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suicide in the last year.

Of that number, 28% reported being “subjected to” conversion therapy. Suicide and mental health challenges should be carefully handled. It’s also important to examine the claims made based on this data.

The Trevor Project defines conversion therapy as “efforts to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.” It presupposes beliefs that LGBT people “are unnatural and suffer from mental illnesses that need to be ‘cured.’” This definition is unhelpfully broad. It includes both actual practitioners of conversion therapy, who are few, and conservative Christians who reject conversion therapy but also think that LGBTQ identity violates God’s design for the natural world. It’s inappropriate to draw conclusions about causation of suicide from such a nebulous definition. Further, as Dr. Miriam

Grossman told a Congressional committee last year, “The CDC has long warned that there is never a single cause to suicide and that it’s irresponsible to ignore the complex, underlying triggers for this behavior.”

Beshear’s executive order amounted to a moral pronouncement that anyone trying to change the self-identified sexual orientation of a minor is acting immorally. It says, “Discrimination against our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters, including our LGBTQ+ youth, is unacceptable in this Commonwealth.” Beginning with state agencies, any effort to change a minor’s sexual orientation is condemned and outlawed.

A few important questions arise. When did it become OK for the government to rally around the supposed sexual identity of children, and then to prohibit parents and counselors from guiding them into what

**You're Invited to CPC's
Open House for a Tour
of our New Office &
a Book Signing of
Richard Nelson's
new book
Christianity & Politics!
10 /25 | 2 - 5 pm ET
76 C Michael Davenport Blvd,
Frankfort, KY 40601**

they believe is a healthier path that leads to human flourishing? When did it become okay for the governor to interfere with the rights of parents to seek counsel to help their children onto a better path in life?

Richard Nelson is the Founder & Exec. Director. Read the full article in our Press Room at www.CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org.

Join Us, October 18 in Lexington!

Towards a Better Bluegrass

Sources of Kentucky's Economic Strength

13 Speakers, including:


Dave Brat
Former Congressman


Daniel Cameron
1792 Exchange


Robert Cunningham
Founder, Christ for Kentucky


Robby Mills
State Senator (R-Henderson)


Jason Petric
State Rep. (R, Elkton)

For More Info and to Register go to CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

Lexington, KY
October 18, 2024

Curious About Who to Vote For?

CPC seeks to equip Kentucky voters with the best resources to help them know who to vote for at the ballot box. For this general election, we crafted a voter guide for every State House and Senate race and held candidate forums for you to get to know the candidates. We also endorsed several candidates after a thorough vetting process by our Political Advisory Board. In addition to candidates, voters will vote on the Education Opportunities Constitutional Amendment (Amendment 2). The language for this amendment can be seen below. To view our voter resources, go to CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org. Election Day is November 5th and early voting begins November 1!

How will Amendment 2 Look on the Ballot?

Constitutional Amendment 2

To give parents choices in educational opportunities for their children, are you in favor of enabling the General Assembly to provide financial support for the education costs of students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are outside the system of common (public) schools by amending the Constitution of Kentucky as stated below?

IT IS PROPOSED THAT A NEW SECTION BE ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION OF KENTUCKY TO READ AS FOLLOWS: The General Assembly may provide financial support for the education of students outside the system of common schools. The General Assembly may exercise this authority by law, Sections 59, 60, 171, 183, 184, 186, and 189 of this Constitution notwithstanding.


- Yes
- No

For more Amendment 2 resources, go to CPC’s website.

Who Did CPC Endorse?


CPC endorsed many candidates this election. These endorsements come after a candidate signs our agreement in principal and addendum questionnaire, is interviewed by our panel of conservative experts, and after hours of extensive research into the candidate’s positions. The process is rigorous, but the result is a slate of exemplary candidates that will champion the conservative ideals of the Commonwealth. To find out which candidates we endorsed, go to CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org.

★ ★ WHO WILL REPRESENT YOUR VALUES? ★ ★


Adam Moore (D)

**KY House District 45
General Election Day:
November 5, 2024**

The information below was compiled from voting records, public statements, PAC donations, and a candidate questionnaire distributed by the Commonwealth Policy Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Kentucky organization.


Thomas Jefferson (R)

NO ¹	Pro-Life	MIXED ⁵
NO ²	Pro-2nd Amendment	YES
NO ³	Pro-School Choice	YES
NO RESPONSE	Cut State Income Tax	YES
NO RESPONSE	Sexually Explicit Performances in Public	NO
YES ⁴	Transgender Surgeries for Minors	NO
NO RESPONSE	DEI	NO

¹ Campaign Website, “Vision and Issues.”
² Endorsed by Gun Control Group “Everytown for Gun Safety Action.”
³ Campaign Website, “Vision and Issues.”
⁴ Facebook Post, (March 27, 2023). And endorsed by CPFAIR, a pro-LGBT activist group that supports transgender surgery for minors.
⁵ Supports exceptions to Kentucky’s abortion law that include abortion under circumstances of rape and incest.

Voter Guide for House District 45. Voter guides for your district can be found at CPC’s website.

**Election Day:
November 5
Early Voting:
Begins November 1**



CPC
Endorsements

Available at
www.CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

CPC Calls out Beshear at Press Conference

The Commonwealth Policy Center responded to Gov. Andy Beshear’s executive order banning so-called conversion therapy by hosting a press conference at the Capitol on Friday, September 20. CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson, along with Jonathan Bennett (a biblical counselor), Hershael York (SBTS Dean), Daniel Mingo (a lay counselor), TJ Roberts, and State Rep. Josh Calloway (R-Irvington) addressed the harmful effects this order will have on Kentucky parents and children. “This really isn’t about some kind of abusive practice as much as it’s about the ability of parents to teach their kids moral boundaries and healthy sexual ethics,” Nelson said.



Exec. Director Richard Nelson speaking at the CPC Press Conference at the Capitol on September 20.

“Parents have the right to guide their children on sexual ethics according to their faith tradition. And they have the right to take their children to counselors who support their beliefs,” Nelson said. “This executive order chills the speech and guidance of biblical counselors who are dedicated to supporting parents and the biblical sexual ethic.”

A Christian Approach to the Public Arena

Join us for a thought-provoking presentation by Richard Nelson, CPC Executive Director. He will explore a Christian approach to politics, drawing from his new book, *Christianity and Politics*. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions afterwards and purchase signed copies of the book.

<p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Grace Fellowship Church - Paducah</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">3530 Park Plaza Rd. October 1, 2024 6:30 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Anchor Baptist Church - Lexington</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">3601 Winthrop Dr. October 2, 2024 6:30 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Buck Run Baptist Church - Frankfort</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">1950 Leestown Rd. October 10, 2024 6:30 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Blood River Baptist Association Annual Meeting</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">749 Poplar Spring Drive, Murray KY October 14, 2024 6:00 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Trace Creek Baptist Church - Mayfield</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">3577 KY-131 October 15, 2024 6:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Towards a Better Bluegrass Conference - Lexington</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">1375 S Broadway October 18, 2024 9:00AM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Living Hope Baptist Church - Bowling Green</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">1805 Westen St. October 24, 2024 7:00 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Henderson First Baptist - Henderson</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">307 Center Street October 30, 2024 6:00 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">The Bookstore at Southern Seminary - Louisville</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">2825 Lexington Rd October 22, 2024 4:30 PM</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Hillcrest Baptist Church - Hopkinsville</p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 8px;">920 Skyline Dr October 23, 2024 6:00 PM</p>
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COMMONWEALTH POLICY

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

BESHEAR'S ORDER HURTS CHILDREN, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Governor Andy Beshear's executive order banning conversion therapy within the scope of state agencies stirred controversy across the state. And there's reason for concern, as Governor Beshear roundly condemned "anyone who changes the sexual orientation of a minor." Among other requirements, Beshear ordered that "The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall take all actions necessary to prohibit the direct or indirect use of state and federal funds for the practice of conversion therapy on minors, referring a minor for conversion therapy, or extending health benefits coverage for conversion therapy with a minor."

Chris Hartman of the Kentucky Fairness Campaign said at Wednesday's press conference that "Kentucky minors are perfect as they are." A State House candidate from Northern Kentucky said that they were image bearers just like he was, reiterating a similar line from Governor Beshear.

We agree that every human being is an image bearer and has incredible value and worth. We also agree with the Governor that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Where we disagree is what this means, especially as it relates to human sexuality and the ability of parents and counselors

to guide minors onto a path they believe is healthy and moral.

So what exactly is conversion therapy? Simply put, it's a controversial technique where counselors employ abusive practices to force change on those struggling with various sexual orientations. It is questionable as to whether the debunked technique is taking place here in Kentucky. The definition is now broadened. But the rare and egregious practice is being used as a vehicle of excuse to discredit legitimate



Gov. Beshear signs executive order with LGBT activists on September 18th.

efforts to help children pursue healthy identities consistent with a Christian sexual ethic.

While we should be compassionate towards minors struggling with

gender dysphoria and confused sexual orientations, we should also be concerned with wholesale government restrictions that prevent minors from getting the help that they and their parents seek. Several other concerns abound including constitutional and parental rights, as well as the mental health of LGBT identified youth.

The executive order cites a 2023 survey from the Trevor Project with disturbing statistics about suicides attempted by LGBT youth. According to that study, 14% said that they attempted

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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

COMMONWEALTH
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A Biblical Response in Favor of School Choice Amendment 2

Recently, a pastor from Elizabethtown, KY gave misguided opposition to Amendment 2, Kentucky's amendment to allow funding for new educational opportunities for students. He boldly claimed that assisting low-income families to afford private education with Christian guidance "may be harmful to communities and ultimately hurt our witness to the people that God has called us to evangelize." If you didn't get a chance to read it, his argument revolved around asking kids with religious backgrounds, as young as 5 years old, to carry the burden of evangelizing their public-school classrooms. He didn't acknowledge that many of these kids are subject to underperforming school districts, increased violence and bullying, and far-left radical gender ideologies for kids as young as 1st grade.

Referencing Jeremiah 29:7, he claimed that providing families with new educational opportunities actually hurts the families that make up our communities, leaving the least of these behind. Unfortunately, the "least of these" were left behind many years ago with no ability to alter the course of their child's education. Families trapped in bad school districts struggle to afford a private education tuition as low as \$6,000, which seems impossible in today's economy. Current investment into Kentucky's public education has risen significantly to reach spending of \$20,000 per pupil on average. Yet opponents argue that this will drain our school systems. It couldn't be farther from the truth.

This Pastor's viewpoint on children effectively evangelizing is an unbelievably heavy burden for any child to consider. God requires parents to train their children in love, patience, forgiveness, amongst other tenants of the faith, but not to put the burden of evangelism on a young child in a public-school classroom.

I've witnessed many parents send their unequipped children into secular environments for 40+ hours a week for them to "be the light." Recent statistics tell us that too many Christian kids are leaving the faith once they leave high school.

To be clear, adults are required to fulfill that command to evangelize and disciple. Regarding children, adults are required to protect and train children. School is the greatest influence outside of family for their young impressionable minds. Why would God command us to place our children under teaching authority that competes in worldview and religion? He doesn't.



Christian schools are still a mission field for students and teachers alike. Children come from all backgrounds of life, and to think that every child is perfect with no need for love in a Christian school is a gross misunderstanding. These schools have families of all socio-economic classes, races, faith journeys, and family structures. Some kids come from families who have no religious backgrounds at all. The main difference is that all the kids mentioned have a moral and religious teaching that is taught and celebrated in a positive way. In many public schools, it's totally absent during school hours.

For the Christian teachers who are still working in the public school system, your work is correctly applauded. There are

many administrators and teachers who show the love of Christ on a daily basis to students and faculty and sponsor faith-based groups like Fellowship of Christian Athletes. During my time in a high-performing and safe public high school, I was grateful to have like-minded teachers who shared a common faith. If your calling is in this space, God will continue to use your voice and love to make an impact on your community.

Lastly, the article in opposition to school choice states that our children won't be a blessing to society if they are training in a private, religious school setting. I couldn't disagree more. Offering children a safe and rigorous education allows them to compete for influential jobs and possess a strengthened faith that will lead them into a life of service and fulfillment. As an adult they will have multiplied impact with correct training from youth, rather than forcing gender ideology, safety threats, and a low-performing classroom as a majority of their weekdays.

Truly, Amendment 2 is a pathway for the kids and families who are left behind with limited financial means to have a choice in education. Voting "yes" will open opportunities to all Kentuckians, religious and non-religious. On top of that, access to charter schools and non-religious private schools will likely become additional options to parents if Amendment 2 passes. Even religious minorities like the Jewish and Muslim communities will have the opportunities to place their children in a school that reflects the desires of their parents. God calls us to train a child in the way they should go, so that they won't depart from it. Amendment 2 will likely provide that reality for thousands of more children.

Cole Cuzick is the Director of Political Outreach.

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