



# Biblical Citizenship Briefing

April 2026

*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

**Committee Hearings Continue** – Many bills have now had their first hearing – or will very soon. Below are updates on bills previously reported and a few additional measures (for background on the updated bills please see our March issue [here](#)):

**Update: Protecting houses of worship (SB 1070)** – Sen. Shannon Grove’s bill to enhance penalties for intentional disruptions of religious worship failed in the Senate Public Safety Committee on March 24.

**Update: Protecting private spaces (AB 1998)** – Assemblywoman Castillo’s bill to define male and female, and protect privacy in sex-specific locker rooms, restrooms and similar spaces has still not been assigned to committee, and the likelihood that it may never be sent for a hearing is increasing.

**Continuing the redefinition of sex and gender (AB 2563)** – Unfortunately, another bill will work against these protections, defining “sex” to include actual or perceived characteristics, including the “degree of conformity to sex or gender stereotypes.” Gender is defined as “including gender identity, gender expression, and access to, and use of, gender affirming care and other related health care.” AB 2563 passed the Assembly Judiciary Comm. and now moves to the Appropriations Committee.

**Update: Providing abortions at community colleges (AB 2540)** – This bill extends the current requirement that staff at UC and CSU campus health clinics perform medication abortions to clinics at community colleges where high school students often attend classes. AB 2540 passed the Assembly Health Committee on April 7 and now moves to the [Higher Education Committee](#). If you are represented by local Assemblywoman Darshana Patel (916-319-2076) or Assemblyman Carl DeMaio (916-319-2075), who sit on the committee, consider sharing your concerns about this bill.

**Expanding abortion providers (AB 1973)** – Currently, only physicians and surgeons may perform abortions after the first trimester in California. Believing that the current restrictions allowing nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives and physician assistants to only perform first trimester medication and aspiration abortions “[limits] access to timely abortion,” Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Napa) authored AB 1973 to allow these clinicians to perform dilation and evacuation abortions with no gestational limits. The bill passed the Assembly Business & Professions Committee on April 7 and now moves to the [Health Committee](#). Local Assemblywoman Darshana Patel (916-319-2076) also sits on this committee.

**Silencing Counselors (SB 934)** – Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) has authored a bill sponsored by several leading LGBTQ organizations that will extend the statute of limitations on psychological injury or illness arising from therapy for *unwanted* attractions or dysphoria. Mental health providers could be liable for damages years, even decades, later. California Family Council states, “On its surface, SB 934 claims to simply extend the statute of limitations for malpractice lawsuits related to ‘sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts’ (SOGICE). But beneath the legal language lies a much more concerning reality: this bill is designed to intimidate and ultimately eliminate counselors who offer talk therapy to individuals seeking help aligning their lives with their deeply held beliefs.” The statute of limitations would be extended to 22 years after a minor turns 18 and 10 years for adults, potentially resulting in legal liability decades after the counseling occurred. SB 934 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 7, even after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to protect counseling speech in *Chiles v. Salazar* (see below). SB 934 now moves to Appropriations. Read more [here](#). Consider sharing your views with your state senator.

**Limiting the governor’s power in emergencies (AB 1835)** – Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) believes that the California Governor’s power under the California Emergency Services Act should terminate 90 days after an emergency proclamation unless the Legislature votes to extend the order. California Family Council (CFC) reminds us, “While emergency powers are meant to be temporary tools for genuine crises, California’s COVID-19 State of Emergency lasted three years, extended five separate times by Governor Newsom without meaningful legislative reauthorization.” During that time, Governor Gavin Newsom used his power to issue mandates that included stay-at-home orders, mask mandates, vaccine requirements, church closures, worship and singing bans, and more. Abortion clinics, however, remained open for business. CFC Vice President Greg Burt stated, “That is not constitutional government; that is executive overreach. AB 1835 restores the proper balance by ensuring that emergency powers remain temporary and accountable.” (Read more [here](#).) AB 1835 has been assigned to the [Assembly Emergency Management Committee](#). Currently there is no hearing date.

**What can you do?** Share your views with your legislators, by simply calling their offices (district or state) or sending a message through their website. Find your state representatives at [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov). If timing is an issue, just leave a message after hours. You may also send letters to committees through the Position Letter Portal ([click here](#)) or the committee page. Register once and you may submit public letters for any bill. Letters may then be viewed by all legislators. Check on the status

of any bill that interests you at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov). Click on “Bill Information” and search by bill number, topic, or author. You may also find a list of many bills relating to life, faith, education, and family on California Family Council’s watch list [here](#). CFC also has an **Action Center** [here](#) making it very easy for you to contact your state legislators on a growing number of bills. (*Referrals are for informational purposes only, does not imply an endorsement by EFCC of the opinions, positions, or contents of the site.*)

**Webinar Informs Parents and Teachers** – Recent rulings at the U.S. Supreme Court have provided victories for parents and teachers. California Family Council hosted an important webinar with leading legal experts from Alliance Defending Freedom, the National Center for Law & Policy, and Pacific Justice Institute. In the webinar, parents will learn how to opt their children out of instruction that conflicts with their faith. Teachers will learn how to be exempt from LGBTQ competency training and how to handle gender secrecy policies at their schools. The event is available for viewing [here](#). Access resources [here](#).

## In the Courts

**California Must Pay Litigation Costs in *Mirabelli*** – On March 30, Judge Roger Benitez ordered the State of California to pay \$4.5 million in attorneys’ fees to the plaintiffs’ legal firm, Thomas More Society, in *Mirabelli v. Bonta*. “A \$4.5 million fee award sends an unmistakable message to state governments and school districts across the country: if you trample the constitutional rights of parents, you will pay for it—literally,” said Peter Breen, Executive Vice President and Head of Litigation at Thomas More Society. “California threw everything it had at this case. It lost at summary judgment, lost at the Supreme Court, and now Californians will foot the bill for their government officials’ refusal to respect the fundamental rights of families.”

The fee included a rare 1.25 lodestar multiplier. The [order](#) states the rationale for this: “Plaintiffs deserve a multiplier in this case. The case concerns a very important subject. State public education policies impinged on families’ right to the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment. The policies also rejected and subverted the federal constitutional rights of California parents to guide the health and well-being of their school-age children. Such concerns intrude among the most important areas of family life in America’s history and tradition.” Read more [here](#).

**High Court Protects Counselors** – In a rare 8-1 decision (Justice Jackson dissenting), on March 31 the U.S. Supreme Court handed down what Alliance Defending Freedom termed “a monumental [decision](#) ... for free speech” and that the court “affirmed that counseling conversations are speech and that states cannot silence viewpoints in the counseling room.”

The case was brought by Kaley Chiles, a Colorado licensed counselor who challenged her state’s ban on certain private patient-counselor communications. “When my young clients come to me for counsel, they often want to discuss issues of gender and sexuality. I look forward to being able to help them when they choose the goal of growing comfortable with their bodies,” Chiles said. “Counselors walking alongside these young people shouldn’t be limited to promoting state-approved goals like gender transition, which often leads to harmful drugs and surgeries. The Supreme Court’s ruling is a victory for counselors and, more importantly, kids and families everywhere.”

The majority writes, “...Colorado’s law addressing conversion therapy does not just ban physical interventions. In cases like this, it censors speech based on viewpoint. Colorado may regard its policy as essential to public health and safety. Certainly, censorious governments throughout history have believed the same. But the First Amendment stands as a shield against any effort to enforce orthodoxy in thought or speech in this country. It reflects instead a judgment that every American possesses an inalienable right to think and speak freely, and a faith in the free marketplace of ideas as the best means for discovering truth. However well-intentioned, any law that suppresses speech based on viewpoint represents an “egregious” assault on both of those commitments.” Given the clear connection between this decision and California’s SB 934, it’s likely that if Sen. Wiener’s bill is signed into law it will face legal challenges. Read more [here](#).

## In the News

**National Day of Prayer Approaches** – This year the National Day of Prayer falls on Thursday, May 7. Please join millions of Americans as we unite to pray for our nation, state, and localities. The 2026 theme is “**Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in all Generations.**” Find out more [here](#). Local events will be added as the date approaches, if you wish to attend an organized gathering.

Father, we declare that You are glorious, faithful beyond measure, and worthy of our unending praise. Thank You for the many blessings in our lives—big and small, too numerous to count. Forgive us for the sins in our personal lives and those we have committed as a state and nation—too often turning from You and failing to honor Your precepts in our laws and policies. We ask You to protect us, give us strong leaders who will honor You, unite and bless us with Your mercy and favor as we celebrate 250 years as a nation. May we be a people after Your own heart. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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