



CAPITOL CONNECTION

WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

H.R. 5 - /Nequality Act Update

In late May of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the deceptively misnamed “Equality Act” (H.R. 5). Wisconsin’s 8-member congressional delegation voted along party lines, with the 3 Democrat members (Pocan, Kind and Moore) voting in favor; and 4 of the 5 Republican members voting against (Steil, Sensenbrenner, Grothman and Gallagher). Sean Duffy (R) did not vote on this bill.



Julia Beck testifying before House Judiciary. YouTube screen shot.

This bill is so radical that even some hardline feminists and lesbian activists oppose it. In fact, in April one lesbian feminist testified strongly against the proposal before the House Judiciary Committee when it held the public hearing on the bill. Julia Beck, Former Law and Policy Co-Chair for Baltimore City’s LGBTQ Commission, argued on behalf of the Women’s Liberation Front (WOLF), “H.R. 5 is a human rights violation. Every single person in this country will lose their right to single-sex sports, shelters, grants and loans. The law will forbid ever distinguishing between women and men.”

The consequences of the “Equality” Act are incredibly far-reaching. The official summary of the proposal is it’s “a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and for other purposes.”

That sounds innocent enough. After all, equality was one of the principles our great nation was founded on...the idea that we are all equal before our Creator and therefore in the eyes of our government and the law.

But a deeper dive into the details of the so-called “Equality Act” clearly shows it isn’t really about equality at all. It’s about government-imposed ideology that deeply damages everyone’s religious liberty and individual freedom.

Make no mistake—that’s exactly what Nancy Pelosi and her extremist allies want. When discussing her agenda for this Congress, Speaker Pelosi said, “If there is some collateral damage for some others who do not share our view, so be it.” Here’s some of what Nancy Pelosi means by “collateral damage” as it specifically relates to H.R. 5:

- Women and girls forced to share public bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers with men and boys;
- Female athletes made to compete against biological males who self-identify as female;
- Parents faced with unnecessary hurdles to getting their gender-confused children the professional counseling they so desperately need;
- Doctors having no conscience protections against being ordered to perform abortions and sex-change operations;
- Christian artists and business owners required to host and celebrate same-sex weddings, or have their businesses destroyed.

In truth, the “Equality Act” is actually one of the most radical and *anti*-equality bills ever written—a dream come true for LGBTQ and pro-abortion activists. On abortion, the bill includes the largest expansion of taxpayer-funded abortion this country has ever seen. Language in the proposal could be construed to create a right to demand abortion from health-care providers. In addition, it would very likely force taxpayers to pay for abortions.

The bill is currently in the Senate, where Republicans hold a slim majority. To date, there has been no movement on the bill.



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Summer 2019

Standing Up, Speaking Up, Showing Up

A sign in the front of one of my college classrooms read, “It’s always right to do right.” I read the sign many times over my collegiate years and that saying comes back to me frequently even many years later. It seems especially appropriate when it comes to interacting with elected officials.

On Friday, June 7, Governor Evers issued a Proclamation declaring June “LGBT Pride Month” in Wisconsin. He followed that with an Executive Order (EO) declaring the “Rainbow Pride Flag” was to be flown over the state capitol through June 30, in honor of “Pride” month.

In that EO, the governor also authorized any state or public building to fly this flag, if they wanted to. Sadly, a number of such buildings followed suit. We were thankful public schools were closed for the summer so students weren’t walking daily into buildings flying this special-interest flag.

We immediately issued a press release. Our position was, and continues to be, that by ordering this flag to be flown over the state capitol, Governor Evers was proclaiming one group of Wisconsin citizens as preferred over all others. We asserted that the state capitol is a place representing all Wisconsin citizens. Singling out and giving preference to one group with inordinate political power is wrong and disrespectful of all the other citizens.

In addition to the press release, we immediately began urging people to call the governor to express their opinion. Hundreds of calls went quickly into the



governor’s office.

The following Monday, in an unprecedented move, the governor sent out an email telling people he was launching a petition drive so people could let him know they supported his flag decision.

We had already been planning to do a petition as well, and by Tuesday, June 11, we had an online petition going. The petition put forth the same reasons as the press release and asked the governor to take the flag down immediately.

You, the people of Wisconsin, responded in a big way! Thanks to you and others, just two weeks to the day from when we launched the petition, 10,000 concerned citizens had signed our petition—an impressive number in a very short time!

True to our word, on Tuesday, June 25, our WFA/WFC team personally delivered all 10,000 petitions to the Governor’s office in the state capitol. We invited people to stand up, speak up and show up with us via Facebook Live, which we ran during the entire delivery. Thousands watched live or via the archived video. As we were working on the petition, some

asked why we were doing this since it was fairly clear the governor wasn’t going to change his mind.

Our response was, “It’s always right to do right.” In this situation, the governor needed to know not everyone agreed with him. He also needed to have the opportunity to do right. The phone calls and the petitions provided both of those for the governor.



In addition, “we the people” needed the opportunity to do the right thing, which in this case was letting our elected official know our opinion and holding him accountable.



No, the governor didn’t take the flag down until June 30. But he definitely heard from those he says he wants to represent.

Doing right doesn’t mean we always get what we want. But it does mean, especially in this instance, we collectively and rightly stood up, spoke up and showed up.

~Julaine Appling, WFA/WFC President

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What's Going on in Madison?

Unlike some years, the legislators have been around the capitol quite a bit this summer introducing bills and holding public hearings. No floor sessions are scheduled until the middle of September.

Earlier this summer, Governor Evers vetoed 4 pro-life bills WFA had supported (with some specific concerns). Neither the Assembly or the Senate had enough votes to override the vetoes.

Some Bills WFA Is Tracking or Involved With

- **AB 41/SB 49 – Decriminalization of child prostitution.** (WFA opposes) WFA believes this proposal takes a tool away from law enforcement who are trying to get minors engaged in prostitution off the streets, assumes all minors involved in this activity are being coerced and gives an advantage to the Johns and the pimps to recruit more minors into the business, including into sex trafficking.
- **AB 111/SB 107 – Prohibiting so-called “conversion therapy” for minors.** (WFA opposes) This bill prohibits certain mental health workers from actually providing real hope and real help for minors dealing with unwanted same-sex attraction and/or gender confusion. It mandates these mental health workers can only give advice that affirms, normalizes and encourages minors to continue with these beliefs and behaviors. This bill trounces on religious freedom and on parental rights.
- **AB 129/SB 111 – Allowing voucher schools to provide pupil instruction virtually.** (WFA supports) This bill levels the playing field with public schools by allowing voucher schools to offer direct pupil instruction virtually.
- **AB 185/SB 197 – Changing how WI’s electoral votes are allocated.** (WFA opposes) This bill erodes the Electoral College. Instead of awarding WI’s 10 electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in our state, those 10 votes would go to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote.
- **AB201/SB 191– Creating a nonrefundable tax credit for adoption expenses.** (WFA supports) This bill’s intent is to encourage Wisconsin families to adopt children. This \$5,000 tax credit piggybacks on the federal adoption tax credit and helps parents offset some of the costs related to adoption.
- **AB 248/SB 262 – Removing “personal conviction” exemption from vaccination requirements.** (WFA opposes) Wisconsin currently has 3 options for parents seeking to exempt their children from vaccinations: health, religious and personal conviction. This bill would remove “personal conviction,” making it harder for parents to not vaccinate their children.

- **AB 304/SB 286 – Allowing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense certain contraceptive drugs and devices to women 18 and over.** (WFA opposes) This bill encourages unwed women to be sexually active, doesn’t adequately protect women’s health, and promotes abortion-inducing contraceptives.



WI State Senate. Compliments of Royalbroil <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>

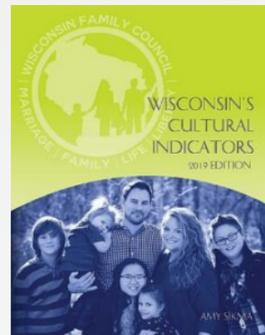
Just Released! WI Cultural Indicators

Provided by Wisconsin Family Council, this important 75-page publication includes critical data and trends of “Family Structure and Income,” “Childbearing and Poverty,” “Births to Teenagers Age 15-19,” “Expenditures for Public Education (K-12),” “Underage Drinking Among High School Students,” “Juvenile Arrests, and an extensive look at “Family and the Economy.” Wisconsin-specific data is taken from state agencies as much as possible.

We have distributed copies of *Wisconsin’s Cultural Indicators, 2019 Edition* to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, Wisconsin’s congressional delegation, all state legislators, secretaries of various state agencies, members of the judicial branch, mayors of the 49 largest cities, superintendents of all public school districts, all public libraries and to over 300 pastors. We have received numerous requests from libraries, school districts, and others for additional copies.

This publication is designed to help decision-makers and leaders craft policy and programs that strengthen marriage and families and in doing so strengthen our communities and state. When our families are strong, our state is strong. And the converse is true, as well. *Cultural Indicators* is available online at WIFamilyCouncil.org.

Your investment made this important publication possible. **THANK YOU!**



Over \$46,000—Going, Going, GONE!

In just one year, Choose Life Wisconsin (CLW) has given over \$46,000 to 25 different pregnancy care centers in The Badger State! The first grants were awarded in May 2018, with a second round in November 2018, followed by another round this past May. This is money received from the sale of the CLW license plate. The plates first went on sale in late October 2017.

So far over 1200 plates have been sold, and now we are on renewals; so the money CLW receives each quarter is compounding. Every dime of the \$25 per-plate fee goes to pregnancy care centers—and more since some anonymous donors each month give to CLW.

This is a joint project of Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) and Pro-Life Wisconsin (PLW), with the two organizations underwriting all CLW administrative and overhead expenses. When these grants are presented, the smiles and words of thanks are richly rewarding, especially knowing this money is directly going to save babies and help their mothers. One of the centers quoted a client recently: “Now that we’re married, everything is different. Before we were two people who loved each other and had a baby. Now, we are a family.” What an incredible encouragement to hear this is what these license plates are supporting!



L to R: Dan Miller (PLW), Krysta Crawley (Life’s Connection/Director), Julaine Appling (WFC)

You can be part of this exciting project by getting a CLW plate. Call us at 888-378-7395 or visit chooselifewisconsin.com for details. *Thank you to everyone who is sporting a CLW plate on your vehicle! You are making a pro-life, pro-family difference!*

Looking Ahead

Here’s a look at what’s coming in the next few months. Elections are coming! Big, important elections! A review of this reality reminds us all that elections have very real consequences and that our vote really does matter.

2020 Elections

Tuesday February 18 - Spring Nonpartisan Primary - At a minimum there will be a statewide race for a seat on the WI Supreme Court. Justice Dan Kelly will be running for re-election. Securing a victory for Justice Kelly will be a high priority for WFA.

Tuesday, April 7 - Spring Nonpartisan General & Presidential Primary (Democrats). Will include the top two vote-getters from the Supreme Court primary and many local races.

Tuesday, August 11 - Fall Partisan Primary - primaries for state and federal-level offices (not president).

Tuesday, November 3 - Fall Partisan General - Presidential election, all 99 State Assembly seats, half of the State Senate, all 8 Congressional seats, miscellaneous county offices.

WFA and WFC will be engaging as heavily as possible in these elections, each organization doing whatever it can to encourage citizens to be informed and involved.

Wisconsin is a “targeted” state for next year’s elections. In addition to the fall elections, we are confident much national attention will also be focused on our spring Supreme Court race, since liberal efforts failed this past April. National liberal groups such as Planned Parenthood, Human Rights

Campaign, EMILY’s List and others have said they are targeting our state with millions of dollars and bringing lots of ground troops to defeat President Trump here and to flip control of our state legislature from Republican to Democrat.

As a part of our ongoing strategic efforts leading up to these critical elections, WFC is again hosting a series of community events. Our theme is “**2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture.**” The fall lineup is below. All the events are from 6-8 p.m. Join us!

Thursday, Aug. 29 - Verona (Pizza Ranch)

Thursday, Sept. 12 - La Crosse (Black River Beach Neighborhood Center)

Thursday, Sept. 19 - Eau Claire (Pizza Ranch)

Tuesday, Oct. 1 - West Bend (Pizza Ranch)

Thursday, Oct. 10 - Hudson (Pizza Ranch, Stillwater, MN)

Thursday, Oct. 17 - Kenosha (Golden Corral)

Thursday, Oct. 24 - Waukesha (Machine Shed)

Thursday, Nov. 7 - Elkhorn (Pizza Ranch)

For more details and to register, call 888-378-7395 or visit wifamilycouncil.org/events.

In 2020, you will be the difference maker! You made a difference in this past spring’s Supreme Court race. You made a difference in the 2016 presidential race. Together we can make an even bigger difference in 2020. Let’s roll!

