule of law as it has existed in the



United States since day one.

And now is one of those times. There is no other option for principled conservatives.

No matter what happens, Wisconsin Family Action will continue to show up, stand up and speak up in defense of children and in opposition to blatant lawlessness. Will you stand with us?





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Family Prosperity Index Coming to Wisconsin

As we noted in the last “Capitol Connection,” WFA President Julaine Appling attended CPAC in March, serving as a panelist along with Stan Swim, director of The Sutherland Institute, economist Larry Kudlow of CNBC, and economist Dr. Wendy Warcholik of the American Conservative Union to take on the daunting topic of the “State of the Family in America: How Do We Measure Success?”

You will be pleased to know WFA has not allowed the spirited discussion that occurred on this subject at CPAC to end there. We have boldly continued talking about the compelling idea of comparatively assessing state by state the respective overall health of the families that reside there.

For a long time now, it has been pretty commonly acknowledged by many Wisconsin residents that our economy is simply not what it used to be. But we haven’t been able to know with any kind of reliable comparisons just how well or how poorly the economy is actually doing. We hear the Jobs Report, watch the stock market and pay attention to the GDP, but what do these numbers actually mean, and are they in fact useful measures of actual prosperity?

It is also commonly understood that Wisconsin families are simply not flourishing the way they once did. But does anyone know why? Is it possible that there is a connection between the state of the economy and the state of the family?

WFA and WFC believe there is a definite connection between the health of Wisconsin’s families and the state’s economy, so much so that for a number of years WFC has carefully compiled a research project entitled *Wisconsin’s Cultural Indicators*. Based on Dr. William J. Bennett’s landmark national research project, *Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*, *Wisconsin’s Cultural Indicators* uses government data to track the economic and



social factors that impact the wellbeing of Wisconsin families. Revealing trends and changes that otherwise may have gone unnoticed, *Wisconsin’s Cultural Indicators* has proven time and again to be a valuable resource for many Wisconsin decision makers and lawmakers.

Recognizing the potential such information could have on the way society views the interconnectedness of the economy and the health of the family, noted economists Dr. Wendy J. Warcholik and J. Scott Moody, have built upon Dr. Bennett’s idea and taken the concept to another level by establishing the *Family Prosperity Index*. Demonstrating quantitatively the link between economic and social wellbeing, the *Family Prosperity Index* provides state-to-state comparisons that immediately show where a state is performing well and where it is doing poorly and how families are faring in a given state.

According to the Family Prosperity Initiative website (familyprosperity.org), as the Dow Jones Industrial Average measures the rise and fall of the stock market, the *Family Prosperity Index* measures the strength and prosperity of families – and the nation – by combining the most important social and economic data into a single number. It offers a more complete and accurate picture of the economy by considering social factors that have an economic impact, in addition to those factors measured by the government. The *Index* fills in the gaps around other measures like the GDP, assembling all of the pieces of the prosperity puzzle into a complete picture of the economy.

WFA is excited to be partnering with economists Dr. Warcholik and Scott Moody to bring the *Family Prosperity Index* here to Wisconsin. In effect, the *Family Prosperity Index* provides WFA and other likeminded organizations with the credible data that state policymakers will need in order to develop and pass substantive and effective policies that will measurably improve the prosperity of Wisconsin families.



Left and Center: Wisconsin Family Council hosted Packers Hall of Famer Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila and Pastor Rafael Cruz in multiple educational events in late March and early April. The events emphasized the need for Christians to turn out and vote based on their biblical beliefs.

Right: Wisconsin Family Council President Julaine Appling and Vice President James Maillette participated in the National Day of Prayer event held May 5th on the steps of the Wisconsin Capitol.

