

COMMONWEALTH POLICY

Reinforcing the Commonwealth's Founding Principles - Renewing the Commonwealth's Future Promise

A SEASON OF INFLUENCE



Pages prepare for the session of the Kentucky House of Representatives on January 9, 2018.

Since its inception in 2012, the Commonwealth Policy Center has been working to help conservative candidates that will help shore up life, marriage, religious liberty and fiscal integrity in Kentucky.

The 2018 General Assembly is evidence that our work is paying off. More than 70 legislators that participated in the 2018 session have been endorsed by CPC.

We know this accomplishment only comes by the grace of God, the hard work of our board members, many other volunteers, and the generosity of those that help fund this mission.

More than celebrating this accomplishment for our organization, though, we celebrate it for all of Kentucky. We believe that strengthening these core issues makes Kentucky a better place to live today and for generations to come.

Still, we know there's much more work to be accomplished in the Commonwealth. On the heels of one of our best attended Candidate Training Summits this past January, we're planning

two more trainings in May and June as the 2018 election promises to be an important one. We've also made our training available on DVD for the first time. There is more about our candidate training inside this newsletter.

We also know that not everyone shares our excitement and the battle is far from finished. The ACLU and Planned Parenthood are already at work to strike down the pro-life work accomplished in the 2018 General Assembly. That's why we've included a column from Richard Nelson on the nuances of how those groups twist words to accomplish their sinister purposes.

Education was also in prime focus during this session. While public education isn't a specific focus of CPC, we often find ourselves addressing education related issues because of the state funding needed for public education and the influence of the curriculum taught in schools. Inside this newsletter you'll find an article to help you understand public charter schools.

Thank you for support of CPC's work. We are making a difference!

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The Commonwealth Policy Center is a non-profit public policy group helping Kentuckians value life, protect natural marriage, defend religious liberty, and promote fiscal integrity.

Learn more about our work at
CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

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Abortion and Verbal Clarity



Rep. Addia Wuchner (R-Florence) speaks in House Committee. Wuchner sponsored HB454 to ban abortions past 11 weeks. Photo courtesy LRC Public Information

by Richard Nelson

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Kentucky's latest abortion regulation was barely a day old before the ACLU claimed it was unconstitutional and filed suit to have it struck down. HB 454, signed into law by Gov. Bevin on April 10, banned abortions after 11-weeks and criminalized "dismemberment" abortions—the term used in the actual bill but avoided by abortion advocates.

ACLU Deputy Director of the Reproductive Freedom Project Talcott Camp said "We're suing Kentucky yet again — this time to stop state politicians from banning a safe abortion method. This law disregards a woman's health and decisions in favor of a narrow ideological agenda."

Visit
**Commonwealth
PolicyCenter.org**
to read all of our
blogs, columns,
and commentaries.

Considered from that vantage point, Talbot seems reasonable. Who would sacrifice women's health over an "ideological agenda?"

Proponents of unrestricted abortion argue that such laws take away women's rights, impinge on their freedom and impose an onerous burden at one of the most difficult times in their lives. Why should some Frankfort politician tell a woman what to do with her own body? That's what the ACLU is going to argue in court.

But is the 11-week abortion ban a burdensome imposition? Is it really a narrow ideological agenda when a bipartisan vote of 75 members of the House and 31 members of the Senate vote in favor?

The bill passed because HB 454 described just how much an 11-week old preborn baby looks like a person. It also used troubling terms detailing the abortion technique used to end that life.

Nixing the law requires denial of what's going on behind closed doors and takes all kinds of apologists. Science deniers are needed to explain away the biological being in utero. Historical revisionists must contort the Constitution

to come up with the idea that abortion was what the Founders had in mind when they mentioned "due process" "liberty," and the "pursuit of happiness." And wordsmiths must be employed to decry repulsive descriptions and in their place insert palatable language to shelter our senses.

Terms like "product of conception," and "contents of uterus"—replace the word "baby." Words like "crushing" and "dismembering" are called inflammatory. And the wishes and desires of the expecting mother are exclusively emphasized at the expense of all other interests. It is on the battleground of terminology and psychology that the law's fate hinges.

When abortion apologists mash language into putty—malleable and rootless, used not to convey facts and truth but rather as a pragmatic tool used as political justification, we open the door to dehumanization of some members of the human family. According to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services there were 537 dismemberment abortions in Kentucky in 2016.

Orwell reminds us that "The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish spurting out ink."

Such psychological and verbal ink conjured by crafty attorneys is the confusion that makes overturning life-affirming laws possible. So do arguments centering exclusively on one person as if there are no others involved, including the man who helped create the new life and the new life itself.

The law's survival depends upon whether judges will fully consider what's going on behind the curtain. Lexington neonatologist Dr. Lynda Sanders testified to the legislative committee in early March that it was "exceptionally cruel" to dismember a fetus. She said "those unborn babies are Kentucky citizens as much as you and I are."

CPC Offering Candidate Trainings in May and June



Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton speaks at the Commonwealth Policy Center's *Candidate Training Summit* in Frankfort on January 27.

Following the best attended *Candidate Training Summit*, CPC is offering two more regional trainings during the late spring and summer.

Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton will join Richard Nelson for the trainings which focus on local offices. The first is planned for May 19, at the Lookout

Corporate Center in Fort Wright. The second opportunity is in Madisonville at Brothers' Barbecue on Saturday, June 2. Both events will take place from 8:30am-1:00pm.

Nelson encourages conservative candidates for public office to attend the training, "The trainings are geared to

local elections and offer conservative candidates tools and resources to run a winning campaign."

"Lt. Gov. Hampton is a real asset to the training, Nelson said, "Her campaign experience and personal insights are invaluable and inspiring. Keep in my mind that not only did she win Kentucky's second highest public office, but she also draws experience from falling short during her 2014 state House campaign."

The trainings will feature presentations and question and answer sessions from Hampton and Nelson, as well as video presentations on campaign fundraising, learning the number of votes needed to win an election, and dealing with the media.

There are limited spots available for the training. Registration is available at <http://cpccandidatetraining.org>.html.

Partners are Critical to the Work of CPC

Whether we like to think about it or not, friends come and go in our lives. The natural ebb and flow of life affects the nature of relationships with family, friends and business associates.

Non-profit organizations face similar challenges with those that partner with them. There are a number of reasons relationships change, but the reality is that non-profit organizations must be building new relationships if they're going to persevere.

In 2017, we began the Friend of the Commonwealth initiative to welcome new friends as partners. We're excited about its successful launch, but there's always room to add a friend.

The friend of the Commonwealth is someone that is willing to commit to

praying for the work of CPC by name on a regular basis and will make a monthly financial contribution.

and religious liberty in Kentucky. We appreciate those that pray for us on a regular basis.



Another part of being a Friend of the Commonwealth is by making a monthly financial contribution to CPC. We're grateful for every supporter, but monthly supporters provide a dose of regular confidence. They help us maintain the monthly expenses that come with a ministry that is trying to impact all 120 of Kentucky's counties.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a friend of the Commonwealth, please

contact Richard Nelson at Richard@CommonwealthPolicy.org.

Your prayers and financial investment are making a difference across Kentucky. We're grateful for our friends!

Candidate Training DVD Now Available



The Commonwealth Policy Center's Candidate Training Summit is well known across Kentucky for providing effective training for running a successful political campaign.

For the first time, the training is now available in DVD format. The disc includes six sessions with almost three hours of helpful material.

Recorded at CPC's training on January 27, in Frankfort, the disc includes sessions led by State Treasurer Allison

Ball, political consultant Brad Shattuck, television reporter Lawrence Smith, Alex Keyes of Grit Creative, and CPC's Richard Nelson.

Sessions include:

- How to run a successful campaign
- How to raise campaign funds
- How to use social media in your campaign
- How to work with the media
- How to target voters to win your election

CPC's Richard Nelson said, "Over the

years, people have told us that the training they've received from us is the most helpful they've received. We believe the DVD will be a resource to those that can't attend one of our trainings and a refresher for those that have attended."

The DVDs are available for a suggested donation of \$30. For more information or to purchase the DVD, visit <http://www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org/political/candidates/trainings/candidate-training-dvd.html>.

Every Election is Important

Imagine if you could go to one website and see where every candidate running for public office in Kentucky stood on the issues of life, marriage, religious liberty and fiscal integrity. Sounds like a useful resource, doesn't it? Sounds like a really big project, doesn't it? Because we answer yes to both of those questions, it's a goal we want to attempt.

We believe every election is important so we're working to build a network of people across Kentucky to help us gather candidate information so we can make wise choices in the voting booth.

We believe this goal will take a number of years to become reality, but we're already working in Bowling Green and Paducah. Our goal is to have candidate information for

the November General Election.

Not only will we ask the candidate where they stand, we'll share the information with voters via a website. At the site, people can choose their county to see a list of candidates and the questionnaire they've returned to us.

To make sure the process is fair, every candidate will receive the same questionnaire. We hope that within a few years we can build a network of volunteers that will help us communicate with the thousands of Kentuckians that run for public office.

If you'd like to learn how to volunteer in our first phase in Bowling Green or Paducah, please email Richard Nelson at Richard@CommonwealthPolicy.org.

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Highlights from the 2018 General Assembly



The state budget, tax structure and state worker pension crisis was the focus of the 2018 General Assembly for many, but there were also a significant number of bills passed that focus on social issues.

Recently, Richard Nelson and Brandon Porter recorded an episode of the Commonwealth Matters that focused on the accomplishments of the session that directly address the issues of life, marriage and religious liberty in Kentucky. The episode can be found at CommonwealthMatters.org.

House Bill 454 could make Kentucky the most pro-life state in the United States. It bans dismemberment abortion and all abortions after 11 weeks. The legislation passed the General Assembly and has been signed by Gov. Matt Bevin. However, on April 11, the ACLU filed suit against the bill. The Constitutionality of the legislation will be determined later in 2018.

Legislators also took steps to protect children, foster families and adoptive families with the passage of House Bill 1. The bill is aimed at streamlining the process of state

care for a child by reducing the number of days Kentucky children can be in foster care, and providing an additional \$60 million to hire more social workers, in addition to a number of other measures. Gov. Matt Bevin signed the legislation into law on April 13.

Sen. Stephen Meredith's (R-Leitchfield) Senate Bill 71 calls for the teaching that abstinence from sexual activity is a desirable goal for school-aged children. The legislation also calls for the inclusion of the fact that abstinence is the only certain way to avoid unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The bill was passed by both Houses and was signed by Gov. Matt Bevin on April 13.

There were no pieces of legislation passed that would expand gambling in Kentucky. In addition, no legislation passed that would allow for the recreational use of marijuana.

CPC has created a number of written and audio pieces providing analysis of the session. They can be found at our website and on our Facebook page.

What is a Public Charter School?

Public charter schools were approved during the 2017 General Assembly session. But since then very little has been accomplished to move public charter schools forward in Kentucky. That includes the 2018 General Assembly session where no related legislation passed. While public charter schools are a legal option, there isn't a mechanism for funding them. This is something the General Assembly must address another time.

As the debate over the state budget and state worker pension crisis escalated, public charter schools were depicted as a threat to public education and a part of Gov. Matt Bevin's supposed strategy to privatize public education.

If you had to explain what a public charter school is, could you? If you can't, don't feel bad. Most Kentuckians can't.

Dr. Gary Houchens, an associate professor in the Education department at Western Kentucky University and member of the Kentucky Board of Education, is a proponent of public charter schools.

He says, "...public charter schools are in-

dependently operated. They are public schools in every way. They're funded by public funds and must accept all applicants. The key difference is that they are not operated by a local school board, but by their own board of directors." Because they can have a specific focus, he says they can focus on students that fall between the cracks because of their ethnicity, race, or a disability.

He says the charter school's board of directors creates a charter for the school that includes the purpose of the school, the curriculum that will be taught, a budget, and all of the specifics that will regulate the school. While not operated by the local school board, they must be approved by their local school board.

Houchens believes they're not a threat to public schools, but a way to strengthen public education in Kentucky because charter schools reach at-risk students in a strategic and fiscally responsible way. To hear the full interview with Houchens visit CommonwealthMatters.org.



Candidate Training Summit

How to Win Your Campaign
How to Raise Funds
How to Work with the Media
Much more!

Led by
Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton
& Richard Nelson

Saturday, May 19
Lookout Corporate Center
Fort Wright

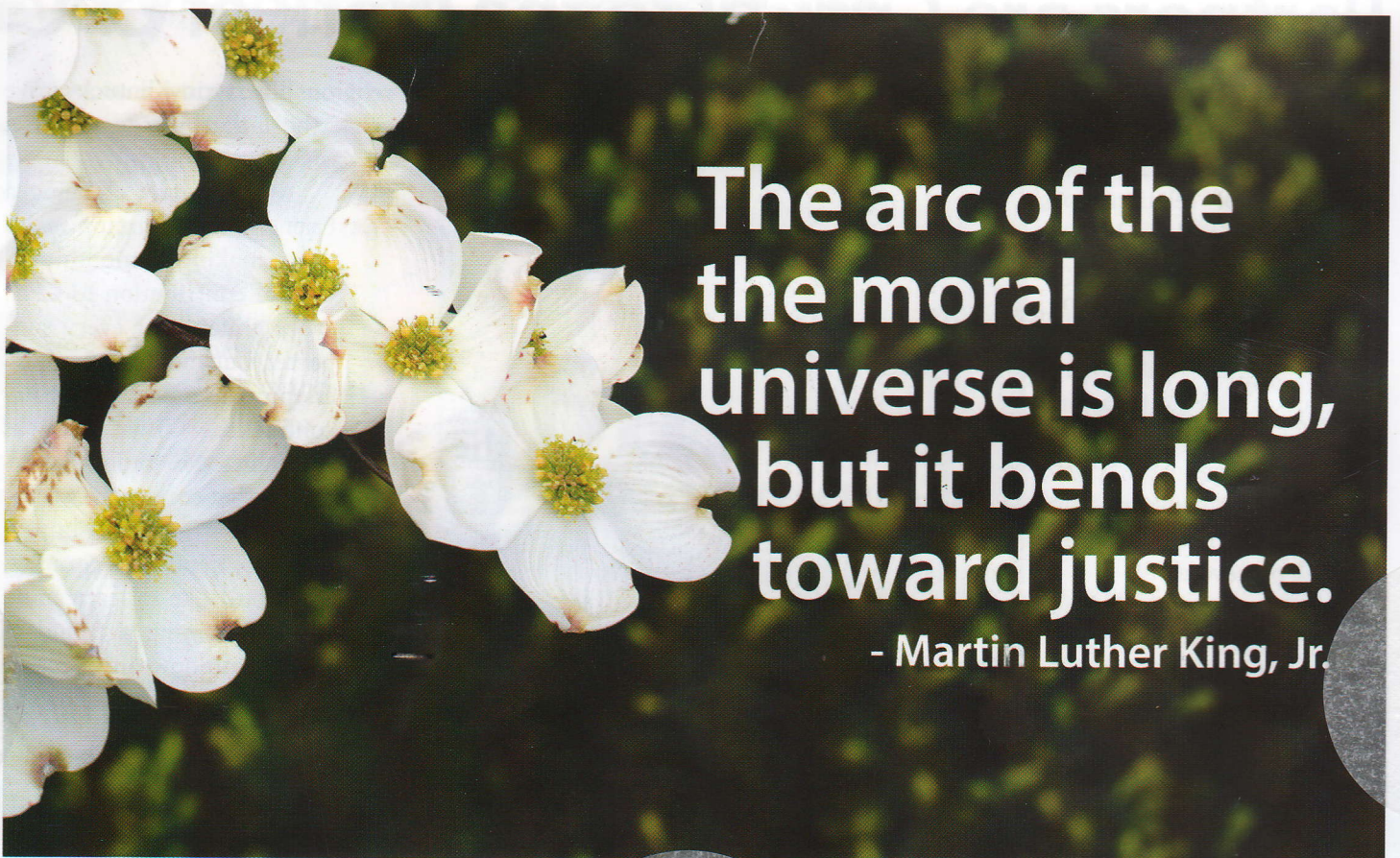
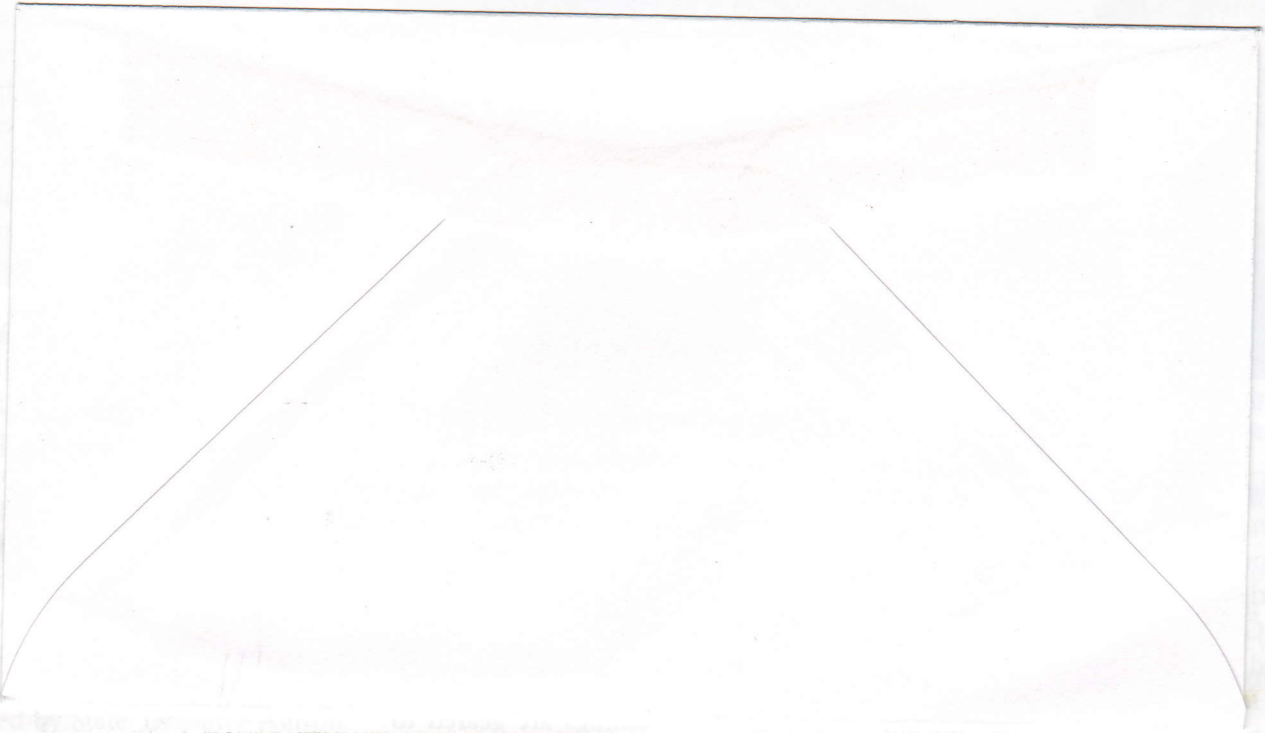
Saturday, June 2
Brother's BBQ
Madisonville

Limited space!
Info and Registration at
CPCCandidateTraining.org



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**The arc of the
the moral
universe is long,
but it bends
toward justice.**

- Martin Luther King, Jr.