



**The Washington Flyer**  
**May 5, 2023**

*“Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, because if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.”*  
*Daniel Webster*

### **State Legislatures Take Steps to Protect Minors from Transgender Procedures**

The state legislatures in Montana and Oklahoma [recently passed bills](#) which prohibit life-altering surgical and hormonal procedures for minors. The Montana bill was signed into law by Governor Greg Gianforte last week, and Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt is also expected to sign the Oklahoma bill into law. Despite large demonstrations by protestors against the bills, both passed their respective legislative houses by very wide margins. The legislative consensus provides evidence of the majority view that minors ought to be protected from transgender procedures and surgeries. A [recent poll](#) showed that 80% of Americans support bills which prohibit minors from being able to use puberty blockers or undergo permanent surgical procedures in an attempt to alter their biological sex. A growing number of states are working to ensure these protections for minors are enshrined into law; in addition to Minnesota and Oklahoma, [14 other states](#) have passed similar laws, including Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia. Additionally, Florida and Missouri have enacted regulations to limit or prohibit the transgender procedures for minors. Dr. Jennifer Bauwens, director of the Center for Family Studies at Family Research Council, is encouraged that “common sense is prevailing in the midst of a media narrative that is saying the opposite of what most people can readily see.” She notes, “When people are actually exposed to what’s happening, they come out in force and reject such atrocities happening to children.”

Despite the growing support for these laws, several of these laws are facing court challenges, some presented by the Biden administration. Last week, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [filed a complaint](#) in a federal district court in Tennessee to halt the newly passed Tennessee law that prohibits doctors from performing transgender-affirming medical procedures on minors. The DOJ alleges that [Tennessee Senate Bill 1 \(SB 1\)](#) “denies necessary medical care to youth based solely on who they are” and has asked the court to invalidate the law as unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. SB 1 prohibits doctors from performing procedures such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and transgender surgeries on minors and establishes a thirty-year statute of limitations for minors to sue doctors and parents who authorized and performed such procedures on them. The DOJ also intervened to stop the Alabama law from going into full effect, resulting in an ongoing lawsuit. The DOJ has promised to continue suing to block state laws that oppose the Biden administration’s radical LGBT agenda. Other lawsuits have been filed against laws protecting minors in Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Utah. The plaintiffs in these challenges are represented primarily by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. While these efforts to block the laws present challenges, FRC’s Dr. Bauwens [believes](#) “the vast majority of Americans are thinking clearly about this issue.” She adds, “I think the more people understand what’s really going on with the medical procedures and even the social transition, the more they’ll be opposed to it.”

## **UCLA Report Finds the Introduction of Hundreds of Measures to Ban CRT Initiatives**

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law's Critical Race Studies Program released a [report](#) entitled "Tracking the Attack on Critical Race Theory." The report found that more than 560 measures opposed to CRT were introduced between September 2020 and December 31, 2022. These measures span the local, state, and federal levels and include legislation, executive orders, state attorney general opinion letters, state and local school board policies, resolutions, agency guidance and law, and policymaker statements. The report found that 91% of the measures introduced in opposition to CRT and 94% of enacted measures are at the K-12 level. Just 20% of introduced measures and 12% of enacted measures were at institutions of higher education, impacting a total of 29 institutions. However, the report points out that "while individual measures aimed at systems of higher education are less numerous than those targeting local school districts, such measures impact hundreds of thousands of college and graduate students." Many of the anti-CRT measures use guidance from President Trump's [Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping](#) (E.O. 13950). The authors of the report also studied recent data and found that "the anti-'CRT' movement is not stagnating; indeed, government officials at all levels are introducing an equal or greater number of measures in 2023 as they did in 2021 or 2022."

## **Senate Blocks Abortion on Demand Amendment**

Last week, the U.S. Senate [failed to pass](#) Joint Resolution 4 which would have declared the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to be ratified into law, and, in so doing, would have created a right to abortion on demand. The ERA first passed Congress in 1972 and was then sent to state legislatures for ratification. For a constitutional amendment to be added to the Constitution, it must be first ratified in three-fourths of state legislatures (38 states) within seven years of passing Congress. The ERA quickly received ratification from 35 states, but then went no further as opponents pointed out the issues of the ERA. In the past six years, Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia ratified the ERA, despite the deadline having passed. At the same time, five states rescinded their ratification. ERA supporters still believed that it should be enshrined in the Constitution, but the [Senate vote](#) on April 26, 2023, struck down their efforts. Proponents of the ERA claimed it would simply end discrimination against people based on sex; however, it also would have [enabled the abortion industry](#) to solidify federal taxpayer-funded abortion. States have passed their own versions of the ERA, and abortion activists have used it in court to protect taxpayer funding for abortions that are deemed medically necessary. Additionally, a federal ERA would have ultimately caused women to receive fewer opportunities in employment, education, and athletics because Supreme Court decisions have left the term *sex* open to interpretation. The recent Senate vote, upholding the time limitations for ratification, was a show of support for women and children.

## **In Case You Missed It:**

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[ADF Video: Respect for Marriage Act: What Church and Ministry Leaders Should Know](#)

[Survey: People Who Believe in God, Marriage More Likely to be "Very Happy"](#)