

COMMONWEALTH POLICY

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

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What I saw Outside the Abortion Clinic



Right to Life advocates protesting outside EMW Women's Clinic in Louisville on Feb. 3. EMW is Kentucky's only remaining abortion facility.

Have you ever gone to an event expecting one thing only to find out that it was something entirely different? That was my day one Friday in January and I don't think I'll ever forget it. I was invited to attend a gathering of pastors and pro-life leaders in Louisville where I thought they'd be praying outside the EMW Women's Clinic.

As I drove down West Market Street and approached EMW, Kentucky's lone remaining abortion facility, it wasn't a prayer vigil I discovered but rather protesters lining the sidewalk with large signs. Some said "Look to Jesus." Others were more graphic.

The box truck parked across the street had a larger than life photo of an aborted fetus too grisly to describe. People walked up on down the sidewalks on their way to work in the heart of Louisville's business district. But it was the man's voice ringing through the cold 20 degree air that jarred the average person in the neighborhood.

His message was a mix between exhortations and a sermon. My heart skipped a beat. "Do you really want to be involved with this?" I saw what nobody should ever have to see. "Might as well keep going and spare yourself the controversy." At the same time, if what was going on inside the doors of the clinic was true, it was something that everybody

Gov. Bevin Hosts CPC and Dr. Al Mohler

On Feb. 8, Gov. Bevin welcomed the Commonwealth Policy Center and Dr. Albert Mohler into the Governor's mansion for a legislative reception. Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville spoke to 75 State House and Senate members, constitutional officers, cabinet officials, and guests and challenged them to boldly lead as we face serious challenges. "If righteous legislators honor that which is rightly to be honored, they can sleep at night knowing the one who started this story will complete it," Mohler said. To see the video go to: www.youtube.com/



Richard Nelson, Gov. Matt Bevin, Dr. Albert Mohler and Brandon Porter at the Governor's Mansion on Feb. 8 for a legislative reception.

Beshear Refuses to Defend Pro-life Law



Attorney General Andy Beshear

Does an attorney general have the right to refuse to defend a duly enacted state law? According to Kentucky's Attorney General Andy Beshear, the answer is yes. Beshear publicly announced on Jan. 10 that he won't defend Kentucky's recently enacted late-term abortion ban. Now, it appears he's not faithfully defending the Ultrasound Bill. The law was enacted with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate and signed into law on Jan. 7 by Gov. Bevin. But Beshear refused to oppose a motion by the ACLU to temporarily block the bill, indicating he was not doing all within his power to uphold the law. In a CPC interview, Gov. Bevin called Beshear's actions "dishonorable" and challenged him "to do the job he was elected to do." The attorney general swore an oath to uphold the Kentucky Constitution and to "faithfully execute" the duties of his office. If Beshear refuses to defend the ultrasound the law, it leaves expecting mothers at the mercy of abortionists who will withhold critical information they deserve—information the legislature intended for them to receive.

ACTION ITEM: Call Andy Beshear and kindly tell him to defend both of Kentucky's pro-life laws (HB 2 & SB 5). Call: 502-696-5300.

should understand. I ended up parking around the corner, caught my break and regained my composure. I buttoned up my wool coat and put on my scarf. As I turned the corner, a man dressed in an orange emergency-type vest stood with his back against the building, posted like a guard. He was a clinic escort and would walk the women leaving their cars to the entrance. Was I in a war zone? Some of the pro-lifers would undoubtedly say yes.

There was a group of black women facing the clinic and praying out loud. They were on one side of the white line. The other side of the line said Private Property. Immediately next door to EMW was a pro-life pregnancy care center called A Woman's Choice.

Another of their offices was located across the street. I was able to capture some audio and video for a story. Where was the other media? This didn't happen there everyday. Dozens of pastors and protesters came from across the country to expose what they believed a travesty and voice their support for life.

Operation Save America, a ministry based out of Dallas, Texas, organized the event. Their goal is to outlaw abortion. Abortion is legal in Kentucky and until a few weeks ago, late term abortions after 20 weeks were allowed as well. I've always questioned the wisdom and effectiveness of publicly waving posters of

graphic images of dead babies. So I asked Angela Minter, the Executive Director of Sisters for Life in Louisville, a pro-life ministry that engages in sidewalk counseling to persuade women to choose life. She was there that day and surprisingly wasn't opposed to the signs. Full disclosure: Minter is a personal friend and board member for my organization. She agreed that the images are disturbing, yet necessary to help people understand the reality of abortion.

She relates it to the images from the civil rights movements of the 1960s, "When the media actually saw the water hoses and blacks being mistreated they saw what was actually happening to the black community." She believes mothers need to see abortion for what it really is, "I think people really need to know what's being experienced by

"I think people really need to know what's being experienced by the child. And the mothers need to know this is what the abortionist plans to do to your child."

—Angela Minter

the child. And the mothers need to know this is what the abortionist plans to do to your child."

She's not speaking callously or theoretically either. Minter has had two abortions. She was about to have a third abortion when her father—then a state representative—found out, and told her she'd better not. She listened to him and because of that I got to meet her daughter Ryan later that day.

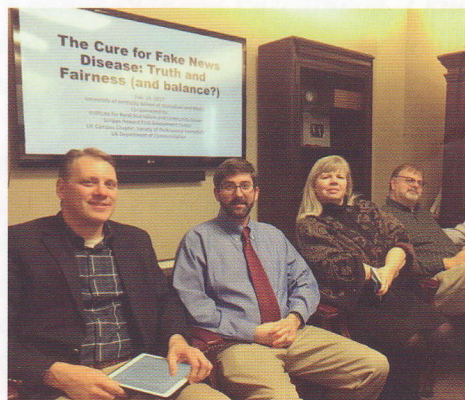
Richard Nelson

CPC Participates in Panel Discussion at UK School of Journalism

CPC's Richard Nelson joined reporters from the Courier-Journal, Lexington Herald Leader and a UK faculty member to discuss fake news and media bias at the UK School of Journalism on Feb. 15.

The panel was live streamed via Facebook, and had more than 500 views. Watch it at our Facebook page. Listen to the Commonwealth Minute at <https://goo.gl/BRO0H2>.

Pictured Right: Richard Nelson, John Stamper, Katherine Urch, and Joe Gerth



CPC Tracks Important Bills in General Assembly

2nd Amendment

SB 7 would allow 18 year-olds to carry a handgun and drop requirements to take a class for concealed carry.

HB 101 would allow local governments to limit sales of arms and ammo.

Planned Parenthood

SB 8 prohibits state and local funds from being used by any organization that provides abortion services. Passed Senate by vote of 31-6 (2-22-17).

Education

HB 58 authorizes home school students to participate in public school sports and extracurricular activity.

HB 128 allows the Bible as literature to be offered as an elective course in public schools. Passed House 80-14 (2-23-17).

HB 141 prevents biological males from using female restrooms and locker rooms in public schools.

HB162 creates scholarship granting organizations that would award need-based scholarships for public school students to attend private schools. Businesses donating to this fund would get a tax credit.

HB 520 allows local school districts to approve Charter Schools.

Gambling Expansion

HB 400 legitimizes video slot machines and expands gambling at Kentucky horse tracks.

HB 414 expands gambling in Kentucky by allowing gambling on fantasy sports.

Drugs & Tobacco

SB 76 legalizes medical marijuana.

SB 78 prohibits the use of tobacco products by students, school personnel, and visitors in public schools. Passed Senate 25-8-12 (2-15-17).

Religious Freedom

SB 17 protects the religious and political expression of public school students. Passed Senate 31-3 (2-10-17).

SB 97 requires pastors to be licensed by the state for counseling.

Other

HB 14 elevates penalties for crimes targeting police officers and first responders. Passed House 77-13 (2-13-17).

HB 524 increases penalties for human trafficking where children are involved.

HB 528 creates substance abuse screening program for adults receiving public assistance.



Richard Nelson testifying on behalf of SB 5 on Jan. 5 with bill sponsor Sen. Brandon Smith (R-Hazard).

YOU can make a difference on these important bills.

If you're concerned about any of the above legislation, simply let your legislator's know. The legislative message line is open from 8 AM to 11PM EST. A receptionist will ask for your name and address. All you have to say is "Please tell my state Rep. and state Senator to vote for or against ____" It's free. It takes just a couple minutes. And it makes a difference. Call today. The last day of the legislative session is March 15 and the Veto Override session is March 30. **Call (800) 372-7181.**

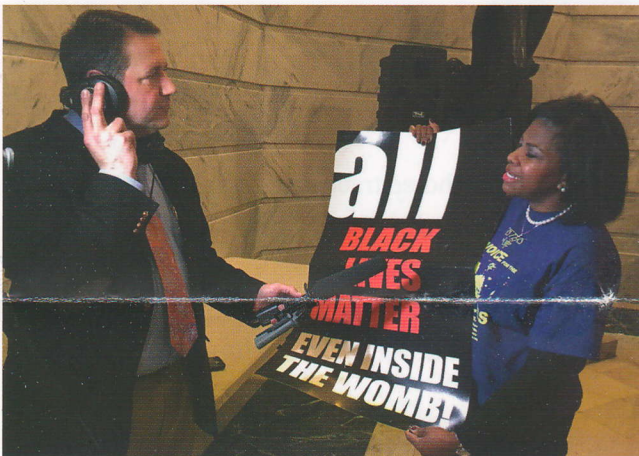
Newspaper Publisher Discusses Media Elite

Chip Hutcheson, publisher of the Princeton Times-Leader, believes there's a breakdown in communication between the national media and rural America. Hutcheson, former president of the National Newspaper Association, says he regularly tries to persuade the "media elite" to listen to people across Kentucky and the heartland when he travels to Washington, D.C. to lobby for local newspapers.

CPC Media Director Brandon Porter interviewed Hutcheson at his office in Princeton. Hutcheson admitted he has been duped by fake news and offers suggestions on how you spot it online, in print, and on TV and radio. Watch the wide-ranging interview on our YouTube Channel, <https://goo.gl/Yvbvaq>.



Pro Life Advocates featured in CPC Video



Brandon Porter interviewing Angela Minter at the Right to Life Rally in the Kentucky Capitol on Feb. 8.

The Capital Rotunda overflowed with more than 500 pro-life advocates on February 8, when Governor Matt Bevin ceremonially signed two pieces of pro-life legislation passed by the General Assembly in January.

Heather Mitchell of Lexington and Angela Minter of Louisville, both CPC Board Members, were in the Rotunda celebrating the legislation they had fought to bring to Kentucky. Mitchell, a featured speaker at the rally, expressed jubilation over the pro-life victories. You can watch the interviews at our YouTube channel, <https://goo.gl/Yvbvaq>.

Analysis: General Assembly Moving to Defund Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood received \$528 million from the federal government in fiscal year 2013–14. They also provided more than 30 percent of the nation's abortions and are under investigation for profiting from the sale of baby body parts. Their supporters deny the charges and make it sound as if they lose federal funding, women will lose important health care. Truth is, Planned Parenthood provides less than two percent of the nation's cancer screenings and breast exams and less than one percent of the nation's pap tests. A January 25, article in National Review revealed that Planned Parenthood does very little in the area of pre-natal care. A Planned Parenthood employee in Merrillville, Indiana said, "No, we don't do prenatal services. I mean, it's called Planned Parenthood, I know it's kind of deceiving." Which leaves us with this question: should the nation's largest abortion provider now caught on tape trafficking in fetal remains receive public tax dollars? SB 8 prohibits state and local funds from going to any organization involved with abortion-related activity. The bill is sponsored by State Sen. Max Wise (R-Campbellsville). It passed the Kentucky Senate by a vote of 31-6 on Feb. 22.

"No, we don't do prenatal services. I mean, it's called Planned Parenthood, I know it's kind of deceiving." Planned Parenthood employee in Merrillville, Indiana

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