



A Light In A Dark Place
An Advocacy Book for Teens

Family Protection Ministries

A Light In A Dark Place

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Portions of this publication have been adapted from *Political Science In Action* originally published by Family Protection Ministries and Christian Home Educators Association of California.

A Note from FPM's Executive Director

This handbook was written to introduce you to simple, basic steps you can take to advocate for your freedoms. As a young person, you may look at the world around you and not like the direction you see things going. There is no need to settle for what you see! You can be an active participant for change. As you read through this manual, you will learn about our need for representation as homeschoolers, how to contact your state legislators, and build relationships with them. This handbook was originally written with homeschool advocacy in mind, but these principles can be applied to many different situations.

You will see that being involved in the political process is not as daunting as it sounds—and it can be an exciting learning experience! Our hope is that you will become an active participant in the California political process!

Whatever issue you are advocating for, the most important thing is to begin communicating in some way. It is your responsibility, and your duty, to let your legislators hear from you. If you are not making your views known to your legislator, how will he represent you? You may be sure that your legislators are hearing from others with an opposing view!

We are praying for you as you learn to advocate for Biblical freedom in California! Thank you for being a vital part of this mission.


Nathan B. Pierce
Executive Director



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Introduction

FPM stands as a stellar example of what can be accomplished through skilled, methodical advocacy. In Part 5 of this book – About Family Protection Ministries – we outline dozens of situations where FPM has been instrumental in making positive changes in legislation. As you will see by looking at those examples, there would be many more restrictions on private education and personal freedom without God blessing the diligent work of FPM.

The strategies we practice at FPM can be applied to other areas. Perhaps your heart is drawn to standing for truth regarding some other issue. The world desperately needs Christians to stand for truth and advocate for Biblical principles. As a student, you bring a unique perspective to the issues of the day! Legislators certainly want to hear from well-spoken young people who are thriving and being active in their communities while being homeschooled. However, if advocating for private home education freedom is not inspiring to you, prayerfully seek where you can stand for a truth and be a light in a dark place for your generation.

Guidelines for choosing an issue to advocate for:

Pray for wisdom and discernment

Read Scripture to make sure the cause you are advocating for lines up with Biblical truth

Consult your parents and other adults you respect to gain their perspective

Carefully research any organization you align yourself with to see if they practice Biblical principles

Encourage your friends to join you—you will go farther with their help and encouragement

Choose one topic to focus on rather than many different issues at the same time

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

PART 1



Building Relationships

Yes, You Can Be An Advocate!

This book has been revised with you in mind! As a young person you are in a unique and challenging position. You are old enough and thoughtful enough to see many of the problems in the society around you. You may even have some excellent ideas about some possible solutions. But if you are not yet 18, you may feel helpless when it comes to facilitating change because you are not yet old enough to vote.

Even if you can't vote or drive, that doesn't mean your voice can't be heard. However old you are, you can start building a lifestyle of advocacy and good citizenship. As followers of Christ, we are in the world, but not of it. This world is not our ultimate home or destination, but we are called to be salt and light and to make a difference for Christ wherever we are. If you have not placed your faith in Christ for salvation, you clearly still have a vested interest in your world and the freedoms you have.

It is far better to be involved in shaping your culture than to simply sit back and complain about how things are. This is your future! Your involvement in the world around you matters. We at FPM don't want to merely secure freedoms for your generation, but to ensure that you are equipped to advocate for yourself and for the generations that follow after you.

The California Legislature has unquestionably escalated its assault against Biblical values and God's design for the family. There is a constant onslaught of proposed bills threatening homeschool freedoms and other personal liberties. FPM cannot fight all these bills alone. That is why we need you to partner with us in advocating for homeschool freedoms! **We need people ready and willing to advocate and defend our private homeschool freedoms.**

Defending private homeschooling isn't something any one person, or even one organization, like FPM or CHEA (Christian Home Educators Association of California), can do on their own. As a young person you can help preserve our freedoms by contacting your state legislators and personally delivering a *Homeschool Information* packet to their district offices.

This packet is designed for legislators and is available to you through participation in FPM's ***Advocacy from Home (AFH)*** program. An individual homeschool family's relationship with their state legislators and their staff is one of the **biggest factors** in getting bad laws stopped when it comes to our

homeschool freedoms. **We have developed a program to help families build relationships with their legislators.**

Get Started in Advocacy Today!



If you decide that private home education is an issue you wish to advocate for, FPM has developed many resources to help you do this. Scan this QR code or visit www.fpmca.org/advmenu to access training videos that will teach you about finding your legislators, legislators' district offices and capitol offices, tracking bills, the legislative process, how to contact and meet with your legislator, and more! To supplement these training videos, FPM has compiled an array of resources that can be accessed through our website at www.fpmca.org/advocacyfromhome.

To learn about other ways you can make a positive difference, keep reading this book!

Meeting With Legislators—It's Not As Scary As You Think!

Maintaining positive relationships with our representatives is a key component of advocacy. One of the most effective ways to get to know your legislator is through a personal visit to his or her district office.

In the following sections, we will teach you about district offices and how to prepare for a meeting with your Legislator. In addition to being an effective strategy for the preservation of our freedoms, a district office visit is an amazing opportunity for you to learn about your government. Make it a field trip and bring your friends!

Capitol Office Visits Vs. District Office Visits

There are several differences between a legislator's Capitol office and their district office.

The Capitol Office: The Capitol building is a busy place. It houses the offices of all 120 California state legislators, committee hearing rooms, and the chambers where the State Senate and State Assembly debate the great issues of the day and hold important votes.

Legislators have their attention spread very thin at the Capitol. Their days are often filled with committee hearings, floor sessions, and short, 15-minute meetings from 7am to 7pm or later. Typically, legislators spend Monday through Thursday at their Capitol office in Sacramento and Friday through Sunday in their district.

Meeting your Legislator at the Capitol: If you plan to visit Sacramento, schedule an appointment as far in advance as possible to meet with your legislator in his or her Capitol office.

If you are in Sacramento between the months of January and August, you may have the opportunity to watch policy committee hearings at the Capitol, especially in the Assembly. These hearings may appear confusing, arbitrary, and abrupt. Observing this process will give you insight into the ways in which a battle may be won or lost.

The District Office: In contrast, the district office is calmer and more relaxed. Legislators will have more time there to discuss issues specific to the district and to really connect with the people they represent. Visiting a district office will more likely give you an opportunity for conversation about issues that are important to you.

Personal Meetings at the District Office

Finding Your Legislator: California is divided into 40 Senate districts and 80 Assembly districts. Each Senator and Assemblymember represent one district. The senate and assembly districts overlap, and their numbers do not correspond to each other at all.

If you do not know who your legislators are, you can visit our website at www.fpmca.org/myrep. If you input your home address, you will learn who your representatives are and be provided with links to their websites. Keep in mind that there are **two** people who represent you in the California Legislature: a state senator and an assembly member. It is beneficial to contact both.

The Initial Call to the District Office: Call your local district office and ask to make an appointment. Mention how many people will be included in the visit. When making your appointment, be kind and considerate to the staffer handling the call. Thank them for their service.

Preparing for Your Meeting: Your clothing and general appearance give a first, and often lasting, impression. The appropriate attire for the meeting is a suit and tie for men and a suit or dress for women. If you have a business suit, this is the time to wear it; however, don't let not having a suit deter you. Just make an effort to dress appropriately for a business meeting. This is not the time for wearing logo or slogan T-shirts (even those that are patriotic). Shorts, sandals and flip-flops are also not appropriate.

It is important for you to be punctual to your meeting. Arrive at least ten minutes early and allow for plenty of waiting time. Legislators are extremely busy and their schedules are subject to last minute changes.

Talking points: Present the main points of your issue clearly and concisely. It is wise to keep things simple and not to bring up multiple issues during your first contact. Be polite, friendly, and confident. Be a good listener. Don't be confrontational or argumentative. Make sure you use direct eye contact, clear speech, and good manners.

The standard constituent appointment is 10-15 minutes. In order to make the best use of the time, try to anticipate what questions you may be asked. What are the main talking points concerning the topic you are presenting, and what are your concerns?

District Visits Gone Right and Wrong

Legislative visits are a critical part of advocacy. It is essential that legislators have the opportunity to connect with homeschooling families in their districts. Understandably, meeting with your legislator can be intimidating. As elected officials they hold an important position and should be given proper respect. However, they are still people just like us! Following these few simple guidelines should enable you to have productive, in-person meetings with them. Don't worry, FPM has many valuable resources available to help you.

District Visit Gone Wrong

Do not barge into a legislator's office and demand to meet with your representative. Schedule an appointment ahead of time. Please do not wear jeans, graphic T-shirts or flip-flops.

Your representative may ask you or your children questions. Here are some ways NOT to answer them.

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. One kid looks at the floor, another mumbles, "I don't have a favorite subject."

Q. Is there anything I can do for you?

A. We need accountability, and would like more clear laws about homeschooling.

B. We want our kids to play public school sports.

C. We want money for school supplies and textbooks.

Q. What about Socialization? Do homeschooled kids receive a quality education?

A. I have no idea. My kids turned out fine but I don't know if that's common.

B. I think socialization is bad. I hate interacting with people.

Q. What issues do you have concerns about?

A. What do you think about the war in Ukraine? Let's talk about that.

B. We have an issue with water.

C. We don't agree with you on that poster you have on your wall about abortion access.

Q. Is there any legislation that is currently threatening homeschooling?

A. No, and I really don't like the legislation that's been introduced about public school curriculum changes (or insert any other issue here).

B. I don't know, I don't think there's ever been any issues with homeschooling or threats to it.

District Visit Gone Right

Do make an appointment to visit your legislator. Be Respectful and dress in a professional manner. Be polite and friendly. Be prepared to share information about private education and to answer questions about your own experiences.

The following are examples of questions they may ask you and some suggested answers.

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. Look in the eyes and answer with, science, math, writing, etc. Have your answer ready for this.

Q. Is there anything I can do for you?

A. Homeschooling works the way it is! We don't want anything to change.

B. The current law allows us to provide a quality education to our children in a unique way.

Q. What about Socialization? Do homeschooled kids receive a quality education?

A. Yes, homeschooled students do well academically and socially. Research has shown outcomes as good and often better than their traditionally-schooled peers.

B. Families get together for things like biology labs, field trips, sports and theater.

Q. What issues do you have concerns about?

A. We do have concerns about things happening in California. But today we just want to talk about how homeschooling works for us and why it needs to remain free from regulation.

Q. Is there any legislation currently or in the past that is threatening homeschooling?

A. There's no current legislation that is a direct threat to homeschooling, but we want to remain ready to work with any legislators that are looking to make legislation regarding homeschooling. There have been bills in the past that would have banned homeschooling outright.

Following Up Your Meeting

Send a follow-up letter or a neatly written thank you card within a week or so after your meeting. Keep the letter brief and thank your legislator for his or her time. Do not bring up issues or request votes on bills in the follow-up letter.

If you were unable to answer a particular question at the meeting, or if you were asked for additional information, you may include it in your follow-up letter. Check your letter for neatness, spelling, and grammar. A link to our sample follow up letter available on our website is here. <https://fpmca.org/visiting-your-representatives/>

Building Relationships After Your First Meeting

If you have identified a legislator who is supportive of your cause, you should try to build a positive relationship with him and his staff. A good relationship with a legislative aide will nearly always lead to a good relationship with the legislator when you do get the chance to meet or talk personally with him.

You can also build a relationship with your legislator by attending his community events, which can include town hall meetings, forums, open houses, community coffees, etc. This allows you to get to know him better while making your voice heard about issues that matter to you.

Virtual Meetings

If an in-person meeting is not available, a virtual meeting is the next best thing.

Your representative's website should provide guidelines for setting up a virtual meeting. Once you have a virtual meeting scheduled, you will want to set up a comfortable place in your home for the meeting. Ideally, you would want a blank wall or other non-distracting background. Even though you are having your virtual meeting in the comforts of your own home, make sure that your clothing is appropriate. No legislator needs to see you in your pajamas!

As with an in-person meeting, follow up with a thank you card thanking your legislator for taking the time to meet with you.

Phone Calls

If neither an in-person or virtual meeting is possible, making a phone call is another valuable way to engage with your legislator. Many of the guidelines that apply to a video call will work for a phone call as well. When you initially call the district office, ask for a phone appointment with your legislator.

Used properly, a phone call to your legislator can be an effective way to communicate. Be well informed and prepared. Courtesy is always essential. Be brief and come right to the point.

Writing Letters of Introduction

Writing a letter of introduction to your legislator is also a great way to help raise awareness about the issue you are advocating for. A letter is also a tangible point of contact if a meeting or phone call will not work for you.

You can find your senator and assembly member's mailing address and contact information here: www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

In your letter, introduce yourself as a civically-minded young person living in their district. Clearly describe the issue you are advocating for and explain what your concerns are. It is usually best to send letters to the district office address of the legislator, unless the letter is regarding a bill needing action at the Capitol.

Just as your clothing and general appearance create a lasting first impression, so the paper or stationery used in your letter produces an initial effect. Neatly handwritten letters on personal stationery get priority attention. Typed letters are also acceptable. Good quality, white paper is correct for either men or women. A light tint may also be used.

Please be clear and concise in your letter. If you are typing your letter, take advantage of spell check! You want your letter to be friendly and personal, but also professional.

A sample letter is available on our website.

<https://fpmca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sample-Letter-of-Introduction.pdf>

<https://fpmca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sample-Letter-2.pdf>

PART 2



Advocacy for Specific Issues

Writing Letters on Bills

Writing letters is a valuable way to communicate with your legislator. Compared to the U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressmen, State Senators and State Assembly Members don't hear from very many people. Many legislators believe that your one letter represents the view of one hundred other voters who did not take the time to express their position. As few as five to ten letters from constituents can change a state legislator's position on a bill!

You can find your senator and assembly member's mailing address and contact information here: www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov.

You can also find complete address and phone information for all California legislators at the California Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ca.gov/administration/california-roster. The California Roster also lists contact information for state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions.

When writing about legislation, try to keep these qualities in mind:

1. **Clearness** – Be upfront about the issue you are writing about and be sure to include the bill number, author(s), and the title, if it is short.
2. **Conciseness** – Focus on a few key points in your letter and address only one issue per letter. Usually 1-page maximum is appropriate, as your legislator has many constraints on his time.
3. **Calmness** – Be descriptive rather than emotional. Do not use threats, heated language, or sarcasm.
4. **Completeness** – Include every essential point and any of the “Opposition Points to Share with Legislators” in the Action Alert from FPM, if applicable.
5. **Courtesy** – Write with respect to their office and address them appropriately. With care, even an opposing point of view can be stated in a respectful way. Don't try to convert your legislator, but rather ask for his or her support.
6. **Correctness** – Be sure to check all your facts before mailing your letter. You don't need to sound like an expert on every political issue, but you can write as a concerned and intelligent constituent when you stick to the facts.

7. **Creativity** – Personalize the letter and take their personality into consideration, if possible. Avoid vagueness and overused expressions. You may mention how the bill would impact your family if you write it respectfully.

Before you begin writing, determine what you want to say. A simple checklist or outline can help you organize your content. After composing the rough draft, check it over carefully. Remember, the purpose of your letter is to build a positive relationship and influence your legislator's vote.

Following Up Your Letter

After writing to your legislator about an issue, it is important to follow up with a letter of thanks if he has voted in support of your view. While state legislators usually receive relatively few letters on any one issue, thank you letters for a job well done are even more rare.

Keep your thank you note brief. Simply mention the bill or issue that you previously wrote about and thank your legislator for his support. This will let him know that you are aware of how he votes on issues, and that you are appreciative of his work.

Writing a Letter to the Editor

In addition to writing a letter about legislation, you may also want to write a letter to the editor of your local paper.

If you have an opinion on a current issue, writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper is an effective way of reaching your local representatives (who pay attention to news in their district), and sharing your opinion with others.

Your letter does not need to address a specific bill (though you may reference one if you would like). As a high school student, you should have the skills to write an effective letter. Writing a letter to the editor is a little different than writing to your legislator, but the same principles of grammar and content apply.

Sample Letter to the Editor:

California: Don't Punish All Homeschoolers For One Abuse Case

Like the editorial board of The Sacramento Bee and the rest of the world, we at Home School Legal Defense Association are horrified and outraged by the events reported out of Riverside County. We love homeschooling and believe it is an excellent educational and lifestyle choice for millions of families and children. So we are especially grieved when this freedom we love is exploited for evil.

We are concerned, however, that this horrible incident – words fail to describe the depravity – may lead to an unwarranted backlash and violation of the civil rights of law-abiding, thriving home-schooling families.

The story out of Riverside has prompted The Sacramento Bee and others to adopt a frightening position, the degree of which can be demonstrated by a simple thought problem.

The simplified argument: This parent who claims to be home schooling has committed unspeakable acts. Therefore, we need to treat all parents who claim to be homeschooling with suspicion and make them submit to periodic government inspections of their homes and children.

Now substitute “parent who claims to be home schooling” with “Muslim.”

This Muslim has committed unspeakable acts. Therefore, we need to treat all Muslims with suspicion and make them submit to periodic government inspections of their homes and children.

If this makes you uncomfortable, it should. It would be wrong to treat Muslims or any other group of people this way.

Parenthood, family life, educational choices and the sanctity of the home all implicate constitutional rights just as much as religion does. The U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed these constitutional principles many times. The high court said in 1979:

“That some parents ‘may at times be acting against the interests of their children’ ... creates a basis for caution, but it is hardly a reason to discard wholesale those pages of human experience that teach that parents generally do act in the child’s best interest. ... The statist notion that governmental power should supersede parental authority in all cases because some parents abuse and neglect children is repugnant to American tradition.”

The Sacramento Bee’s editorial concludes with a call for legislative hearings. If that should happen, HSLDA will be there – along with thousands of our friends – to make sure all sides of the issue are heard.

By James R. Mason Special to The Bee, January 25, 2018

Visit fpmca.org/lettertoeditor to see an additional sample.

Making Phone Calls

If you are calling your legislator's Capitol office about proposed legislation, **the best time would be just prior to a committee or floor vote.** Refer to the bill by its name and number and the issue it addresses.

Points to remember when calling on a bill:

1. You will be asked for your name, address, and/or phone number so that you can be identified as a constituent and your call can be tallied. They gather this kind of information to gain an idea of the extent of support and opposition.
2. Give the number of the bill and the name of the author.
3. If you are calling a legislator who holds an opposing view, be prepared for challenges from his office. It is a common tactic for opponents of your view to try to make you or the organization that initiated your call look ignorant. It seems either rude or intimidating the first time this tactic is used on you, but this strategy is used daily in the political realm and should not be taken personally. Keep these things in mind:
 - Don't feel singled out; this is a routine tactic used to intimidate you, cause confusion or division, or sidestep the issue.
 - Keep calm and keep to the issue you are calling about.
 - Don't argue or let anyone put words in your mouth.
 - Don't be intimidated by not knowing all the details of the bill or law, or the agency it affects. You don't need to know every intricate detail to have a legitimate concern about the bill. Most of the legislators themselves do not even read every bill before they vote on them; instead, they rely on prepared summaries that may leave out important details.
 - Stand firm. Citizens have the right to call their elected representative and express their views.

Contacts With Candidates

Establishing contacts with candidates for office is perhaps the "golden opportunity" for establishing a good relationship with a legislator. This will prove valuable once he is elected.

Call or visit the website of your County Clerk's office to find out who the candidates are in your district for State Assembly Member and State Senator. Search the internet or social media to find out when candidates will be in your area. Listen carefully to his statements on different issues. He should give clear-cut answers and take a definite position on important issues.

If you decide to offer your support in his campaign, be faithful and follow through. Be dependable and available. Campaign tasks may include making phone calls, campaigning door-to-door, delivering campaign literature, placing campaign signs, or taking surveys by phone. Working on a campaign is an incredible learning experience and a wonderful opportunity for your entire family to get involved in the political process.

Generation Joshua

If you are interested in working on a campaign, but are unsure how to get started, GenJ may be a helpful starting place for you. GenJ organizes opportunities in select cities nationwide for young people to participate in campaigns and elections. Go to <https://generationjoshua.org>.

Generation Joshua also hosts hands-on, immersive leadership camps in the summer. If you are looking for an opportunity to learn how to apply a Biblical worldview to real-world politics, this camp may be for you.

An FPM intern recently wrote this article, which gives you further insight into Generation Joshua:

Why Should Your Teenager Attend Generation Joshua?

Generation Joshua (GenJ) is part of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association's political action arm, HSLDA Action, whose vision is to "assist parents to raise up the next generation of Christian leaders and citizens, equipped to positively influence the political processes of today and tomorrow." That might seem like an overwhelming or even impossible mission to some, but GenJ's spectacular methods effectively give young people the zeal to do just that.

GenJ events are fun! Rather than listening to a lecture to teach you to be good citizens and how to solve problems, GenJ puts you into a life-like situation within different political simulations and asks you, "So now what are you going to do about it?" The choice is up to you. As one student said, "It's also fun when you have little to no adult supervision." GenJ is very hands-on. It is entirely a 'learn by doing' situation. You may try something, and maybe it doesn't work. Instead of giving up, you try something else and press on until you find something that does work. It makes you have to use your brain to think through things while having fun at the same time. You get to work on a project you previously knew nothing about, learn more about it as you go, and try to make the best decisions possible.

Another factor in GenJ is the people you work alongside. It is well-known that people become friends more quickly when given a project to do together as a team instead of being put in a room together and being expected to make friends. GenJ provides an environment where working with other people is critical. Often, you have to learn to rely on others as much as yourself. Sometimes the people you build these relationships with during the simulations become lifelong friends. Hanging out with teenagers around your age is fun, but working on a challenging project and growing together is even more fun!

Learning Christian worldview principles of government is the primary goal of GenJ. Additionally, it is entirely a hands-on experience! What better way to learn and retain information than taking part in an incredible life-like simulation instead of being given a pile of facts and told to memorize them? GenJ “provides training opportunities for teenagers.” How? By teaching them what it means to stand up for what’s right, even when it comes to the government. As once stated by John Quincy Adams, “Duty is ours, results are God’s.” We have to fight for this country. GenJ is an excellent way to prepare teenagers for that duty—teaching them about government, a Christian’s role in respect to it, and how to boldly step forward and become a leader.

Generation Joshua events are an enjoyable, hands-on opportunity for teenagers to have fun, make friends, and learn about government from a Christian perspective. Even though not everyone is the same, anyone can find a place to fit in, engage, and learn! Don’t pass up a chance to participate in this incredible opportunity. Go and learn about the workings of government from the United Nations to the White House. Make friends and develop relationships. Work with others as a team on each project and learn to make a difference in our world.

More Ways to Advocate

If you are unable to attend events, visit district or Capitol offices in person, or meet with candidates, there are still many things that you can do to be an advocate.

Pray: Pray at home, pray with others. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6” When we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will answer our prayers (1 John 5:14–15).

Babysit: If you are not able to attend an event or visit your legislator, you could offer to babysit so someone else can.

Contribute financially: California is a big state, and for many people the Capitol is several hours away by car. It may very well be an overnight visit for many and that isn’t always possible. If you have a job, can you make a contribution to an organization that is active at the Capitol? Or perhaps encourage a friend who lives near the Capitol to make a visit.

PART 3



Advocacy and the Kingdom

Let's Keep This Miracle Called Freedom



First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Every Election Day, millions of Americans cast their votes in local, state, and national races, as well as decide whether or not to approve statewide ballot initiatives.

As we have seen clearly over the last couple of years, the judges and school board members we elect are a critical component of shaping the policies that directly affect our local communities. There are typically several judges and school board members on the Sacramento County ballot, as is likely the case for all ballots statewide. It is vital that Bible-believing Christians step out and participate in this civic endeavor, which is both a duty and a privilege.

Some Christians understandably view politics as corrupt and dirty. That may be. Everything on this planet has been tainted by sin. However, government in and of itself is good. The Bible is clear that civil government was created by God, and we are all subject to it (Romans 13:1).

The Constitution, the founding document of our great nation, opens its preamble with these words: “We the People of the United States...” America was designed to be self-governing! We have a responsibility as citizens of this country to participate in civic affairs such as jury duty, paying taxes, obeying the law, and voting. We may not always want to keep these obligations, but they are an integral part of our citizenship.

As Christians, we must be mindful of our citizenship in the Kingdom of God, while at the same time striving to be the best possible citizens of this earthly “kingdom” as well. We are called to be salt and light in this broken world. That cannot happen if we refuse to actively participate in our culture. We are to roll up our sleeves and do what we can as believers to make an impact for Christ. We certainly cannot expect non-believers to affect Biblical change!

We may be distressed by the things that are happening, and even being celebrated, in our culture. But how will those things ever begin to change for the better if Christians refuse to be part of the process? We dare not refuse to participate in this most fundamental vehicle of societal change and then bemoan the outcome!

On this side of heaven, there will never be a perfect candidate. That does not mean that we are released from our civic duty. We may find in a general election that neither candidate represents our position, nor stands for anything remotely resembling Biblical values. When faced with such a quandary, we must pray, research to the best of our ability, and make the best choice we can—sometimes choosing what seems to be the lesser of two evils. And then keep on praying for whomever wins office, that their decisions would be honoring to Christ.

Most of us have never seen our freedom truly threatened in our lifetime. However, we must never be cavalier about these matters! In his inaugural address as California governor in 1967, Ronald Reagan spoke these words: “Perhaps you and I have lived too long with this miracle to properly be appreciative. Freedom is a fragile thing and it’s never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only

once to a people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.”

So what do you do when there is a dearth of good candidates and accusations of corruption abound? You pray for wisdom, research the candidates and issues to the best of your ability, and you vote!

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (Romans 13:7)

Our Most Powerful Weapon

As believers, we are called to be people of prayer.

1 Timothy 2:1,2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Matthew 5:43-46 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

We must never cease to pray to God that:

- We would please and glorify Him.
- We would find favor in the eyes of those in authority.
- We would fulfill our responsibilities.
- My parents would have the ongoing freedom to care for me and direct my education.
- Our families, our churches, and our nation would serve God with a whole heart.

Pray for our Political Leaders

The following article was written by Frank Erb, who serves as a full-time Pastor to the California State Capitol. Find him online and sign up to receive updates at FrankErb.org. This article can also be found on our website (www.fpmca.org/frankerbseries).

How to Pray for Political Leaders

by Frank Erb

It is easy to criticize our government leaders and complain about their decisions. In fact, some of them make it extremely easy to do this. However, there is a better way. The Bible instructs us to pray for them instead.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

What should we pray? Here are many suggestions based on this passage and other scriptures as well as upon private conversations I have had with many lawmakers.

1. Pray for them Thankfully

1 Timothy 2:1 "entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings ... for kings and all who are in authority"

Political leaders are fallible people who do a difficult job that was instituted by God for our benefit (Romans 13:1). When the Apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy, Nero, an evil and immoral man, was world leader. Even in a situation like this, Paul said we should pray thankfully, grateful to God for any good the government provides.

Legislator Quote: "I know firsthand that the halls and offices of the Capitol can be the loneliest places around."

2. Pray for their Salvation

1 Timothy 2:4 "God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved ..."

Political leaders, like all people, need the forgiveness of sins and new life that comes through trusting in Jesus Christ. Imagine how much better an elected official leads when he or is closely connected to the Lord!

Legislator Quote: "All of us who have experienced inviting Christ into our lives know that this is what will put our state back on the right track faster and better than any other action."

3. Pray for their Spiritual Maturity

1 Timothy 2:4 "... and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Spiritual maturity happens gradually after one has trusted in Christ and then humbly grows in their knowledge and application of God's word in every situation they face.

Legislator Quote: "The anchor of a Christ-centered Bible study has been a blessing to me and my colleagues in this sea of manmade turmoil."

4. Pray for them to have Humility

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Political leaders have great power, deal with huge sums of money, work in opulent facilities, and are treated like royalty, all of which often leads to pride and arrogance that God hates. (Proverbs 16:18)

Legislator Quote: "When I was elected to political office, it was as if I suddenly became smarter, funnier, and better looking."

5. Pray for them to have Wisdom

1 Kings 3:9 "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

Political leaders are regularly called upon to make difficult decisions that affect many people. They can only do this well with wisdom and discernment from above.

Legislator Quote: "With past decisions, we knew what to do and we just needed the boldness to do it. Now it is different because we are not even sure what to do."

6. Pray for them to have Courage

Psalms 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage"

Political leaders are often expected to make compromises, and not doing so can cost them their careers. They need God to give them the courage to do the right thing no matter what the personal result.

Legislator Quote: "I don't like my decision, but how could I do otherwise and lose my opportunity to serve in elected office?"

7. Pray for them to have Strength

Luke 22:46 "pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Political leaders regularly encounter many strong temptations. Pray for them to have the strength to resist these traps that threaten to destroy their lives, families, and effectiveness as leaders.

Legislator Quote: "I have never seen or felt temptation as strong as it is here in the Capitol."

8. Pray for their Campaign

Daniel 2:21 "He removes kings and establishes kings."

Political leaders are constantly preparing for their next election. Pray for them to campaign truthfully, respectfully, and decently, and for God to guide the votes and outcome according to His will.

Legislator Quote: "Look at this new campaign mailer about me. It sure makes me sound good doesn't it?!"

9. Pray for Those Reaching out to Them

Romans 10:14 "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"

Political leaders are often isolated from others who might share the Good News of Jesus and the Word of God with them. Pray for the Lord to surround them with His people to speak to them about Him.

Legislator Quote: "Pastor Frank Erb allowed me to keep Jesus first and foremost in my heart and mind while at the Capitol."

Sometimes it might feel like praying is a waste of time when there are so many other things we could be doing. We should keep in mind though that humanity's best efforts to govern well have proven to be far from ideal. To persist in seeking worldly solutions to the immense problems of our day is futile. It is time for us to do things God's way, and to seek the assistance and blessings that only He can provide.

***Frank Erb serves as a full-time Pastor to the California State Capitol.
Find him online and sign up to receive updates at FrankErb.org.***

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Scripture Resources

The Bible is a resource of immeasurable depth. It may not address every specific situation we face, but its principles speak to every facet of our lives. You would be wise to study Scripture in your youth and begin to apply its principles to your life and the decisions that you make.

Government:

Acts 5:27-29 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

1 Peter 2:13-14 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Proverbs 21:1-2 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.

Mark 3:24

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Romans 13:1-8 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1 Peter 2:13-17 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of

foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Youth:

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Jeremiah 1:4-9 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' 'Ah, Sovereign LORD,' I said, 'I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.' But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, 'Now, I have put my words in your mouth.'

1 Samuel 17:42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

Proverbs 1:8-9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother — which is the first commandment with a promise — that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Psalms 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Proverbs 3:5,6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Education and Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 5:1-2 My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

Proverbs 6:20-23 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

PART 4



Helpful Resources

Organizations and Opportunities:

The following information has been taken directly from the organizations' homepages:

Stoa stoausa.org

Stoa is a national High School and Junior High Speech and Debate organization serving the needs of privately educated, Christian Homeschooling families. Stoa trains and supports leaders who in turn develop students into confident articulate leaders who can change their culture through the marketplace of ideas. Our students become like family, learning to encourage one another, accept criticism, and accept both victory and defeat with grace. Our graduates have become leaders at every level of work, community and ministry.

City on the Hill www.cityonthehill.org

COTH gives high school students a truly unique, hands-on opportunity to learn about how the Christian worldview defines our participation in the public sphere. During the week of COTH, we focus on how Christians are to approach politics, government, the law, and the media. Various speakers, workshops and activities will help you formulate a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian in public service today.

Generation Joshua www.generationjoshua.org

Our goal at Generation Joshua is to cultivate leaders and to equip them to use their beliefs to influence the political process. All of our programs either challenge youth to strengthen their beliefs, or give youth the opportunity to put their beliefs into action. We know that not every person is called to enter the political arena, but every person should be a leader who is willing to stand up for what is right, wherever they are called to serve.

Worldview Academy www.worldview.org

Worldview Academy brings together an engaging and talented theological faculty who challenge students by addressing underlying assumptions and bring the Gospel to bear on questions of culture, family, science, politics, work and art—the whole scope of the divine plan for human flourishing.

Family Protection Ministries also offers some unique opportunities for young people to receive training and engage in advocacy. Details about these events and programs can be found on our website at fpmca.org.

FPM Government Class

FPM desires to equip students with an understanding of government, how to make an impact, and to emphasize our important responsibility as Christians to engage the culture and politics for the glory of God. This class will look at the traditional topics addressed in high school civics classes but from a unique perspective based on a Biblical worldview.

FPM Internships

FPM Internships offer a life changing, hands on experience that will allow young people to learn about the workings of our California Capitol and influencing the legislative process. Whether your interests are writing, photography, research, bookkeeping, or computers, we have an opportunity for you to get involved and make a difference. FPM Interns learn how working behind the scenes can be incredibly effective while they are acquiring experience and skills valuable for a wide range of other work and service.

Capitol Day

The goal of Capitol Day is to provide information about private home education to our California state legislators and their staff in a friendly, professional manner. This also allows legislators and their staff the opportunity to visit with real homeschool families. Our Capitol Day volunteers will visit each of the 120 legislators' Capitol offices, providing each office with an information packet about private homeschooling. These packets help explain private home education as well as provide research showing that privately home-educated children do very well compared with students from the public schools.

Recommended Reading List:

These are roughly in order of reading difficulty with the more advanced titles toward the bottom.

William Wilberforce: Take Up the Fight - Janet & Geoff Benge

God and Politics - Mark Dever

Found: God's Will - John MacArthur

The Battle for Homeschool Freedom in California - Mike Smith

Whatever Happened to Justice - Richard Maybury

A Time For Confidence - Stephen Nichols

The Conviction to Lead - Al Mohler

Just Do Something - Kevin DeYoung

Education: Does God Have an Opinion - Israel Wayne

The Case For Christ - Lee Strobel

Agape of Leadership - Robert Peterson & Alexander Strauch

Homeschool Freedom - HSLDA

Called to Lead - John MacArthur

Answers To Prayer - George Muller

A Call For Discernment - Jay Adams

Power Through Prayer - E.M. Bounds

We Cannot Be Silent - Al Mohler

The Gathering Storm - Al Mohler

The Law - Frederic Bastiat

Research and Statistics:

NHERI

The **National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)** conducts rigorous research on many aspects of private home education. Visit their informative website at www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling to learn more.

California Research Project

NHERI, CHEA, FPM, and BJU Press worked together to gather research on California homeschool students and their academic achievement. The following article is FPM's report on the project:

Research Study on California Homeschool Students Reveals Favorable Results!

We are very excited to share that National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) has published results from its 2022 standardized achievement test data analysis on California homeschool students. A study like this has never been done before on private homeschool students in California.

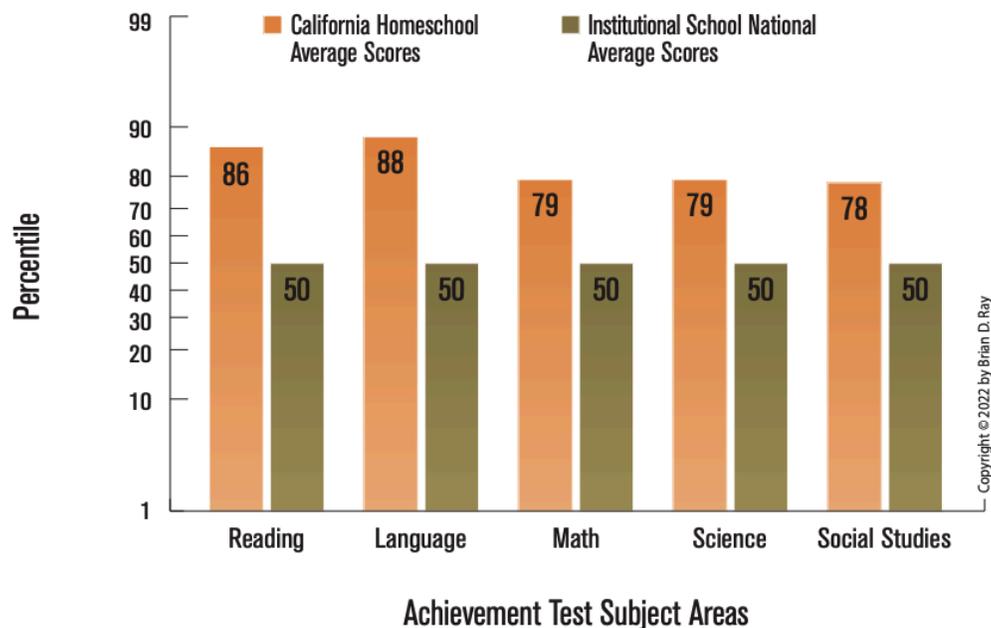
This research was the collaborative effort between NHERI, CHEA, FPM, and BJU Press Homeschool starting in early 2020. We worked hard for a study like this because, although testing is not required by law in California for private homeschoolers, statistics like these are a tangible tool when discussing private homeschooling outcomes with state legislators. Many legislators function on data, and this is one effective way of speaking their language.

Our hope is that we will continue with periodic research on California private homeschool students. We also hope that other statewide homeschool organizations may utilize this model – to help conduct research in their own state and bring convincing evidence to their legislators that homeschooling is functioning well in their state.

California Research

NHERI's research analysis states that "California homeschool students scored at the 78th percentile to 88th percentile in reading, language, math, science, and social studies. This is 28 to 38 percentile points above the national average."

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS AND U.S. INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS



Footnote: Data are from the standardized academic achievement test scores of California homeschool students during 2020 and 2021 test norms.

Other key findings on California homeschool students include the following:

- "The mother's education level is not statistically correlated with any subject-area scores. This is significant since in homeschooling the mother is usually the main academic instructor and in public schools there is a notable correlation between parent education level and child's achievement. That is, children perform better in public schools when their parents have higher

education levels (Egalite, 2016)¹ but homeschool children of all levels of mother’s education are doing equally well.

- In public schools, there is a distinct positive correlation between family income and students’ test scores (Egalite, 2016)². However, these homeschool students’ scores were essentially the same whether their family’s income was high or low.
- The degree of structure in homeschooling is not correlated with reading, math, and social science scores, and only weakly correlated with language and science scores. That is, a variety of homeschool pedagogical approaches are all associated with strong academic achievement.”

We are very happy with this study and want to thank the homeschool families and students who participated, BJU Press, CHEA, and NHERI for all coming together to make this research a reality. Thank you to our supporters who helped make this happen! We continue to advocate on your behalf at the state legislature with the data produced by this California-specific study.

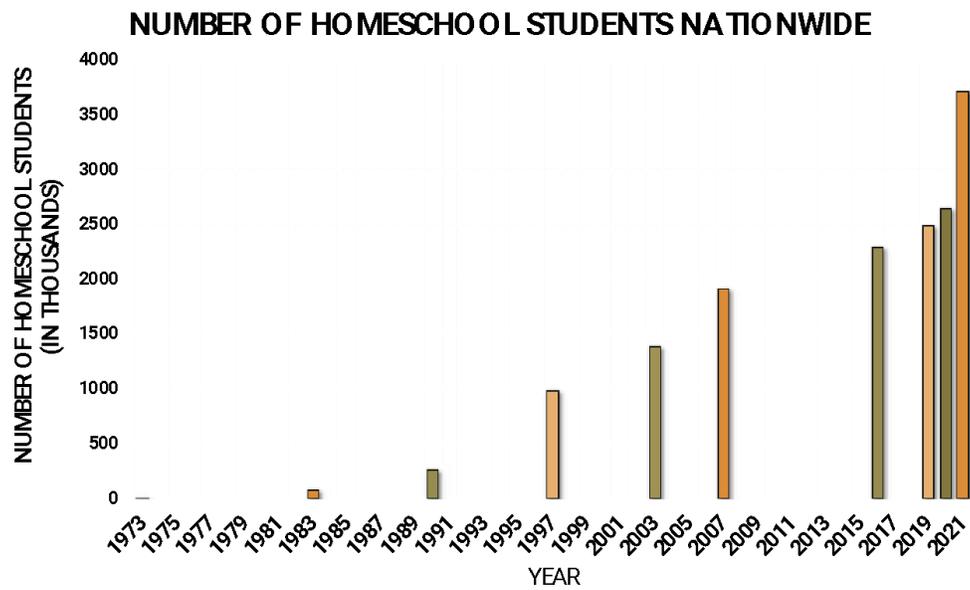
To read the full study, visit www.fpmca.org/research2022.

¹ Egalite, Anna. J. (2016). How family background influences student achievement: Can schools narrow the gap? The Journal, 16(2), <https://www.educationnext.org/how-family-background-influences-student-achievement>.

² Ibid.

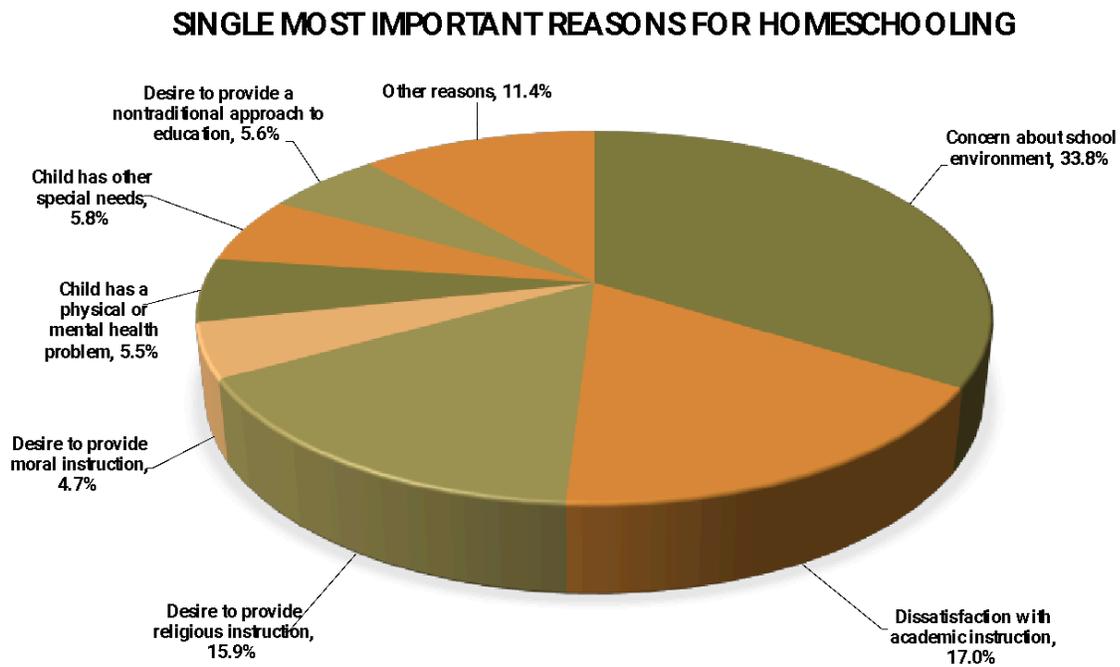
US Research

For the United States at large, there were about 3.7 million homeschool students in 2020-2021 in grades K-12 in the United States (roughly 6 to 7% of school-age children).³



³ Ray, Brian D. (2022). Research facts on homeschooling, <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling>.

Below are percentages of homeschooled students whose parents identified the one most important reason for why they homeschooled their student.⁴



⁴ United States Department of Education. (2021). Digest of Education Statistics 2019, Table 206.15, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_206.15.asp.

Jurisdictional Authority and the Principles of Sound Government:

Does Government Have Authority over the Church or Family?

Far too often, those in government give into the temptation to take responsibility and authority for things outside of their appropriate purview. In the past year, politicians have regulated businesses in ways that clearly violate basic principles of a free economy. Sweeping regulations restricting churches clearly violate our nation's founding principles of religious freedom. Programs created by the state supplement or replace the role of parents in the lives of children. Mandatory injections currently challenge our medical freedom. We are constantly told the government has a vested interest in keeping us safe. We've been told that our government leaders have the right and the obligation to require us to do what they believe will keep us safe.

We balk at some of these restrictions in the name of our rights and freedoms being taken away. But where did these freedoms come from? What gives us the confidence or right to say that the government is wrong and has overstepped its bounds? We point to a higher law, a higher ruler. Let us look briefly at what God has in mind regarding the authority and purview of government and where those lines are between the responsibilities of the state, church, and family.

The Bible tells us God established three separate and distinct institutions: Family, Civil Government, and the Church. Each has its own jurisdiction and authority as established by God. John MacArthur puts it this way, "Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected."⁵ However, these institutions do not receive their authority in a linear structure with civil government on top and the other two answering to it, as some would have you believe. Rather, these three institutions were ordained by God and derive their just powers in parallel to each other under God. Each is accountable to God and is submitted to by individuals, provided the institution does not require disobedience to God. But in the case that it does, the Bible tells us that we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). As Jack Hibbs put it: "Christians should submit to our earthly authorities but there comes a point when our highest authority has to be obeyed..."⁶

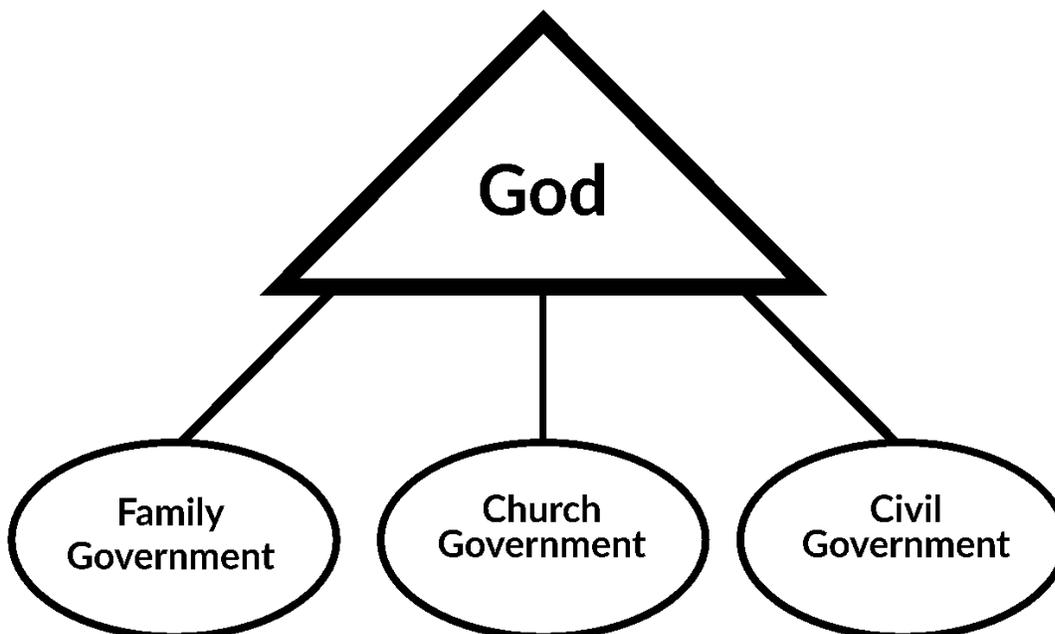
⁵ John MacArthur, "Christ, not Caesar, Is Head of the Church," Grace to You (Grace to You, July 24, 2020), <https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B200723#>.

⁶ Marianne Napoles, "Churches to Ask Governor for May 31 Opening," Champion Newspapers (Champion Newspapers, May 9, 2020), https://www.championnewspapers.com/news/article_fc1e3cca-9160-11ea-89ac-0fa6937dba4d.html.

It's important to note that God commands us to accept the authority of those He has placed over us and honor them. In Paul's letter to the Romans, we see this distinctly in the case of government. Some may say Paul could not have anticipated the wickedness and violation of liberty we are seeing today. Reconsider the following verses and remember who Paul's government leaders were and how they ruled in Rome in the days of the early church. When Paul was writing this letter, Christians were experiencing extreme persecution. Paul himself would die as a martyr under the leadership of Nero. Tacitus, a Roman historian and politician, claimed that under Nero's rule, Christians were murdered in bizarre and horrific ways. Now read the following verses, keeping in mind the persecution, horror, and martyrdom that the church faced at that time.

Romans 13:1-7

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.



The following scriptures further discuss the three institutions and God's supremacy over each.

God is Over All

Romans 11:36: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Isaiah 33:22: For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.

Psalms 22:27-28: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Colossians 1:17: And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Family Government

I Corinthians 11:3: But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 6:1-4: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:18-21: Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Church Government

Titus 1:7-9: For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as

taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Acts 20:28: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Civil Government

I Peter 2:13-17: Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

I Timothy 2:1-2: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

However, leaders don't always follow God's commands. Sometimes rulers exceed their authority and specifically violate the jurisdiction of another institution or sphere over which they have no authority. History has seen many individuals and groups misuse the authority of these governing institutions to gain wealth or power, this past year being no exception. Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Community Church responded to one such misuse last year in a letter entitled "Christ, not Caesar, is Head of the Church," which included the following:

"God has established three institutions within human society: the family, the state, and the church. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected. A father's authority is limited to his own family. Church leaders' authority (which is delegated to them by Christ) is limited to church matters. And government is specifically tasked with the oversight and protection of civic peace and well-being within the boundaries of a nation or community. God has not granted civic rulers' authority over the doctrine, practice, or polity of the church. The biblical framework limits the authority of each institution to its specific jurisdiction. The church does not have the right to meddle in the affairs of individual families and ignore parental authority. Parents do not have authority to manage civil matters while circumventing government officials. And similarly, government officials have no right to interfere in ecclesiastical matters in a way that undermines or disregards the God-given authority of pastors and elders.

When any one of the three institutions exceeds the bounds of its jurisdiction it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that overreach.”

John MacArthur

Friday, July 24, 2020

(The full letter can be found at:

<https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B200723/christ-not-caesar-is-head-of-the-church>)

Each one of the three spheres of government sometimes oversteps into the authority of another sphere. Sometimes one sphere neglects its own responsibility, causing another institution to feel an urge to step in and fill that void. Some may, for example, see the church as failing to minister to the poor and needy and think that the government should step in and take over that responsibility. Some may object to the worldview that some parents teach their children and think that the government should step in and direct all learning. Some people may try to carry out justice themselves, taking on the role of government to punish evildoers. We need to remember that two wrongs don't make a right, and we shouldn't try to reconfigure God's design, regardless of how sound we think our reasoning is.

God has designed and assigned authority in this world. Yes, sometimes it doesn't work the way it should. But this isn't because God's design is flawed, as some claim. It is because man is fallen. The brokenness of this world should remind us of the hope we have in the perfect world that is yet to come.

In the meantime, we must live in pursuit of God's plan and trust Him (Prov. 3:5-6), actively going after what we are to do (Micah 6:8, James 1:27, and Mark 10:21), and doing it with all our might (Ecc 9:10). If we start with what we know God has commanded us to do, we will be headed in the right direction.

There is much more which could be covered on this issue. However, in summary, a major Biblical principle to remember is that we should shoulder our God-given responsibilities as families and churches rather than expecting the government to come to our rescue. One should be content with the fruits of his own labor and that which is voluntarily given to him. One must avoid desiring or receiving the fruits of another man's labor, which is taken from another on an involuntary basis. (Ex. 20:17; Luke 3:14; Rom. 13:9; Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:8-10)

When we do this, we take a positive step toward increased freedom, smaller government, lower taxes, and God's design for the family, church, and civil government.

And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

Finding Bills and Legislative Contact Information

Find Out the Status of a California Bill

Go to leginfo.legislature.ca.gov and search by bill number, author, or keyword.

If there is lack of clarity on a bill on leginfo.legislature.ca.gov, you can call the Assembly or Senate, depending on which house currently has the bill:

For bills currently located in the Assembly, contact the Assembly Chief Clerk: (916) 319-2856.

For bills currently located in the Senate, contact the Secretary of the Senate: (916) 651-4171.

If a bill is in committee, the committee itself may have the latest update on a bill. You can contact the committee by looking up the committee's contact information at the following websites:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

Contacting Your California State Officials

Find your state representatives and their contact info in the Assembly and Senate: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov. A helpful chart is included in the appendix where you can record this information.

Roster of Assembly Members:

www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers

Roster of State Senators:

www.senate.ca.gov/senators

Contacting a Committee

Committees: If you want to contact a committee that will hear a bill you are concerned about, you can find contact information for each Assembly and Senate committee and the committee members at the following:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

The Daily File (agenda): Find out when and where Assembly or Senate hearings are taking place by consulting the Daily File. The Daily File is the agenda for the Assembly and Senate and has important information such as committee hearing dates and room numbers, committee members, and committee contact information. The Daily File is updated every day.

Assembly Daily File: www.assembly.ca.gov/dailyfile

Senate Daily File: www.senate.ca.gov/dailyfile

Obtaining a Copy of a Bill

You can print a copy of a bill at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Search by bill number, author, or keyword.

You can request a single, complimentary copy of a state senate or assembly bill from the Legislative Bill Room.

Legislative Bill Room
Department of General Services
Office of State Publishing

State Capitol
10th St., Room B32
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2323

Other Resources

The California Legislative Process

California's Legislature is a book containing an in-depth introduction to the legislative process and state government of California. You can find it online at www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html or order a hard copy for \$5 from the Legislative Bill Room at (916) 445-2323.

Contacting Your Federal Officials

To find and contact your congressional representative or US Senator, visit myreps.datamade.us. You may find your congressional representatives and senator's mailing information on these websites. If you prefer to make a phone call, you can call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and be connected to your elected officials' office.

Write to the U.S. President:

The Honorable _____

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20500

Anatomy of a Bill

Scan this QR Code or go to www.fpmca.org/anatomy-of-a-bill to download and print copies of this helpful document.



EXHIBIT 1 - 2

Anatomy of a Bill

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005-06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL Bill Number
No. 672

Introduced by Assembly Member Klehs
February 17, 2005 Author and
Version Date

An act to amend Section 115825 of the Health and Safety Code,
relating to reservoirs. Code section(s)
added or amended

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 672, as introduced, Klehs. Reservoirs with water intended for domestic use: recreational use.

Existing law prohibits the recreational use of reservoirs where water is stored for domestic use to include recreation in which there is bodily contact with the water by a participant. The law exempts certain reservoirs from this prohibition and sets forth certain conditions and restrictions to ensure water purity.

This bill would exclude certain recreational activity from the prohibition against bodily contact with the water in a reservoir containing water intended for domestic use, including, but not limited to, fishing and canoeing, and hiking in areas adjacent to the reservoir.

→ Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 115825 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:
3 115825. (a) It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state
4 that multiple use should be made of all public water within the
5 state, to the extent that multiple use is consistent with public
6 health and public safety.
7 (b) Except as provided in this article, recreational uses shall
8 not, with respect to a reservoir in which water is stored for
9 domestic use, include recreation in which there is bodily contact
10 with the water by any participant.
11 (c) *Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, this article
12 does not prohibit the following recreational uses:*
13 (1) *Hiking in the areas adjacent to the reservoir.*
14 (2) *Bike riding in the areas adjacent to the reservoir*
15 (d) *Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, this article
does not prohibit any of the following recreational activities, nor
does it prohibit bodily contact with the water that is reasonably
necessary for any of the following recreational activities:*
(1) *Fishing.*
(2) *Kayaking.*
(3) *Canoeing.*

Most bills require a majority vote of both houses, except urgency bills and bills with an appropriation. These require a 2/3 vote.

This indicates if the State is requiring local governments to implement a new program or expend additional funds on an existing program

Existing law NOTE: Language added in the previous version of the bill will not be italicized in subsequent versions of the bill.

Amended text of the bill: Italics indicate language added to existing law. Strikethroughs indicate language being deleted from existing law.

PART 5



About Family Protection Ministries



Representing Private Homeschoolers

Fortunately, families in California have a full-time organization serving as their eyes and ears in the State Legislature. In 1986 Roy Hanson began this important work by founding Family Protection Ministries. Nathan Pierce now continues this work and serves as FPM's Executive Director.

There is an essential need for direct communication and representation with the State Legislature in Sacramento. Nathan has over 20 years of experience at the Capitol, making him uniquely qualified to do what must be done in order to defend Biblical family and parental rights.

Nathan attends committee hearings (testifying as needed), works with other organizations, meets with legislators and their staff, and builds relationships with lobbyists. In addition, Nathan works with attorneys and education officials, tracking court cases and monitoring any actions that may affect home education. His staff in the FPM office diligently monitors current legislation, searching for any bills that pose a threat to private home education and Biblical family values.

California does not have a specific law that identifies and defines a "homeschool." Rather, California homeschools operate as private schools, and currently enjoy more freedom than most states that have specific home education legislation.

Each year, we face attacks on our current level of home education freedoms. Some of these attacks are intentional — adding regulations and restrictions. Some come as unintended consequences from a well-intentioned, but uninformed, legislator. In the future, we could face a more direct assault through an attempt to make private home education illegal.

Our best defense is to prepare carefully, before such a direct attack happens. God has given you the opportunity to help build positive attitudes toward private home education. Making personal contact with our legislators allows them to know homeschool students as normal, upstanding citizens simply trying to live their lives in a productive manner. FPM is here to guide you in this effort. For those of you who wish to be more involved, an FPM internship may be an avenue that would help you gain a deeper understanding of California political processes and lead you into other opportunities in policy analysis and processes.

Children. Where do they come from, and who's responsible for raising them?

by Dave Witt, Teaching Pastor at Foothill Christian Fellowship

“If you were privileged enough to grow up in a home filled with the light of Scripture, it may seem like those questions are merely rhetorical. Obviously, children come from the Lord, and they are a gift to parents – a mom and a dad who are married.

Psalm 127:3 – Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward...how blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Not everyone acknowledges these fundamental realities, of course. Most in our contemporary climate see children as the natural result of billions of years of evolutionary progress, and that responsibility for rearing them falls on the larger community – daycares, schools, PBS, and the government. The modern mantra is, ‘It takes a village.’

The teaching of Scripture is crystal clear; God gives children to parents as a joyful blessing and also as a profound stewardship. The responsibility for training up a child rests squarely with mom and dad. Parents have both the duty and privilege of shaping the little ones God gives them.

It seems odd that such foundational truth would need defending, but if there's one thing that is evident in this world, it is that the truth is ever under attack.

It is for this reason that I'm thankful for the ministry of Nathan Pierce and Family Protection Ministries. FPM has, for decades, demonstrated fidelity to the Lord and His design for the family by serving as both light and watchdog. Nathan is a man who treasures the gospel and cares deeply about

God's design for the family. As a light, he works closely with legislators, seeking to shine the glory of Christ's gospel and God's truth about the family. As a watchdog, Nathan is committed to keeping an eye on government encroachment into the family, keeping parents aware of the endless threats to their God-given authority to raise and train their children without governmental intrusion. This is an important ministry."

FPM in Action!

Family Protection Ministries is active in many government arenas, including the Legislature, the court system, government agencies and state organizations.

In the Legislature:

1. Acting as a central clearinghouse for information on California state legal/legislative status and action
2. Analyzing the thousands of bills introduced in the legislature and tracking dozens of state (and federal) legislative proposals each year
3. Advocacy in support, opposition or modification of specific legislation
4. Sending regular Legislative Updates & Alerts to supporters and homeschool leaders both by mail and email
5. Writing position papers based on sound legal research and a Biblical worldview
6. Building positive relationships with legislators and education officials
7. Serving as a liaison to CHEA, HSLDA, and other homeschool groups, private school organizations and parental rights groups
8. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying Him by serving you and others

In the Courts:

While not often active in court cases, in 2008, FPM was part of the landmark court decision (In Re Jonathan L.). FPM coordinated with state homeschool organizations, ensuring cooperation in addressing all proposed legislative activity regarding the appellate court decision which had initially declared private homeschooling illegal, but was later reversed.

Working With Government Agencies:

FPM works diligently with the Department of Education and helps them maintain a neutral position on home-based private schools, including filing the affidavit online. In cooperation with HSLDA, CHEA, and other groups, we continue making personal contacts, working to secure a better relationship with the Department of Education. We also respond to the increasing regulations from the Governor's Office, California Department of Public Health, and other relevant government agencies.

Working With Homeschool Organizations:

Family Protection Ministries performs the critical task of coordinating with other groups across the state and nation to ensure a united approach to legislation affecting parental rights, religious freedoms, and private home education. FPM works closely with the attorneys at HSLDA, and also serves as CHEA's legislative consultant.

Examples of Major Victories in California

Family Protection Ministries (FPM) has found and defeated all legislative proposals to criminalize private homeschooling before they could be introduced as bills, starting with our first battle in 1986. The categories and lists below are not exhaustive but do show a great number of bills that we have fought for or against over our time serving here in California.

We give Jesus Christ Our Lord all the glory for these great victories!

Private Education

- **AB 1737 (2022) defeated!** Would have put onerous requirements on a broadly defined category of children's camps, making most homeschool co-ops and even homeschool neighborhood meet-ups impossible to conduct in compliance with the proposed requirements.
- **AB 452 (2021) amended!** Would have created a notification system ensuring every parent, including private homeschool parents, was informed of laws regarding safe firearm storage. The bill also rewrote private school law to require each homeschool family to report to the Superintendent of Education and opened the door to future new burdensome requirements.
- **SB 2 (2019) amended and defeated!** Would have required homeschoolers to submit meticulous student achievement information to the state. Our approved amendment language protected private homeschools from this invasive and burdensome bill.

- **AB 2756 (2018) defeated!** Would require annual fire inspections of private homeschoolers' residences without a warrant or reasonable cause. Also would require private homeschools to choose from a list of options that best described their school when filing the Private School Affidavit (PSA) in October each year.
- **AB 2926 (2018) defeated!** Would have likely resulted in the loss of parental authority over curriculum choices and regulations making private home-schooling virtually impossible for most parents.
- **AB 66 (2009) passed!** Made it easier for homeschoolers to get work permits.
- **SB 650 (1999), AB 1151 (1997), & AB 2117 (1996) defeated!** Would have implemented a statewide daytime curfew for minors.

Truancy

- **SB 1317 (2010) defeated!** On allegations of truancy, homeschoolers would be referred directly to the district attorney and charged with a crime resulting in fines up to \$2,000 and up to one year in jail.
- **AB 2855 (2004) amended** to protect the requirement that school officials notify and work with parents of children suspected of truancy. This allows HSLDA to resolve homeschooling issues out of court.

Early Childhood Education

- **SB 70 (2021), SB 1153 (2020), AB 713 (2016), AB 1444 (2014), AB 1772 (2012), AB 2203 (2012), AB 1236 (2007), SB 7 (2003), AB 56 (2003), SB 550 (2003), AB 634 (2001), AB 25 (1998), & SB 893 (1997) defeated!** Would have made kindergarten mandatory in private schools.
- **AB 712 (2003), AB 56 (2003), SB 277 (1999), AB 2332 (1998), & SB 432 (2003) defeated!** Would have implemented universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Parental Rights

- **AB 1057 (2023) vetoed by the Governor!** Would have set up a system of home visitations and assigned a CPS social worker to every newborn
- **AB 2943 (2008) & AB 755 (2007) defeated!** Would criminalize spanking (prison time and loss of children).
- **AB 2749 (2004) passed!** Protects parental constitutional rights by requiring that CPS social workers: 1) advise individuals of allegations against them; and 2) to adhere to the 4th Amendment of the Constitution.

- **AB 1355 (1995) passed!** Reduced the immunity of social workers from absolute to qualified. Social workers are now liable for unlawful acts committed against parents during an investigation of alleged child abuse.

Medical Freedom

- **SB 840 (2005 & 2007), SB 810 (2009 & 2011), AB 1670 (2005), and others – defeated!** Would have established socialized medicine – total government control over all health care, including life and death decisions.
- **AB 206 (2003) & AB 1763 (2002) defeated!** State & local health officials would have been given full control over all families, and medical professionals during health emergencies, including separating children from their parents.
- **AB 2020 (2000) defeated!** Would have coerced all parents to enroll their newborn in a government-controlled health care program before releasing the newborn to go home from the hospital.
- **SB 276 (1999) defeated!** Would have required mandatory mental health exams of all California residents every 3 years.

Vaccines

- **SB 866 (2022) defeated!** Aimed to allow minors aged 12 and older (later amended to 15 and older) to consent to vaccination without parental knowledge or consent, which would have eroded parental authority and responsibility over their children’s health and given it to the child and government.
- **SB 277 (2015) amended!** Removed personal beliefs exemption to school-required vaccines. FPM amendments removed the requirements of mandatory vaccines for private homeschool.

Child Abuse

- **AB 1737 (2022) defeated!** Redefined “camps” and children’s programs to very likely include homeschool co-ops. Required extensive child abuse reporting training and more administrative work and paperwork for all adult volunteers and workers at the program’s own expense, which would have prevented many homeschool co-ops from operating.
- **AB 717 (2011) passed!** Protects the rights of parents falsely accused of child abuse. Ensures their right to a due process hearing and removes their names from the state’s Child Abuse Central Index.

- **AB 2380 (2010) & AB 7 (1989) defeated!** “Hearsay” would be a basis for reporting child abuse – causing a huge increase in false allegations of child abuse against innocent parents, including homeschool parents.
- **AB 804 (1999) defeated!** “Educational neglect” would be a new category of child abuse and neglect. Homeschooling could have been investigated by social workers on erroneous allegations of child neglect.
- **SB 243 (1987) passed!** Defined “child abuse” to exclude a reasonable spanking to the buttocks.

Home Privacy

- **SB 1562 (2004) defeated & AB 10 (2017) passed with our amendments!** Coercive inspection of homeschoolers’ bathrooms (a privacy invasion).
- **AB 1256 passed with our amendments (2013)** Amended to make clear that homeowners could not be sued for blocking the entrance of an uninvited intruder into their home.

An Example of Advocacy in Action!

AB 2756 & AB 2926 Summary Report

The following report is a summary of two bills FPM worked on in 2018. This is taken from a newsletter mailed on July 11th, 2018.

We are very thankful for the tremendous victories that God gave us this year with the defeat of both AB 2756 and AB 2926.

Our experienced Legislative Liaison, Nathan Pierce, and part-time FPM staff were tracking thousands of bills daily so that we might know at the earliest possible time of all bills threatening homeschoolers’ freedoms. When the Turpin family case became a major item in California and national media in January, we anticipated new legislation that aimed to further regulate private homeschooling. We were aware of and already working on this issue before most people had ever heard of it. In preparation, we researched and tracked legislation, personally contacted legislators, their staff and other key capitol staff, and watched for comments in the news from the representatives who said they would introduce legislation to regulate homeschooling. We also stayed informed on the rest of the California Legislature by

monitoring (among other things) the websites, Twitter feeds, press releases, and legislation of every California state legislator.

First, as introduced, AB 2756 required home fire inspections of private homeschoolers' residences at least once a year – which we were able to get the author to drop before the hearing. Second, AB 2756 also included a provision that would have separated private home-based schools from private campus schools with the stated intent of adding future regulations to home-based private schools. It was this second provision that was in question at the April 25th hearing.

As bad as AB 2756 was, AB 2926 was the most potentially destructive bill to homeschooling this year. This amendment would have created a committee to consider further regulations on private homeschoolers, including requiring certified teachers (i.e., credentialed parents) for private homeschools. The passage of AB 2926 could have easily resulted in: (1) private homeschooling being separated from the current private school exemption; (2) private homeschooling being further regulated; (3) regulations making private homeschooling virtually impossible for most parents; (4) the elimination of 30 years of work done by FPM in teamwork with you to protect the right to privately home educate; (5) the loss of the exclusion from vaccination requirements; and (6) losing the due process protections for all private homeschools. We are thankful that the opposition to AB 2926 was so great that the author pulled the bill from its assigned hearing and decided not to attempt to push it forward.

FPM's Nathan Pierce testifying on AB 2756.

In the months that followed, Nathan met with the staff of the authors of AB 2756 and AB 2926, and other Assembly members numerous times to ask them questions, give them information, and explain what their bills would and would not do in hopes of convincing the authors to withdraw their bills. Nathan provided a friendly and reassuring face that represented the private homeschooling community and our case that California homeschoolers do not need to be regulated further. Because of these regular visits, and others over the past 15 years, Nathan is known more and more as the familiar face at the Capitol that they trust to give them the facts about private homeschooling and any related legislation.

The week before the hearing, Nathan Pierce took a group of local homeschool families to the Capitol to visit each legislator who would be in the committee hearing for AB 2756. These families impressed the legislative staff with their professionalism, knowledge about the bill, and the quality of the informational

materials they brought. Even through the toughest weeks leading up to the hearing, God was already showing us what a great victory He could bring about.

THE DAY OF THE HEARING, APRIL 25TH, 2018

Homeschool families started lining up at the entrance of the hearing room at 7:30 a.m., even though it did not open for seating until 1 p.m. At first there were just a few but they just kept coming. It was a long morning, waiting in the hallways all those hours, but our anticipation of a possible positive outcome later that day combined with the immovable, faithful parents and students surrounding us (and wrapping around the hallways down to the next floor) kept everyone's spirits high and hopeful.



The Assembly Education Committee took up their Special Order of Business scheduled for 1:30 p.m. – AB 2756. Medina presented his bill, the supporting key witnesses gave their testimonies, and then the two allowed opposing key witnesses, including Nathan Pierce of FPM, gave their allotted 2-minute testimonies. Next, about 2,000 parents and children lined up at the microphones to state their names and their opposition.

As the opposition testimonies finally concluded, Education Committee Chairman O'Donnell said, "Thank you Mr. Medina. And for those who came today, thank you for being part of the process. Thank you for one of the longer hearings I have participated in. Period. Ever."

As the committee did not have a quorum to vote right after the testimonies, Nathan stayed another three hours to observe the conclusion and answer any questions from any committee member about the bill. At about 8 p.m., Chairman O'Donnell asked for a motion on AB 2756 (a motion and a second are required to start taking a vote on a bill). The members had been making motions all afternoon and



evening on various bills, and yet when Assemblyman O'Donnell asked for a motion on AB 2756, he had to ask a second time. After an uncomfortable silence he said, "We do not have a motion, so the file item number one [AB 2756] fails." Not one of the committee

members wanted to even hint that they were supportive of AB 2756 by making a motion to vote on the bill.

AFTER THE HEARING

After the hearing ended, Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, the Vice Chairman of the committee, personally congratulated Nathan, saying, "That was amazing, and that turnout was very impressive. I've been having people tell me this afternoon that in their 30 years in the California Legislature they have never seen something like this. They have never seen so many people come down and testify on one bill."

The hearing room's sergeant, who oversaw the room's security that day, walked Nathan out since he was the last one in the room and needed to lock up. As he did so, he mentioned to Nathan that he should be very proud of the victory we had achieved that day, but not just because of the bill dying. He told Nathan that he should be proud of his people who came out to participate. He said, "Your people were very calm and handled themselves very well and very professionally. You've got great people. The members will not easily forget what happened here today."

CONCLUSION

We praise God for this victory and for using this trial to strengthen our homeschool communities and raise our voice in unison! We are very thankful for California homeschoolers and all who helped with our efforts to oppose AB 2756 and AB 2926. Thank you to all those who made calls, wrote letters, spread the word, and/or showed up to the capitol on the hearing day.

However, despite our great victory on April 25th, our opponents will continue to reintroduce bills like AB 2756 and AB 2926. As mentioned by Assemblyman Medina in his conclusion, legislation may come back in a different form. It is likely that the next attack will be better thought-out and carefully planned. They don't give up. We can't give up either!

You have a voice that can be heard when spoken as one. However, the effectiveness of your calls and letters often hinges upon the legislator understanding the wording of proposed bills in the context of current law and practice. This is why it is critical that we (FPM) are always equipped to write, distribute, and explain our detailed analyses to the legislators at the best time. Defending our liberties is truly a teamwork effort with you.



Appendix

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR LEGISLATIVE (BILL) TYPES

A	Assembly
ACA	Assembly Constitutional Amendment
ACR	Assembly Concurrent Resolution
AJR	Assembly Joint Resolution
EO	Executive Order
GRP	Governor's Reorganization Plan
HR	House Resolution
PA	Preprint Assembly
PACA	Preprint Assembly Constitutional Amendment
PACR	Preprint Assembly Concurrent Resolution
PAJR	Preprint Assembly Joint Resolution
PS	Preprint Senate
PSCA	Preprint Senate Constitutional Amendment
PSCR	Preprint Senate Concurrent Resolution
PSJR	Preprint Senate Joint Resolution
PSR	Preprint Senate Resolution
S	Senate
SCA	Senate Constitutional Amendment
SCR	Senate Concurrent Resolution
SJR	Senate Joint Resolution
SR	Senate Resolution
V	Ballot Measure

Source: Adapted from "Legislative Types," State Net®. Resources, California State Resources.

GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

For a full list, go to the Glossary of Legislative Terms at:

www.leginfo.ca.gov/faces/glossaryTemplate.xhtml

AB: When a bill number begins with "AB" it means it is an Assembly Bill and a state-level bill. The other type of state-level bill begins with "SB", meaning Senate Bill. Federal bills begin with either "S." or "H.R."

ALERT: A communication from Nathan Pierce, usually made via Email Alerts about an impending piece of legislation which requires immediate contact with our legislators. Homeschooling leaders, pastors, or supporters of FPM each calendar year receive these Email Alerts at no cost.

AMENDMENT: An addition or change in the language of a bill, or an addition or change in the language of another amendment.

ASSEMBLY: The 80 members of one of the two houses of our state legislature. The other house is the State Senate.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER: This is the correct term to use in describing or addressing our elected representatives to the State Assembly.

BILL: Legislation proposed to become law. It is identified with a number, title, and author. Bill numbers identify what branch of the legislature the author is part of. Bills at the state level begin with either "SB" (for Senate Bill) or "AB" (for Assembly Bill.) Bills at the federal level begin with either "S." (for Senate) or "H.R." (for House of Representatives.)

CALIFORNIA ROSTER: This roster lists the current, complete address and phone information for state representatives. Refer to the California Roster on the California Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ca.gov/administration/california-roster.

The California Roster also lists contact information on state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions.

CHAIRMAN/WOMAN: He or she heads the committee, i.e. Public Safety Committee. The chairman/woman wields an enormous amount of influence on the committee vote and whether a bill will be heard or be put in "suspense" which usually means it dies. The chairman/woman is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly (for Assembly committees) or the President (pro Tempore) of the Senate (for Senate committees).

COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & DEPARTMENTS: In the state government, they are appointed by the governor and are not accountable to the voting public.

COMMITTEE: All proposed legislation must pass through at least one policy committee before it can be voted on by each house on the "floor" of the legislature. All bills which affect the budget and government expenditures must also go through a fiscal committee. Legislators are assigned to committees by the Speaker of the Assembly or by the President of the Senate. Committee assignments can be found at the following:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

The committee hearings are the only public forum for citizen testimony. This is where most bills live or die.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: This is a small group from the State Assembly and the State Senate that confers to negotiate differences in the language of a bill over which the two houses disagree. If both houses agree on the negotiated language, the bill goes to the governor. If they cannot arrive at an agreement, the bill dies. The process is the same on the federal level.

CONGRESS: This is the federal body of elected officials that passes federal laws. It is comprised of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives. Our state equivalent is the State Legislature, comprised of State Senators and State Assembly Members.

CONGRESSMAN: A title used to describe a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The title "Representative" (capitalized) may also be used. "Representative" is the usual title used today because it can more easily fit either a man or a woman.

CONSULTANTS: These individuals are hired by the chairmen of the committees. For example, in the Education Committee, the consultants do research on the bills assigned to the committee, receive position letters from organizations and citizens supporting or opposing a bill, and advise the members of the committee on the pros and cons and usually on how to vote.

DISTRICT: The state is divided into 40 State Senate districts and 80 State Assembly districts for state-level representation. California is divided into 53 Congressional districts for federal-level representation. The district boundaries are reset every 10 years. Boundaries for each type of district overlap those of the other types.

DISTRICT OFFICE: The District Office is the office of a legislator in his or her district. This is where most constituent communication should be directed. Most state legislators return to their district office on Fridays.

FLOOR: When a vote is "on the floor" it means that it is presented for vote by the entire State Senate or Assembly (at the state level), or by the entire U.S. Senate or House of Representatives (at the federal

level.) In contrast, a committee vote takes place in a committee hearing, with votes taken only from the members of the committee.

H.R.: If a bill number begins with "H.R.", it means it is a House of Representatives bill at the federal level.

The other type of federal bill begins with "S." State bills begin with "AB" or "SB."

LEGISLATION: If it has not yet been approved, proposed legislation is referred to as a bill. It must go through many steps before it is passed into law. If it fails at any one of the steps, the legislation is dead. If it passes through each and every step successfully, it becomes a statute (i.e., a law.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OR STAFFER: L.A.'s are employed by elected officials at the Capitol and District Offices. They are civil servants and are an extension of the legislator to the constituents and public at large. In many offices in the Capitol, they have enormous influence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL: These are attorneys hired by the state to help legislators draft bills so the language won't violate current law or protection by the Constitution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST: This is a condensed version of a bill written in layman's language. It appears in the first section of each bill and summarizes how the language in the bill will affect current law.

LEGISLATOR: This term applies to our elected federal and state officials who draft and vote on legislation. It could mean a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senator, or Assembly Member.

NVR: This is an abbreviation for "No Vote Recorded". This means that either a voting member was not present, or they abstained from voting on an issue.

REPRESENTATIVE: The term "representative", may apply to any of our elected officials, at both the state and federal level, since their job is to "represent" their constituents. When the term is capitalized: "Representative," it refers specifically to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

S.: When a bill number begins with the letter "S.," it means the bill is a U.S. Senate bill at the federal level. "SB" also means Senate Bill, but "SB" is used for bills at the state level. The other type of federal bill begins with "H.R."

SB: When a bill number begins with "SB" it means it is a Senate Bill and is a state-level bill. The other type of state-level bill begins with "AB", meaning Assembly Bill. Federal bills begin with either "S." or "H.R."

SENATOR: This is the correct title for either a State Senator or a U.S. Senator, although the two positions are different. State Senators are elected to the California State Legislature, where they make state laws. U.S. Senators are elected to Congress, where they make federal laws.

SPOT BILL: This is a term commonly used to refer to a bill that does not yet contain any legal language.

Most spot bills are limited to “intent language” while the author works with sponsors to smooth out the official language of the bill. Intent language will often be prefaced by “It is the intent of the Legislature to...”.

STATE LEGISLATURE: The body of officials elected by citizens of California to make state laws. The State Legislature is divided into two houses: the State Senate and the State Assembly.

STATE SENATE: The 40 members of one of the two houses of our California state legislature elected by the public. The other house is the State Assembly. The State Senate is different from the U.S. Senate, which is part of Congress in Washington, D.C.

STATE SENATOR: This title may be used to describe or address a member of our State Senate.

TESTIMONY: Public opinion presented in person in front of the committee hearing a pending bill at the Capitol. Any private citizen of any age may testify in California's committee hearings.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: One of the two houses of Congress, operating at the federal level. California has 53 members of the House of Representatives. Each state has a different number, depending on the state's population; there are a total of 435 Representatives for the whole nation. Members of the House of Representatives are called either "Representatives" or "Congressmen," with the preferred title being "Representative." The other house of Congress is the U.S. Senate.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: A member of the House of Representatives. In address, the "U.S." is dropped, for example, John Doe is a U.S. Representative, but we call him "Representative Doe."

U.S. SENATE: One of the two houses of Congress, operating at the federal level. Each state has two U.S. Senators, making a total of 100 U.S. Senators in Congress. The other house of Congress is the House of Representatives.

U.S. SENATOR: A member of the U.S. Senate.

VETO: This is a "no" vote from the governor or from the president on federal bills. At the state level, the governor's veto can be overridden with a 2/3 majority vote of the State Legislature.

My State Representatives

To obtain contact information of your state representatives,
go to www.fpmca.org/myrep

My Assembly Member:	My Senator:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
District Office Address:	District Office Address:
Capitol Office Address:	Capitol Office Address: