



Biblical Citizenship Briefing

March 2024

This briefing is strictly for your information. It is a summary of some current public policy issues, including pending legislation, that involve moral and biblical principles. While suggested action may be included from time to time, no specific position by EFCC is implied. Find contact and subscription information at the end of this document.

In California

ProtectKidsCA Petition Deadline Extended – The ProtectKidsCA initiative is now focusing on the 2026 General Election ballot. This allows an extension of the signature deadline to early May. The goal is three-fold: require parental notification from school regarding mental health and gender identification issues, protect girls’ competitive sports and school spaces, and prevent child sterilization by prohibiting the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, mastectomies, and genital surgeries for minors. If you wish to participate in this important effort, you may find out more and download petitions at ProtectKidsCA.com. Contact us if you have questions on the signature gathering process.

Committee Hearings Begin in Sacramento – This month and next most bills will be presented to at least one policy committee, and some have already passed their first hearings. Here are a few that will be heard in the next few weeks. Please pray that truth regarding important and often controversial issues will be spoken and that committee members will vote wisely.

Fighting Sex Trafficking by Targeting Demand – Last year, Sen. Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) was successful in passing SB 14, a bill to make trafficking a child a serious felony and strikable offense. This year, she has joined with two other senators, Anna Caballero (D-Merced) and Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), to target *sex buyers* with a new bill, SB 1414. Currently, soliciting and/or engaging in commercial sex with a minor is merely a misdemeanor. SB 1414, will make this crime a felony punishable in state prison for 2 to 4 years and a fine of up to \$25,000. Those convicted must also register as sex offenders. Currently, the penalty is a maximum of one year and a \$10,000 fine.

Sen. Grove declared, “With the passage of SB 14, we went after the sellers and now we are going after the buyers, those who are purchasing sex from children. Anyone who pays to commit brutal crimes against children should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. With the passage of SB 1414, California is sending a very clear message—Not one more child.”

SB 1414 will be heard by the [Senate Public Safety Committee](#) on April 16. Please consider signing an online petition in support of this important bipartisan bill [here](#). Sen. Grove will report the number of signers at the hearing to show public support on this issue. You may also submit a letter of support through the Legislature Advocates Portal [here](#). Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Employing Another Tactic to Reduce Demand – Since SB 357, which decriminalized loitering for prostitution, became law in 2023, many areas across California have seen an exponential rise in trafficking activity (read about the stark reality in this [WORLD article](#)). San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan [describes](#) the problem in National City, stating, “What I saw was an open sex market with young women barely dressed and a line of sex buyers waiting in cars as casually as if they were at a drive through ordering a hamburger. The traffickers, sex sellers and buyers were totally undeterred and carried out their business with impunity.” Sen. Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) has authored [SB 1219](#) to not only reinstate the loitering law, but also attempt to reduce demand by focusing on vehicular traffic in these areas. The bill is sponsored by the San Diego County District Attorney’s office and will make it a misdemeanor of disorderly conduct to beckon or attempt to contact pedestrians or impede traffic in order to solicit prostitution. SB 1219 will be heard by the [Senate Public Safety Committee](#) on April 2. You may wish to contact members of this committee in support of both SB 1414 and SB 1219. See how to do this below.

Sliding toward Euthanasia – Sen. Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas) has authored [SB 1196](#), a bill to expand California’s “End of Life Option Act.” While the bills creating this policy were strongly opposed by many pro-life organizations, currently, our state permits a California resident whose attending physician has determined that they have a terminal disease with a six-month prognosis to request aid-in-dying drugs through a specific documented procedure that is intended to provide safeguards. SB 1196 removes the requirement of a terminal diagnosis and instead states that an adult individual “may choose to self-administer [aid-in-dying drugs] to bring about their death due to a grievous and irremediable medical condition.” Included in the definition is “state of decline that is intolerable to the individual and cannot be relieved in a manner the individual deems acceptable” and “a diagnosis of early to mid-stage dementia while the individual still has the capacity to make medical decisions.”

Previously the drugs were to be self-administered by oral ingestion, but this bill allows them to be administered intravenously by the patient if the catheter has been placed by a health care provider to include a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or registered nurse. The residency requirement will be removed by this bill, so individuals from other states may travel to California for assisted suicide. Read more [here](#).

The End of Life Option Act, first passed in 2015, has already been amended once (2022) removing some safeguards. This bill continues the trend toward policies like those in place in The Netherlands or Canada. In February, Breakpoint [reported](#), “In 2021, 10,000 Canadians were killed by physician-assisted suicide, or one out of every 30 Canadian deaths. This explosion in medically assisted deaths led columnist David Brooks to [write in The Atlantic](#) that autonomy-based liberalism, the idea that we

each own ourselves and get to do whatever we want with our lives, had gone off the rails. He demonstrated with story after story just how quickly and easily ‘assisted suicide’ blurs into involuntary killing. As many have observed, the ‘right to die’ has a pernicious way of becoming a ‘duty to die.’” SB 1196 will be assigned to committee soon – most likely [Senate Health Comm.](#)

Would you like to make your voice heard in the committee process? When you know a bill is coming up for a hearing, consider sending a letter of support or opposition through the Legislature Advocates Portal [here](#). Once you register with an email address and password, you may return to the portal at any time to upload a PDF for any bills and send to the appropriate committee. Find a tutorial [here](#). You may also call the committee members (see committee link for their contact information).

Stay current on what’s happening in Sacramento. You may locate bills by number, keyword, or author at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](#). Many bills relating to life, faith, education, and family are tracked at [judeochristiancaucus.com/bills-and-resolutions](#). California Family Council also has a watch list [here](#). These lists include committee and hearing date information. (*Referrals are for informational purposes only, does not imply an endorsement by EFCC of the opinions, positions, or contents of the site.*)

In the Courts

Teacher Asserts Right to Follow Her Faith – The Escondido Union School District’s (EUSD) policy of hiding gender identity issues from parents has been enjoined and is pending summary judgment, as we have previously reported. This is just one of several districts around the state where parental secrecy policies are being challenged and in some cases replaced by new policies notifying parents of any student record changes. Still, in most districts, teachers whose biblical faith informs their views on sexuality and who do not wish to hide critical information from parents or use incorrect pronouns for their students feel they must be silent or lose their jobs. One of these concerned educators is EUSD middle school teacher Ramona Garcia. A union representative gave her false information, claiming she could not assert her rights as a Christian teacher. She sought help from Escondido’s National Center for Law & Policy (NCLP), which issued a legal demand for religious accommodation. EUSD agreed to reasonably accommodate Garcia’s beliefs regarding human sexuality. Constitutional attorney and NCLP’s president Dean Broyles stated, “A public school teacher’s deeply held religious beliefs are well-protected both by the First Amendment’s religious Free Exercise Clause and federal and state workplace religious accommodation statutes. Educators deserve to have their sincerely held beliefs about human sexuality honored and respected by the state—not marginalized and silenced. They should never be bullied or covered into silence and complicity by an overreaching and out-of-control government.” Broyles is calling on Christian teachers to consider seeking accommodation for their religious beliefs by contacting [nclplaw.org](#). Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

In the News

UCSD Partners with Planned Parenthood for Fetal Body Parts – David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) have published a new [video report](#) resulting from a public records request showing “Planned Parenthood transferring ‘proprietary’ aborted fetal body parts to UC San Diego explicitly for ‘valuable consideration’—a violation of federal law—in exchange for ownership of the university’s ‘patents’ and ‘intellectual property’ developed by experimenting with them.”

Emails discovered show that the two organizations set up regular meetings for collaboration. CMP indicates that this collaboration has resulted in numerous patents using body parts from late term healthy babies—and there are more ties. UCSD provides Planned Parenthood with new abortion doctors through its abortion training program. The Ryan Residency Training Program page of the UCSD website states, “UC San Diego has a long tradition of having residents rotate at Planned Parenthood. This partnership allows the residents to benefit from exceptional clinicians and experience Planned Parenthood offers.” Residents participate in dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortions, typically performed during the second trimester. [The Complex Family Planning Fellowship](#) includes a Pregnancy Options Clinic with abortion services. In addition, UCSD Health Sciences [purchased](#) a \$10,000 Champion Sponsorship for Planned Parenthood 2021 Anniversary Celebration.

California Family Council asserts, “This case calls for a rigorous examination and a reevaluation of the relationship between medical research and abortion clinics. Pro-lifers must hold accountable those who would exploit human life for commercial gain and demand a thorough and transparent investigation to ensure that the dignity of every human being is respected and preserved.” Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

In Prayer

Father during this holy season we remember anew the price Your Son Jesus paid on the cross for our sins so that we might have eternal life in Him. Every life is precious to You. We ask You to protect the lives of those in the womb and those nearing the end of their time on earth from the schemes of the enemy. Show us how to be the light that pushes back against the darkness in our world. Guide us, we pray. In Jesus’ name, Amen. *Send forth Your light and your truth, let them guide me. ~ Psalm 43:3*

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