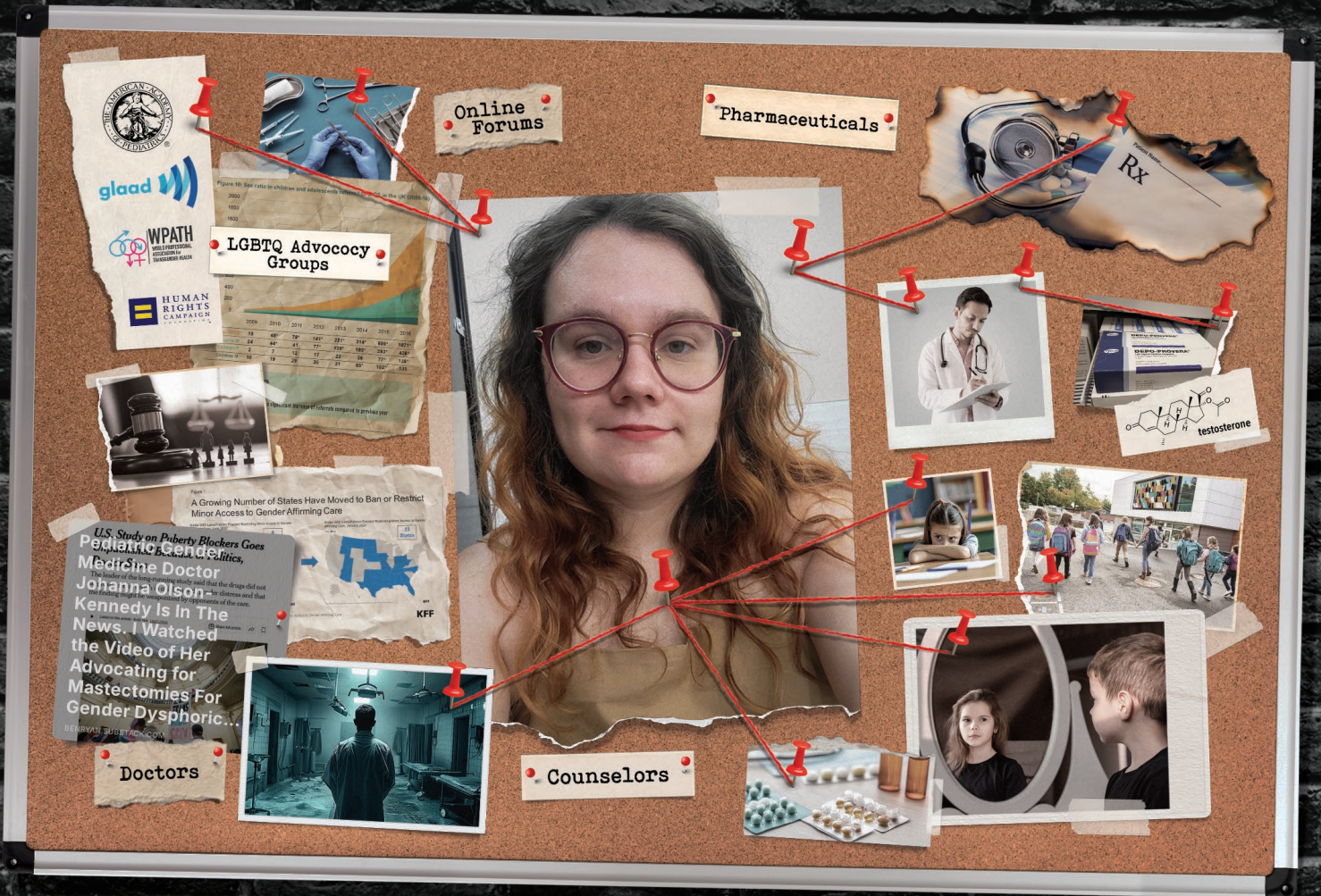


FALL 2024

# FAMILY

north carolina



# DETRANSITIONERS

THE SILENCED VICTIMS OF THE TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT



ALSO:

The North Carolina Study Center Spotlight

Children are under attack.  
Christians must protect them.

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

— Ronald Reagan

Women and girls deserve to compete on a level playing field, but activists are seeking to erase differences between men and women by forcing women's sports leagues to allow men to compete. This contradicts both biological reality and common sense.

— John Bursch, ADF Senior Counsel and Vice President of Appellate Advocacy who is representing states and athletes in their attempt to protect women's and girl's sports

**“Listen, your vote is important. But your witness is more important. Our King has an agenda, and it's not to save America, per se, it's to save Americans. And those of us who follow him have this as our primary agenda, too. So, yes, your vote is important; but your witness is more important.”**

— Pastor J.D. Greear, *The Summit Church*

I credit all that I do to God. He's given me a gift. He's given me a drive to just want to continue to improve upon myself. I have a platform and I want to use it to glorify Him, and so whenever I step on the track, it's always the prayer of 'God let me be the vessel in which you're glorified' whatever the result is, how I conduct myself, how I carry myself, not just how I perform.

— Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, American Hurdler and Sprinter and Olympic Gold Medalist

God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*



# FEATURES

## 5 **Detransitioners: The Silenced Victims of the Transgender Movement**

With the growth of the transgender movement in America we have witnessed a cultural shift in many of our institutions. The trans-ideology has affected our educational, political and medical institutions—ultimately leading to the undermining many of our traditional Judeo-Christian values. While we all suffer the consequences of society’s poor choices, no one in the transgender movement has paid a higher price than the children led into trans-medicalization by influential adults. In this issue, Sharon Sullivan explores the tragedy of “transitioning” children who are experiencing gender confusion, and looks more closely into the devastation that follows. Outspoken detransitioner Prisha Mosley, her attorney Josh Payne, and world-renowned psychiatrist Dr. Miriam Grossman spoke with Sharon about detransitioners: the silenced victims of the transgender movement.

## 12 **The North Carolina Study Center Spotlight**

Amidst news of protests and unrest on college campuses, God is still at work! On campuses across North Carolina and the country are organizations known as Study Centers, which serve as hubs of Christian community, hospitality, and learning. Read more about the work that the North Carolina Study Center is doing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## 18 **Children are under attack. Christians must protect them.**

What if public policy was less focused on political agendas and more focused on protecting society’s most vulnerable population? Children have been victimized for decades, often being sacrificed to advance agendas such as abortion and LGBTQ rights. Katy Faust, Founder and President of Them Before Us and the author of *Pro-Child Politics: Why Every Cultural, Economic, and National Issue Is a Matter of Justice for Children*, shares why it is essential that Christians take the responsibility to protect children. Learn more about how children are under attack and how Christians can help protect them.

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# DEPARTMENTS



## Guard Your Hearts

**“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”  
- Proverbs 4:23**

When I was growing up, there was a tv show that all my friends were watching. Some of the characters had attitudes and were disrespectful to others on the show; the overall morals the show promoted were fuzzy at best; and the show offered little substance that would point me to Jesus and encourage me to be more like Him. I got home one day and asked my mother if I could watch the show that all of my friends were talking about. While it was a little annoying at the time, I am so thankful that my mom took the time to walk me through how to prioritize the things I should give my time to, and how to closely look at the messages (and morals) that tv shows and other platforms are promoting.

Her work in teaching me to carefully think through what I am consuming and investing my time in has been a lifelong gift. We are surrounded by distractions designed to lure us away from Christ, and whether it is carefully choosing what we watch or how we spend our time, it is important that we guard our hearts and keep our focus on Christ.

Katy Faust is a national champion for protecting children, and in her article, she talks about the responsibility that adults have to protect children’s minds. Children have the right to innocence, and they deserve to have a childhood instead of being forced to grow up too quickly. Instead, groups across the country are creating mature content that is targeted specifically at kids, often to advance a political agenda. As adults, we should be vigilant about protecting children from harmful content and directing them towards content that builds their character and strengthens their relationship with Christ.

Unfortunately, adults often fail to protect children’s innocence, and the children are the ones forced to bear the – often devastating – consequences. In “Detransitioners: The Silenced Victims of the Transgender Movement”, Sharon Sullivan shares the story of Prisha Mosley, who became a victim of the transgender movement. Our culture is telling us that our problems are the result of being born in the wrong body or not embracing our true identity, causing thousands of children to pursue dangerous and irreversible paths in search of a solution only to realize that these “solutions” solve nothing and cause a host of life-long problems. Messages that are not based on truth can have devastating impacts, and it is critical that we keep our focus on truth to help stem the tide of this devastation.

Not only is it important to block out the dangerous messages, but it is important to intentionally invest in a Christian community and resources that will strengthen our relationship with Christ. The North Carolina Study Center is an amazing ministry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that is helping college kids do just that, working as a hub for Christian community, hospitality, and learning. Study Center staff share about the work they do at UNC-CH and that their counterparts do at universities across the state in “The North Carolina Study Center Spotlight.”

We’ve been given one life to live, and it is critical that we steward our time and attention to focus on what truly matters: our love relationship with God and with one another that glorifies God each day here on earth and for all eternity. So, guard your hearts. Spend your time on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).

Thank you for reading *Family North Carolina*. We hope you enjoy the content found in this edition. Please reach out to us to request more copies to share with friends and family! 🏡

*AnnaScott*

*AnnaScott Cross is the Communications Director for the North Carolina Family Policy Council and is Editor of Family North Carolina.*



**Fall 2024**

Vol. 19, No. 2  
ISSN 1935-7761  
ISBN 0-9785025-1-5

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*Family North Carolina* is a publication of the North Carolina Family Policy Council.

The North Carolina Family Policy Council is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization organized in 1991 and recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government.

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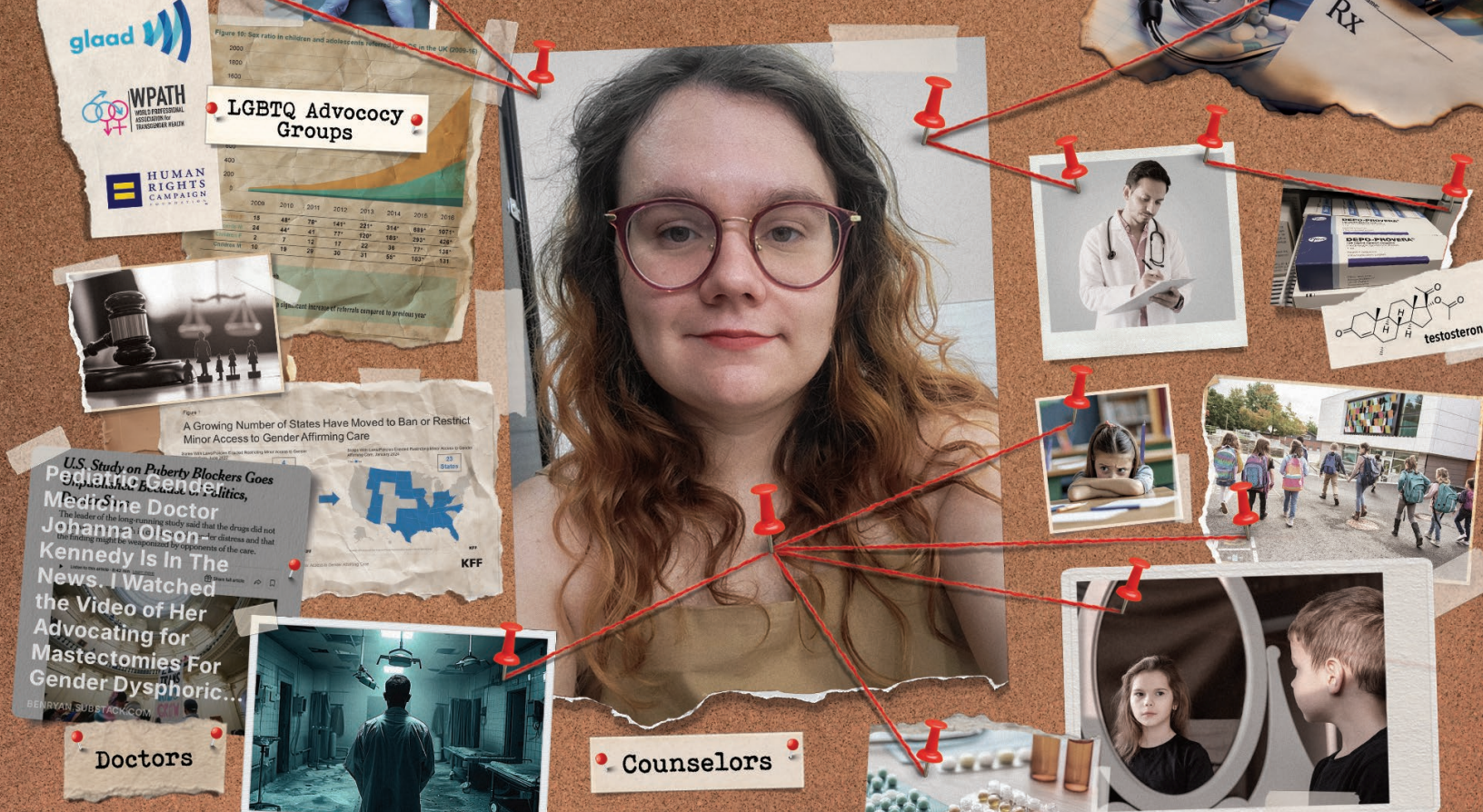
**Internet**

Visit us online at [NCFamily.org](http://NCFamily.org), where you can read selected stories from this issue, including endnotes. Publication of website addresses of other organizations featured in our stories does not constitute endorsement by the North Carolina Family Policy Council of those groups or the contents of those sites.

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# DETRANSITIONERS

THE SILENCED VICTIMS OF THE TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT

BY: Sharon Sullivan, RN

The transgender movement has soared in America with the eruption of youth ages 13 to 17 who identify as transgender reaching approximately 300,000, a number that has doubled in recent years. Our hyper-politicized culture has been vocal about the movement, and many states across the nation have passed laws regarding the issue—including North Carolina. There is no shortage of opinions on the topic but, with all of the noise, few people are speaking about the silenced victims of this ideology—the detransitioners.

The term “detransitioner” is a fairly new addition to most people’s vocabulary. The Clinical Advisory Network on Sex and Gender defines the term as “someone who previously identified as transgender and received medical and/or surgical interventions as a result, but stopped taking these interventions and no longer identifies in the same way.” But, once started, how does a person reconcile the changes that result from puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and body mutilation when they detransition? How do children end up on this path? And how can we help this unique population? We spoke with detransitioner Prisha Mosley, her attorney Josh Payne, and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Miriam Grossman to explore these issues.

## PRISHA MOSLEY: A DETRANSITIONER’S STORY

Prisha, now twenty-six, grew up with what she describes as a difficult and troubled childhood. Mental illness afflicted both of her parents, leaving her vulnerable to her own mental health struggles. The difficulty she experienced as a child dealing with adult-like issues hindered her ability to forge friendships with children her own age, and she turned to the internet to look for friends. As a young teen, Prisha began mental health treatment for an eating disorder. She had discovered an online pro-ana group, where the members promoted the behaviors of anorexia nervosa, and she began to feel accepted and heard by them. If the promotion

of a dangerous eating disorder was not bad enough, there were also adults on the page that befriended the minors—adults with questionable intentions.

Some adult members of the pro-ana group began to manipulate the minors into accepting the trans ideology. Prisha believes that they were successful with as many as half of the teens in the online group, herself included. With the assistance of a nutritionist, Prisha started a new eating plan. Prisha's weight began to increase with the change in her eating habits, and she began to menstruate. This was a difficult experience for her, and this was followed by a sexual assault that led to pregnancy and a miscarriage. "All of this seemed to validate each other in the most horrible way," she said.

These events helped to secure in her mind that she was a boy born in the wrong body, and her medical providers, once aware, quickly affirmed her dysphoria and started medicalization. Prisha, without the knowledge of her parents, began to meet with a pediatric endocrinologist during her appointments with her nutritionist. There, the endocrinologist gave her Depo-Provera, an injectable drug used off-label as a puberty blocker, to stop her periods. The shot was given to her in secret and without her parent's consent.

Prisha was inundated with fake facts and pseudoscience about transgenderism. The trans community also "love bombed" her, positively reinforcing their acceptance of her and their ideology over and over again. Today, she recognizes that affirmation as manipulation; but as a struggling teenager, it felt good to hear at the time. Eventually, Prisha communicated her gender dysphoria to her parents, using the same pseudoscience that the professionals, the pro-ana group, and the trans community had used to encourage her. She needed her parents to agree to send her to a "gender therapist" who could write her a letter of recommendation for the endocrinologist to start her on testosterone.

According to Prisha, the appointment with the gender therapist was brief. She said that, "When we [went] to the gender therapist that was supposed to write the letter, it was just a really short appointment, but they blackmailed and manipulated my parents." Reflecting on the mental health struggles her family endured, Prisha shared, "So what was said, was said to two mentally ill people, who had a child who was incredibly mentally ill, with multiple suicide attempts under her belt; and they asked if they [Prisha's parents] would rather have a dead daughter, or a living son." This question has become the classic argument for the trans movement. It commonly terrifies parents into consenting to experimental and dangerous medicines and procedures for their children, or risk losing them to suicide.

Prisha's struggle with anorexia and gender dysphoria, both of which she now recognizes as social contagions, put her into cycles of continuous defeat. Of the pro-ana group she said, "Although I was crazy, it was nice to be told that I was not, that I was just fat and I could lose enough weight to be happy. But you keep reaching your ultimate goal weight over and over and over with the eating

disorder and finding that you're still miserable, and still fat, or whatever." The pro-ana group then insisted that it was gender dysphoria, not weight, that was the root of her problems. "And so then, being told that I was just born in the wrong body, and so instead of starving myself, which I continued to do as testosterone caused massive weight gain, I could just align my brain and my body; that was 'the issue' I had found out. Here's the thing, you are 100 pounds and then 90 and then 80 and you're not happy. It's the same thing. You know, you start testosterone, you get facial hair, you cut off your breasts, and it's chasing the dragon."

Initially the testosterone increased her confidence, and the removal of her breasts made her feel hopeful. But the confidence led to recklessness and more self-harm in the form of cutting, and the positive effects were fleeting. Speaking of her positive emotions at the time, she said, "That was very nice. And I thought it was gender euphoria, but it doesn't last. It doesn't last, and the consequences come, and they're even worse."

During her frequent medical visits, Prisha would undergo testing for psychiatric health. The tests regularly showed an increase of emotional distress as she barreled towards hormones and surgery to "align her mind and body." The medical team failed to address the root causes of Prisha's decline in mental and physical health. Her family history of mental illness, her anorexia, and the trauma of her assault and miscarriage at fourteen were regularly brushed aside. According to Prisha, her longtime therapist did remark once on the assault, saying that the assault was more traumatic for Prisha because she was really a boy trapped in a girl's body. The testosterone administration continued.

To treat her declining health, the professionals ordered more medicine. They increased her psychiatric medications, gave her sedatives, and added muscle relaxants. "They threw more medicine at me— like sedatives and stuff— every time my testosterone dose was higher, and that hurts my feelings. They were sedating away my ability to react to being poisoned, while telling me I was getting better." They also told her that the physical pain was "normal for a trans-man." She said, "Nobody suggested quitting the poison, and nobody told me it was poison."

Prisha's journey out of the trans community was gradual. After ten years of struggling with borderline personality disorder, she was finally introduced to Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. During this time, Prisha quit the testosterone cold turkey because it caused her incredible, unrelenting physical pain. The combination of the proper mental health treatment and the termination of the testosterone allowed her to think more clearly. Because she hadn't fully divorced herself from the trans-male identity, she continued to dress as a man.

Ultimately, it was her interaction with her boyfriend's 4-year-old little girl that enabled Prisha to acknowledge the truth of her sexuality. "She called me mommy. I had a beard and was wearing boy clothes, but I was like 'I am what I am.' She knew. That's why I think they are going after the kids so hard, because kids know.

The kids are gonna clock you and some people aren't ready. I'm lucky I was."

Prisha's story reads like a chapter book about adults who continually failed her. The speed at which this all happened is shocking. Her trans-medicalization, from hormone blockers and testosterone to a double mastectomy, happened in less than two years. The professionals involved in her care repeatedly told Prisha that so-called "sex reassignment" would fix her mental health problems. She whole-heartedly believed them.



*Josh Payne, Founding Partner of Campbell Miller Payne*

## **JOSH PAYNE: AN ATTORNEY FIGHTING FOR DETRANSITIONERS**

Prisha has become an outspoken representative for the detransitioner community. Once, while in Texas to testify about her personal experience with "gender-affirming care", she met attorneys with Campbell Miller Payne, a law firm founded in April 2023 to help detransitioners like Prisha pursue justice. With their help, Prisha has decided to take legal action against the medical professionals who pushed her down this destructive and irreversible path. She wants to help protect others from having a similar experience.

In the legal complaint, filed in July 2023, Prisha's attorney Josh Payne highlights the systematic exploitation committed against her by the medical community. Her medical records, as outlined in the complaint, show that adult medical providers heavily influenced the then minor's decision-making. They kept information from her parents and lied to Prisha about her conditions. According to the complaint,

"Defendants lied to and withheld critical information from and about a young and vulnerable teenage girl, who was a victim of sexual assault and suffering from severe psychological impairment and disability. Instead of providing competent treatment for her depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, self-harm, and emergent

borderline personality disorder, they convinced her that changing her body to appear as the opposite sex would solve her substantial mental disabilities that had plagued her for years." The complaint continues, "Defendants' diagnoses were fraudulent, reckless, and rife with incompetence and they substantially and permanently compounded Prisha's physical suffering and mental anguish."

Medical records show that Prisha was once seen and examined by a medical resident, under the supervision of an attending physician, for 80 minutes at a center for adolescent medicine. The complaint reads,

"Despite Prisha's history of sexual assault, years-long history of documented mental health disorders and eating problems, and pro-anorexia influence from individuals she communicated with online, the resident concluded on the basis of this single visit that Prisha's 'gender identity crisis,' as the resident termed it, 'is most likely the underlying issue that drives her eating disorder and emotional distress.'"

Josh Payne and his colleagues work exclusively with detransitioners, their families, and others harmed by gender ideology. At the time of this printing, Campbell Miller Payne had 12 active cases across the United States. Josh is passionate about bringing these cases forward, not only to hold the medical industry accountable for the harm that they have brought upon these patients, but also to warn and protect other vulnerable people and families who have been affected by the trans ideology.

The lack of evidenced-based practice (EBP) in "gender-affirming care" is one of Josh's main concerns and, frankly, it should worry us all. For years, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) has been seen as the gold standard for treating gender distressed youth. Shockingly, the medical practices involved in WPATH's gender-affirming model are not as evidenced-based as many are led to believe. Those practices are lacking in scientific evidence and clinical research. EBP is the norm for most medical care in the United States. Nonetheless, WPATH has outlined the Standards of Care for transgender-identifying patients around the world, without these crucial scientific trials.

WPATH's approach came under more scrutiny in the Spring of 2024 after the release of the Cass Report. Dr. Hilary Cass, a highly credentialed physician from England, performed a review of the studies available regarding medical "gender-affirming treatments" like puberty blockers and hormones. The report found that there is "remarkably weak evidence" to support the gender-affirming care model currently being used in the United

States and Canada. Moreover, several European nations have scaled back their use of “gender-affirming care” due to the lack of EBP in this model. The U.S., however, continues with this dangerous, unproven medical model.

“There is this perception that this is settled science, and that WPATH is it, and everybody agrees with WPATH, whether it’s the American Academy of Pediatrics or the American Medical Association. That’s not true,” said Josh. “There are other groups out there.” Fortunately, there are other organizations that take the opposite approach. GENSPECT and the Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine (SEGM) are two groups that urge non-invasive and non-medicalized approaches to treating children who are struggling with gender dysphoria.

Another group, Do No Harm, is “fighting to curtail the unscientific and individually harmful practice of so-called ‘gender affirming care.’” Their position is rooted in the core value of the Hippocratic Oath. A centuries old oath of ethics, it is sometimes pledged by new physicians, whereby they vow to never bring harm to their patients. One of Do No Harm’s Senior Fellows is world renowned psychiatrist, speaker, and author, Dr. Miriam Grossman.



Dr. Miriam Grossman, Psychiatrist, Author, and Public Speaker

## DR. MIRIAM GROSSMAN: A PSYCHIATRIST SOUNDING THE ALARM

Dr. Grossman, an expert in child, adolescent, and adult psychiatry, first raised the concern over youth and transgenderism in her 2009 book *You’re Teaching My Child WHAT?* But before then, during her training and practice, she never expected to see even one case of what was then termed “gender identity disorder.” The condition was so rare that she and her colleagues never expected to see an afflicted patient in their *entire lifetime*. “Just to illustrate that point,” she said, “20 years ago, there were only three clinics that were devoted to helping out kids and families who had distress about being a boy or girl. Three clinics in the entire world.” These clinics served just a handful of people worldwide. Today the number of clinics has grown dramatically, with the United States having hundreds of clinics that see thousands of patients every year.

Dr. Grossman says the shift occurred when “a social and political crusade very aggressively marched through our institutions;

our medical institutions, educational, political, and obviously our entertainment media.” The medical institutions, filled with vocal activists, got onto committees and made recommendations and policy statements culminating with the gender affirming care model, the prevailing model in the U.S. and Canada. Debate among the physicians who oppose the model is not tolerated by the groups, she says.

“The premise,” said Grossman of gender affirming care, “is that a child of any age knows best who they are, who their authentic self is, and that their new identity should be rubber stamped by the adults in their lives and by their therapists and doctors, without taking a deep dive into what that new identity is all about.” Most of the children, she says, have underlying psychiatric issues like autism, anxiety, depression, a history of trauma, and they may be self-harming. Essentially, the classic patient looks like Prisha.

Dr. Grossman says there are multiple reasons for the shift, including money – it’s a billion dollar industry – but ideologically it includes the erasure of male and female, the breakdown of the nuclear family, and ultimately the deconstruction of truth. Dr. Grossman believes it is a push towards transhumanism which, she says, “is a new religion that is based on transcending our biology, transcending being male and female, becoming immortal, and living forever. And there are people, and some of them are very wealthy and powerful people, that have invested their lives into promoting these ideas, anti, of course, Judeo-Christian morality. Not only that, but anti-biology and anti-reality. They are trying to construct a new world.”

In her new book, *Lost in Trans Nation: A Child Psychiatrist’s Guide Out of the Madness*, Dr. Grossman offers parents advice on how to handle the growing threat of the transgender movement. Whether a child is suffering with gender dysphoria or not, Dr. Grossman’s book is an important preparedness tool. The transgender movement is reaching children before they can read, using picture books to introduce their ideas to our youngest and most vulnerable. Her book offers model conversations for a parent and child about topics like:

- Transgenderism;
- How to find a therapist;
- How to address a teacher, a principal, a therapist, or a doctor who may be part of this agenda; and
- How to get control of your child’s internet use.

Corroborating Prisha’s experience on the internet, Dr. Grossman said, “You have to know who they are talking to online because, trust me, the internet is filled with groomers and filled with people who would like nothing more but to reach your innocent child and influence him or her.” We cannot let our guard down.

According to Dr. Grossman, the feeling of regret takes time to manifest. The euphoria that Prisha initially experienced is normal, she said. Children age, however, and their minds develop, and they witness their peers move into new roles like becoming husbands,



wives, and parents. Dr. Grossman said that it is harder for transgender-identifying individuals to find partners and, post hormones and surgery, they are often infertile. These events can lead to regret.

"Another reason that it takes time is because, you see, you have to be strong enough to admit to yourself, number one, that you made this horrible mistake. And then you have to be strong enough to admit it to the world, right? And think about the family. You may have caused such havoc within your family. It destroys families. So, what are you going to do at the age of 25-30 years old? You're going to say oops, I was wrong? So, you have to understand that regret is a very complicated thing."

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

What then can we anticipate as we move forward? How can we help those individuals who find themselves full of regret after receiving "gender affirming" medicalization? Dr. Grossman anticipates that detransitioners will file more lawsuits in the future, but acknowledges that this is a new frontier in medicine. Mental health professionals are beginning to see and treat detransitioners, but there is much more that needs to be done.

In an effort to curtail trans-medicalization, and to protect vulnerable individuals, Do No Harm has developed a Detransition Bill of Rights. The document is model legislation for state legislatures that wish to protect vulnerable children from the practice of "gender-affirming care." It includes laws for informed consent, effective care, public transparency, insurance coverage for detransitioning, legal restoration and justice – including liability and compensatory and punitive damages for wrongdoing healthcare professionals, physicians, and gender clinics. Bills of this nature will hopefully bring forth truth, eliminate gender affirming procedures on minors, and hold the medical industry accountable for the harms and damages that detransitioners experience.

Prisha's story is not rare, despite what the "gender affirming care" industry tells us. Dr. Grossman said, "We're in the midst of a massive medical scandal, and the trick is to be aware of it now, not in a few years, when it's going to be obvious. Everyone will be saying, 'How did we do that?'" Sadly, it will likely get worse before it gets better. There are untold numbers of American youth currently suffering from the WPATH "gender-affirming care" model. We must speak up and speak out. We have to protect our children from this sick and evil ideology. As Christians we are obligated to

Prisha Mosley with her newborn baby



speak the truth about God's perfect plan and design for humanity and the fact that there are only two sexes—male and female.

Since detransitioning and speaking out, Prisha has regularly been a target of abuse from the transgender community, including a steady flow of death threats. She is healing, both physically and mentally, but she knows she will never be the same. She is grieved by the fact that she was born with a healthy body that she can never get back. Prisha and Josh both hope that her lawsuit will bring awareness to others who struggle with gender dysphoria and ultimately guide them to a better outcome.

While there is regret, Prisha has also experienced one of the greatest joys that only a woman can accomplish. Through God's grace, in the spring of 2024, Prisha gave birth to a beautiful, healthy, baby boy. In her words, to those who would listen, she says, "You know, it's not true that you're trans and born in the wrong body, but definitely validate the realness of the feelings. You know, find out the source—but, basically, change the world, not yourself."

**P.S. Thanks in part to Prisha's testimony during committee meetings at the North Carolina General Assembly, the Legislature in 2023 passed HB 808—Gender Transition/Minors. This law prevents—with rare exceptions—the administration of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender transition surgeries on minors. In addition, it provides broad conscience protections for healthcare practitioners who do not wish to participate in these often irreversible and experimental procedures. HB 808 also prevents state taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for any of these gender transition procedures. 🙏**



Sharon Sullivan, RN is the Government Relations Associate at the North Carolina Family Policy Council

Dr. Grossman's Interview on our Family Policy Matters Radio Show & Podcast



LISTEN NOW

# ON THE FRONT LINES

## Charlotte and Winston-Salem Dinner Events

This fall, NC Family was thrilled to welcome our supporters and friends to dinner events in the Charlotte and Winston-Salem areas. Joseph Backholm, Senior Fellow for Biblical Worldview and Strategic Engagement at Family Research Council, shared on the importance of a Biblical worldview and how it affects major issues in the world today. We also got to hear from Katy Faust, Founder of Them Before Us, at our Winston-Salem Dinner. She shared a valuable reminder on the importance of protecting children and how that can change society. You can listen to both of these keynote addresses at [NCFamily.org/past-events](https://www.ncfamily.org/past-events).



## New Growth at NC Family

This year, the NC Family family has grown by two! Heather Greene rejoined our staff as Director of Strategic Partnerships. She had worked at NC Family for several years before leaving to work with a ministry at her church, and we are thrilled that she is back. Then this fall, Mitch Prosser joined our team as Vice President. He has been involved in local, state, and federal election campaigns for nearly 25 years, and has served in leadership positions at other Family Policy Councils in the south. You can learn more about Heather and Mitch at [NCFamily.org/staff-contributors](https://www.ncfamily.org/staff-contributors).

# Christians Engaged

This fall, NC Family partnered with Christians Engaged - the nation's leading Christian-based, voter turnout operation - to encourage Christians in North Carolina to intentionally engage in politics from a Biblical perspective. This valuable resource offers people the chance to take a pledge to pray for our nation, vote in each election, and engage in educational opportunities to be informed citizens. We are so encouraged to see Christians take these steps to get involved, and we pray that this continues well into the future!

You can learn more about this partnership here: [ncfamily.org/christians-engaged](https://ncfamily.org/christians-engaged)



## John Rustin Speaks at SoConCon

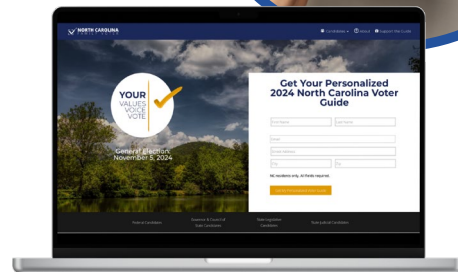
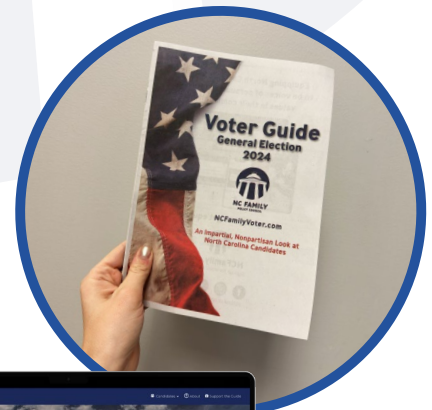
NC Family President John Rustin served as a panelist at the national Social Conservative Policy Conference (SoConCon) in Washington, D.C. on "Why Predatory Gambling Is America's Most Neglected Major Problem and How We Can Change It." Then this fall, he was invited to give the keynote address at the God and Country Christian Alliance's 31st Annual Banquet.

## NC Family's 2024 Voter Guide

Once again, this year NC Family produced a comprehensive, nonpartisan Voter Guide to help North Carolina voters know where candidates stand on key issues relating to life, faith, marriage, family, and much more. This year we surveyed all candidates running for:

- U.S. House
- Governor and Council of State
- N.C. Supreme Court
- N.C. Court of Appeals
- N.C. Senate
- N.C. House

We compiled each candidate's responses in this incredibly helpful voter resource to help North Carolina citizens make informed decisions about who to vote for in the 2024 General Election.





Students at Carolina Way Camp, a first-year orientation experience in North Carolina for incoming freshmen who know or are seeking to know Jesus Christ

## The North Carolina Study Center Spotlight

by Elizabeth Youssef and Madison Perry

For parents and students alike, the start of freshman year of college can be daunting. A new chapter where students have the opportunity to choose what they become involved with and who they will be. Thankfully for Christian parents and students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, there is a place that eases those fears and anxieties, The North Carolina Study Center (NCSC).

The NCSC is a hospitality and leadership center that cultivates Christian life and thought at UNC-Chapel Hill. Our vision is “to offer a Christian education for students and faculty at UNC through theological education, hospitality, and spiritual formation in unity with the extended Christian community.”

It all started with a vision from Madison Perry, a double Tar Heel (BA '06, JD '13) from Kinston, North Carolina, after he visited the Study Center at the University of Virginia.

“I saw their study center and saw how something like that would make a difference at UNC,” Perry said. “UNC felt like a big, disorganized school, but also the Christian community itself wasn't working together that well.”

After visiting the center at UVA, Perry reflected on his own college experience and what opportunities a study center at UNC-Chapel Hill could provide in bridging the gap between the university and the Christian community.

“I had very strong academic interests, especially in theology and philosophy, and there was no easy place to go with them and relate them to faith,” Perry said. “When I saw their study center, I thought that this really solves those two problems well.”

In 2014, Perry started the NCSC with help from an alumni and faculty steering committee, with many generous families and

individuals joining in. Thanks to strong church partnerships, NCSC was able to purchase the Battle House at 203 Battle Lane in Chapel Hill, and the Study Center officially opened in the fall of 2015 with Perry and Katharine Batchelor on staff. Today, the number of staff has grown to 11 members and Perry remains the Executive Director.

NCSC is a part of the Consortium of Christian Study Centers, which is a trade association for over thirty Christian study centers around the country. There are also study centers at other state universities in North Carolina, including East Carolina and NC State.

“What we have found is that if we meet obvious student needs through hospitality and care, then that gives us the opportunity to offer them deeper resources that enrich their education,” Perry said.

There are four pillars of Christian education at the NCSC that reflect crucial areas of holistic growth for college students: growth in knowledge, growth in community, growth in a vocation, and growth in character. There are different programs available in each of these areas for students such as a Fellows Program, academic seminars, a student hospitality team, and the Wilberforce Leadership Program.

“As a resource center, we're not hoping that any one student would do all of those,” Perry said. “It's more like as students are being challenged or finding themselves hungry to grow in any of these areas, that then we'll be ready.”

One of the most popular programs started in 2018 is Carolina Way Camp, a first-year orientation program for students that starts the week before the fall semester. This year, there were 220 students who participated, the highest number to date.

“We take students who don't have a plan for college yet, who are not well-connected, and we help them instantaneously multiply the number of relationships, and we also give them space to really approach college intentionally as Christians,” Perry said. “And because we're not a single fellowship group, we can offer it to a larger group of students and help those students find ministries and churches.

There are so many examples of student success stories of growth. Some students have become Rhodes Scholars, flourished in their disciplines as Christians, and are leaders in different majors and clubs across campus.

“We want students to understand how their Christian formation will impact their ability to lead in secular environments,” Perry said. “So that's a really fun opportunity we have at UNC.



*Madison Perry, Founder and Executive Director of The North Carolina Study Center*

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**The North Carolina Study Center is a hospitality and leadership center that cultivates Christian life and thought at UNC-Chapel Hill.**

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There are four pillars of Christian education at the NCSC that reflect crucial areas of holistic growth for college students: **growth in knowledge, growth in community, growth in a vocation, and growth in character.**

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### **North Carolina Study Center**

203 Battle Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

[www.ncstudycenter.org](http://www.ncstudycenter.org)



### **NC State Study Center**

201 Brooks Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607

[www.ncstatestudycenter.org](http://www.ncstatestudycenter.org)



### **East Carolina Study Center**

500 Elizabeth Street, Greenville, NC 27834

[www.ecstudycenter.org](http://www.ecstudycenter.org)



*UNC-CH students participating in The North Carolina Study Center's Fellows Program, which offers instruction classes in scripture and theology designed to equip students with the knowledge, tools, and community necessary to deepen their faith and connect it to all of life.*

As we invest in student leaders, they can mature rapidly and then hopefully discover all kinds of opportunities to make a difference on campus.”


Students also grow in their faith and understanding of who God is and who God has made them to be.

“There are tons of stories of isolated students who come here, they meet some people, they start to understand God's love better, and then they feel more at peace and are able to flourish personally,” Perry said. “There are students who are interested in ‘religion,’ and they find Jesus here.”

The staff at the Study Center also have institutional memory of what resources and opportunities the

university has available for students. Since there is no holistic advising service at UNC-Chapel Hill, that is another resource that staff provide for students.

As NCSC grows, we continue to be committed to our mission of cultivating Christian life and thought at UNC-Chapel Hill for students and faculty. We believe in the vision of this university being a great place to grow as a Christian.

“I would love for Carolina to be known not only for basketball, fun, and academic excellence,” Perry said. “I would love for people to know that Christian alums from UNC take good care of their students, and that UNC is a place where Christians mature in remarkable ways.” 



*Madison Perry is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Study Center*



*Elizabeth Youssef is the Assistant Director of Community Engagement at the North Carolina Study Center*



# family policy MATTERS

PRODUCED BY NC FAMILY



## How to Live in an Anti-Christian Culture – Aaron Renn

It used to be that identifying as a Christian and going to church were respected traits in American society. Now, however, Christianity is often viewed as a threat to society and the modern world. How did this drastic change happen? Aaron Renn, Senior Fellow at American Reformer and the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, discusses how society’s view of Christianity has declined in the United States and how people of faith can live in the new anti-Christian culture.



LISTEN NOW



## NC State Swimmer Joins NCAA Lawsuit – Kylee Alons

Over fifty years ago, Congress enacted Title IX, a monumental law to protect women from sex-based discrimination. Over the last several years, though, there has been a push to allow biological males who identify as women to compete on women’s sports teams, violating female athletes’ rights to privacy, safety, and fair competition. In response, athletes from across the country have filed a class action lawsuit against the NCAA. Kylee Alons, a former swimmer at NC State University, discusses her experience swimming against Lia Thomas, a biological male, and why that prompted her to join this lawsuit.



LISTEN NOW



## America’s Aging Population And The Pro-Life Movement – Patrick T. Brown

America is the oldest it has ever been, thanks to declining birth rates and increased life spans. This has many implications for the future, not the least of which include concerns about protecting the dignity of human life from birth to natural death. Patrick T. Brown, a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, discusses America’s aging population and the impacts that could have on the pro-life movement and public policy.



LISTEN NOW





### Why People are Leaving the Church – Michael Graham

Over the last two decades, church attendance has declined across denominations. Some stop attending because they no longer identify with the religion, some because they have had negative experiences in the church, and some leave because of lifestyles that make church attendance challenging. Regardless of the reason, though, this is a significant shift that will have implications years into the future. Michael Graham, Program Director for The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics, discusses what is known as the “great dechurching” and how Christians should respond.



*Family Policy Matters* is a 15-minute radio show and podcast hosted by Traci DeVette Griggs, featuring interviews with local, state, and national experts on a wide range of policy issues impacting North Carolina families. *Family Policy Matters* airs on over 20 radio stations across North Carolina, and is available as a podcast on your favorite podcast app. You can listen and read full transcripts of every episode of *Family Policy Matters* at [NCFamily.org](http://NCFamily.org).



## RADIO STATIONS Airing *Family Policy Matters*

Charlotte/Gastonia	WCRU 960 AM/ 105.7 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Charlotte/Harrisburg	WOCR 1540 AM/ 88.3 FM	Saturday, 3:45 PM
Fayetteville	WCLN 105.7	Saturday, 7:00 AM
Greensboro/ Winston-Salem	WTRU 830 AM/ 97.7 FM, 99.1 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM
Raleigh/Durham	WDRU 1030 AM/ 105.7 FM, 106.5 FM	Saturday, 6:00 AM

Raleigh/Durham	WETC 540 AM	Sunday, 3:45 PM
Rocky Mount	WLQC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 10:00 PM
Sanford	WLHC 103.1 FM	Sunday, 10:00 PM
Wake Forest	WFNE 103.5 FM	Saturday, 12:15 PM & 11:15 PM
Wilmington	WZDG 89.7 FM	Sunday, 5:30 AM & 6:00PM
Winston-Salem/ Piedmont Triad Area	WPIP 880 AM	Sunday, 4:15 PM
Winston-Salem	WBFJ 1550 AM	Saturday, 5:00 PM



# Children are under attack. Christians must protect them.

By Katy Faust

**There's a group of people who are under assault in this country and have been for decades - but have not been properly recognized as such. It's not women. It's not minorities. It's not immigrants. It's not Christians.**

**It's children.**

**Every facet of child rights and well-being is being threatened. Those threats can be seen in every area of our politics, especially social issues.**

**So, let's take a look at exactly how children are being victimized today.**

## **LIFE.**

Children have a right to life. From the moment of conception, they are members of the human race with human rights that deserve to be respected and protected.

But that right has been opposed by abortion advocates and the abortion industry- resulting in over 600,000 little lives lost in each of the last 10 years in the U.S., and possibly over 65 million lives since 1973.

It's also under assault from in vitro fertilization (IVF) which, because of the high number of surplus embryos created, has been reported to have resulted in hundreds of thousands of more little lives lost in recent years than

those who have died from abortion. You read that right. The baby making industry is responsible for more loss of life every year than the baby taking industry.

## **FAMILY.**

Children have a right to their mother and father. This natural right complements and reinforces parental rights to their own children.

A child's mother and father grant him or her their biological identity, the gender complementarity that maximizes child development, and (statistically) the safest environment for child-rearing.



Marriage is the only institution that unites the two people to whom children have a natural right- their mother and father. The redefinition of marriage through no fault divorce and same-sex marriage have made mothers and fathers culturally and legally optional in the life of children, resulting in mental and emotional harms to the next generation.

Adoption is now seen by some as a means for same-sex couples to “get kids,” rather than an institution which seeks to restore what children have lost – a mother and father.

IVF also allows children to be separated from, and sold by, their biological mother or father at the moment of conception via sperm and egg “donation” and surrogacy. This buying and selling subjects children to identity struggles, riskier household composition, lower levels of trust and attachment, and higher rates of substance abuse.

## **BODY.**

Children have a right to bodily integrity. They deserve to reach adulthood with bodies that are surgically and chemically un-altered.

But because of dangerous gender ideology, some children are being told that they are born in the wrong body. They are given “treatments” which promise to turn boys into girls, or girls into

boys, but actually turn healthy children into life-long customers of pharmaceuticals and cosmetic surgeons.

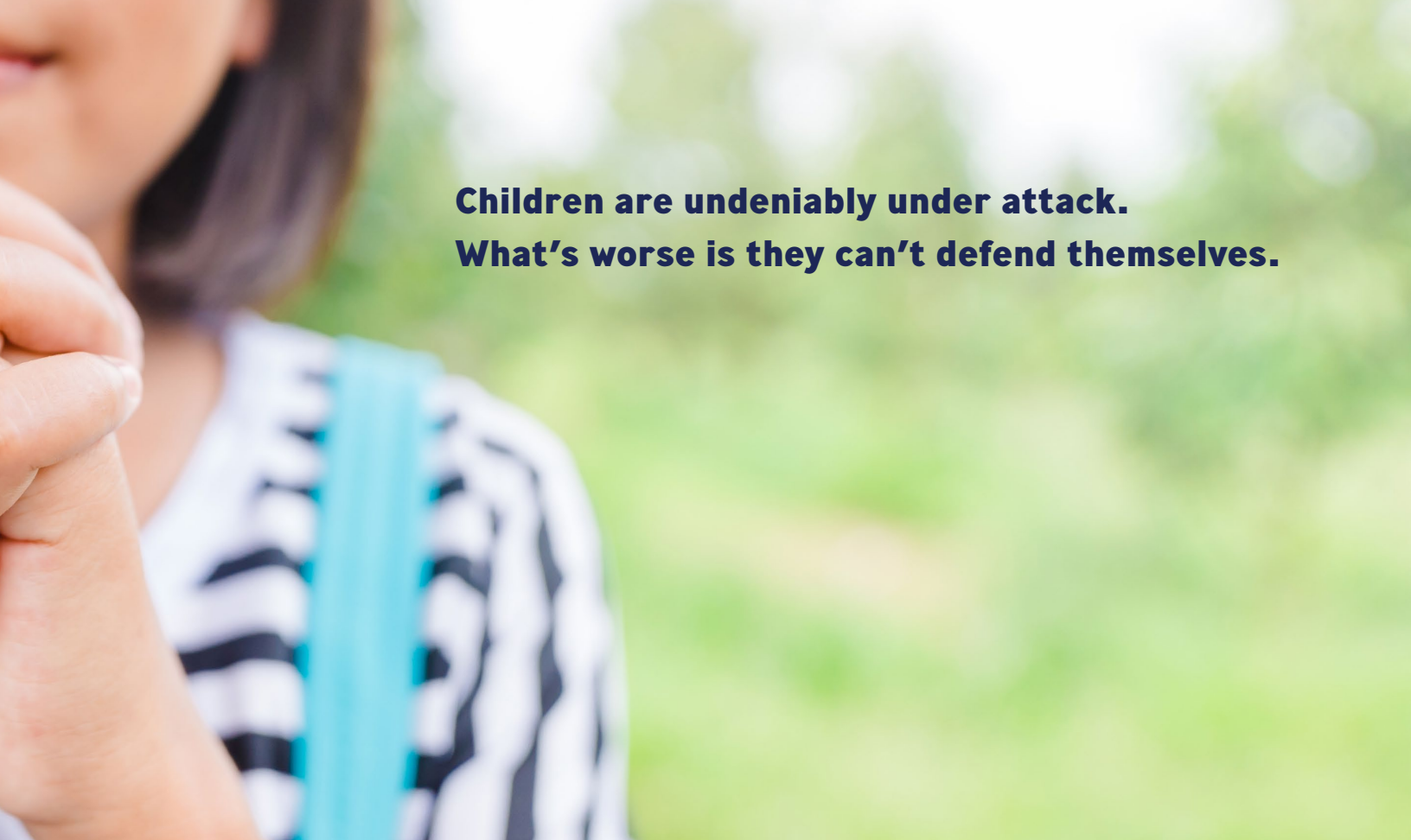
Because children’s bodies are vulnerable, they deserve privacy and protection in sex-specific locker-rooms and bathrooms. Children’s bodies also need physical activity, competition, and sports. Children have a right to sex-specific fair play in the pool, on the field, and at the track. But those spaces are being turned over to boys and even grown men who claim the “right” to compete against, undress in front of, and shower with women and girls in the name of “equality.”

## **MIND.**

Children have a right to innocence. They are not miniature adults with the ability to choose and process mature content. Their minds must be protected from violent, graphic, and sexual content.

Children’s innocence should not be violated in the name of “comprehensive sexual education.” Government should not fund or endorse schools or curriculum that confuses or sexualizes children.

Children should not be exposed to hyper sexualized caricatures of women during library drag queen story hours.



## **Children are undeniably under attack. What's worse is they can't defend themselves.**

Extremely disturbing and violent pornography is being delivered, unrestricted, into the pockets of American children via smartphones. Few measures by tech platforms or government have been erected to protect them.

### **Historic Child Defenders**

Children are undeniably under attack. What's worse is they can't defend themselves.

The only people powerful enough to protect them are adults. The problem is, in every one of these cases, it's adults who are doing the attacking. It's adults who are ending the unwanted pregnancy, divorcing a faithful spouse, cashing in on billion-dollar porn profits, validating their sexual identity through inappropriate content, or breaking women's track records with times that wouldn't have registered in the male semi-finals. Adults are elevating their own desires at the expense of the rights, needs, and well-being of children.

That means if children are to have a champion, it needs to be a population of adults motivated by something outside of their own self interests.

There is such a population.

It's a group of people who worship a God who, unlike any other (so called) deity, took on flesh and became an infant Himself. (John 1:1-14) Who taught that to enter His kingdom, we must become like a child. Who bid little children come to Him directly. (Matthew 18:1-5) And who warned of severe punishment for anyone who might cause children to stumble. (Matthew 18:6)

Those child-dignifying realities and teachings have made Christians consistent champions of children for the last 2000 years. This is a mandate that was tested early in the life of the church.

Christianity was birthed into a pagan society that victimized children in every way a child can be victimized. Children's right to life was snuffed out through abortion and "exposure" aka, infanticide. Because of rampant sexual abuse and extra-marital relations, many children grew up without fathers. Children were used and abused through domestic servitude and as sexual objects. Children were treated as commodities to be bought and sold. Children were surgically mutilated as eunuchs to serve in wealthy households.

But the early church took the admonitions of Christ seriously. They refused to "expose" their children, even if they were disabled, premature, or... female. They rescued, breast-fed,

and adopted infants that had been tossed aside. They confined all sexual relationships between only husband and wife, so children were raised by both their mother and father. Christians didn't sell their children, and they didn't mutilate them. Children were no longer regarded as objects of sexual use but treasures to be protected.

The early Christian approach to children was so drastically different from their Roman counterparts that some sociologists posit that Christianity "invented" childhood

## Today's Child Defender

The assault on children today is, quite simply, the result of a re-paganization of our culture. Christian influence in the legal, cultural, and technological space has attenuated to such a degree that old forms of child victimization have re-emerged

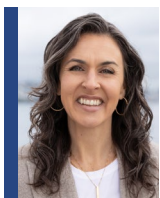
The only hope for children today is for Christians to rediscover their child protection roots and defend children from every threat.

We need to understand that these are not political issues but a manifestation of our true and undefiled religion before God. (James 1:27) We must support policies that incentivize adults to conform to child rights. And we must oppose policies that elevate the desires of adults over the rights, needs, and well-being of children.

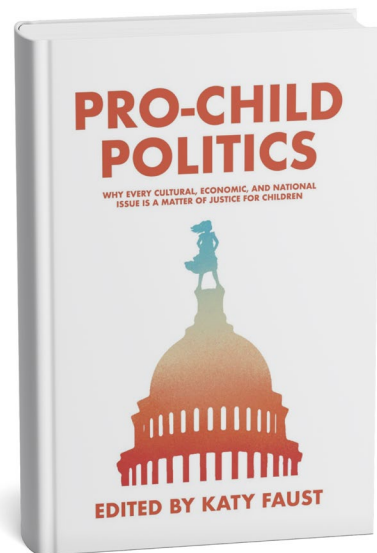
According to both the teachings and the example of our Lord and Savior, a just society does not force the weak to sacrifice for the strong. (John 13:34; Ephesians 1:7 and 5:2) In the Bible, it's always the other way around. The strong are to protect the weak. And when it comes to the cultural, economic, and national issues that garner attention during election seasons, it is always the adults who are strong and children who are weak.

As I explain in my just published book, *Pro-Child Politics*, every political issue can and should be viewed through the lens of child protection. We need to understand how children are harmed when we get culture, economics and national issues wrong. And why a posture of child-protection helps us to get it right.

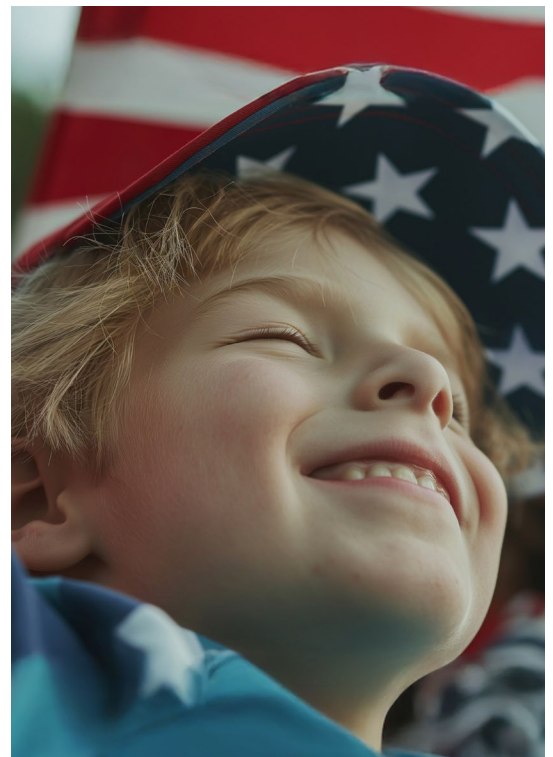
Children are under attack. Adults, especially Christian adults, must step up to their defense. 🏠



*Katy Faust is the Founder and President of Them Before Us and the author of three books, including her most recent, Pro-Child Politics: Why Every Cultural, Economic, and National Issue Is a Matter of Justice for Children.*



**“The only hope for children today is for Christians to rediscover their child protection roots and defend children from every threat.”**



## A Prize In Every Box

When I was six years old growing up in Gastonia, N.C., I recall receiving a jumbo-sized box of Cracker Jacks for my birthday. As you can imagine, I was quite excited as I sat down to enjoy that delicious mix of caramel coated popcorn and peanuts. But we all know what THE BEST part of a box of Cracker Jacks is, right? Yes, that's it—the Prize. "A prize in every box."

Well, as I recall, I ate the entire box in one sitting, but when I got to the bottom, there was no prize! I was devastated, and like any self-respecting six-year-old would do, I threw an absolute fit. After a few minutes of my tantrum, my parents had had enough. My father interrupted me and asked what I was going to do about it. I looked at him like "What?" I'm just six years old, what can I do? He said I could write a letter to Cracker Jacks and explain what had happened.

So, I grabbed a box of crayons and a lined sheet of paper and wrote a letter to Cracker Jacks, or to "Mr. Jack," expressing my "profound disappointment" that I had no prize in my box. The next day, my parents and I dropped the letter in the mail—uncertain as to what might happen.


About two weeks later, I received a package in the mail from Cracker Jacks. It was a jumbo-sized box, but instead of being filled with popcorn and peanuts, it was filled with prizes and an apologetic note, and I was over the moon! I had all the little plastic toys and temporary tattoos that a young boy could ever want, and I took great joy in sharing them with my friends.

I guess you could say that was my first foray into "lobbying and advocacy," and I learned very early that if you make an effort, sometimes you might be rewarded with a positive result. Conversely, if you make no effort and wallow in self-pity, you can expect nothing to change.

As I reflect back on this experience, I think there's an important lesson to be learned, especially in our current state of political affairs. With all the division, the political rancor, and the partisan fighting in our state and nation, it is easy to get discouraged, to experience "profound disappointment," and to want to either throw a fit, or to simply "throw in the towel."

However, I would contend as Christians that is the exact opposite of what we should do!

Jesus says in Matthew, Chapter 5, that if we are living for Him, we are the "Salt of the Earth" and the "Light of the World." We are to be flavorful and illuminating agents of impact to the culture in which we live. This is true regardless of our circumstances or the response of others—Jesus even goes so far as to say that we may face persecution if we closely associate ourselves with Him.

Now don't get me wrong! I am not likening the critical issues facing our state, nation, and world to a missing prize in a box of Cracker Jacks. But what I am saying is that we can be like that six-year-old boy who followed his father's advice and chose to take action; we can—with God's help—act in obedience to be Salt and Light to the world around us, and, as a result, experience His blessings, and be a blessing to others! 



*John L. Rustin is President of the North Carolina Family Policy Council*





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