

Behind the Mask

The Project 2025 Organizations
Reshaping America

Vol. 2



Wayne R Besen

TWO
truth wins out

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We would like to express our full appreciation and deep gratitude for those who make our work possible. There is no time in recent memory where it has been more important to support LGBTQ issues and preserve democracy.

We are especially grateful to our Kickstarter supporters, whose early belief in this project helped bring it to life; your enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in turning this publication from an idea into a reality.

If you would like to give a tax-deductible contribution to Truth Wins Out, click the donate button below or send a check to:

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Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

Colorado Springs, CO
Revenue: \$11,376,445

The James Dobson Family Institute (JDFI) was originally founded as Family Talk in 2010. It was rebranded under JDFI in 2017, with four core ministry divisions: Family Talk, Dobson Policy Center, Dobson Education Center, and the Dobson Digital Library. According to the group's website:

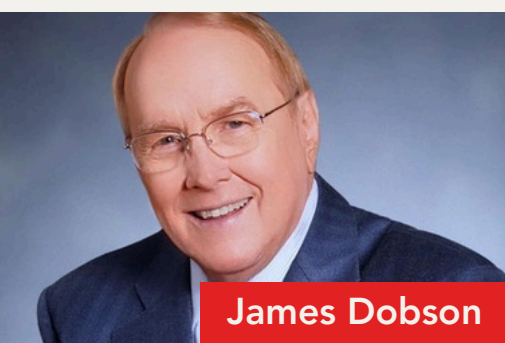
Through the Dobson Policy & Culture Center, we focus on issues related to righteousness in the culture, such as the sanctity of human life, the God-ordained institution of marriage, parental rights, freedom of religion, and other liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

JDFI's programming is explicitly media-based. Its mission page says, "Family Talk" is carried on "more than 1,300 terrestrial radio outlets" and on additional digital channels, with a reach described in "millions" monthly. The flagship program is a daily talk show covering parenting, marriage, policy/culture, and counsel topics, distributed via radio and digital platforms, alongside podcasts, blogs, Bible plans, and social media.

The institute also engages in policy advocacy and litigation. An October 16, 2024 JDFI press release announced a lawsuit challenging federal regulations it describes as forcing employers to violate religious convictions on abortion and gender-affirming care, naming the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and United States Department of Health and Human Services among the agencies involved.

JDFI is in flux with an uncertain future. Its eponymous founder and towering cultural figure, Dr. James Dobson, died at the age of 89, on August 21, 2025. At the time of his death, Truth Wins Out's Executive Director, **Wayne Besen**, remarked to the BBC:

"James Dobson used faith as a cudgel to bludgeon vulnerable communities, spread disinformation and inject toxic bigotry into the bloodstream of American culture. His legacy is one of cruelty disguised as Christianity. Our nation is worse off because of the relentless campaigns of intolerance he orchestrated."



Besen's assessment was widely shared by Dobson's many political foes. Sojourners, an interfaith group, wrote in 2019:

"The rhetoric employed by Dobson and other evangelical leaders is frighteningly similar to that of German pastors and theologians in the Third Reich. It appears that Christians have either forgotten or are ignoring the dark history of Christianity's marriage to partisan politics and nationalist agendas."

Historian Kristin Kobes Du Mez said that Christians were "inspired by men like James Dobson" to embrace an ideology of militant masculinity in the home and in politics.

Dobson's critique of his opponents was no less sparing. In a 2019 newsletter he wrote:

"Left-wing activists typically hate committed Christians and the Christian faith. It begins with resentment for everything we stand for, especially our belief in immutable standards of right and wrong that are based on biblical truth. They despise this belief system because it threatens their godless worldview."

Love or hate James Dobson, he was one of the most influential cultural, religious and political figures of our times. By the mid-1990's, he eclipsed Moral Majority founder Rev. Jerry Falwell and Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) creator Pat Robertson as the leading voice on the Christian Right. Dobson deftly used his radio show to capitalize on peoples' fear in rapidly changing times. He was an expert in assigning bogeymen status to disfavored minority groups and ruthlessly stirring up resentment to scapegoat political adversaries.

Dobson was a profoundly divisive figure who set the stage for today's ugly Culture Wars that threaten the very existence of our nation. Upon his death, The Guardian described his impact:

The message was uncompromisingly conservative, anti-feminist, anti-abortion and anti-gay rights: a fight for what he called a "civil war of values".

Children should be chastised from babyhood to teach them about the wrath of God, women should stay at home, inter-racial marriages and LGBT activists were undermining the family and the US constitution.

"The wages of sin is death and children have the right to understand that fact," he insisted. He told CNN in 2002: "The family was designed for a purpose and if you go tampering with it the whole thing crumbles."

Dobson's disdain for LGBTQ people was palpable, and his obsession arguably pathological. The right-wing leader thundered against LGBTQ rights and was perhaps America's most fervent advocate for "ex-gay" conversion therapy. His anti-gay propaganda often sat at the intersection of hate and hyperbole—evidenced by his notorious 2004 quote in the Daily Oklahoman: "Homosexuals are not monogamous. They want to destroy the institution of marriage. It will destroy marriage. It will destroy the Earth."

Dobson's rabid conservatism was not surprising. He was the son, grandson and great-grandson of Church of the Nazarene ministers. The New York Times reported:

The family avoided dancing and movies. His father, who never attended college, was a traveling evangelist, primarily in the Southwest, and young James lived mostly with his mother in Bethany, Okla.

He received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1958 from Pasadena College (now Point Loma Nazarene University) and a master's degree in 1962 from the University of Southern California.

Dobson career started off in the mainstream. He worked at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and as a psychologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. However, the rapidly changing times – with the advancement of women's rights, LGBTQ issues and racial equality radicalized Dobson.

Perpetually nostalgic for simpler times and chronically irritable due to the advancements of liberalism, Dobson declared: "We're in a moral freefall. Wherever you stick the thermometer into the American culture you'll find corruption."

The Guardian reported: "...particularly the Watts riots in Los Angeles...reinforced his views and led to his first book in 1970."





That book, *Dare to Discipline*, sold 2 million copies. It ridiculed parents for being too soft on their children and blamed them for turning their kids into spoiled brats. Dobson's solution was calling for parents to not spare the rod, lest they spoil the child.

He advocated an austere version of tough love, which included disciplining children with a paddle or a belt. He advised parents to send an unmistakable message to their children by leaving these tools of corporal punishment within their sight, for example, placed conspicuously on the dresser in their bedrooms.

Dobson credited his "successful" upbringing with beatings administered by his mother. He believed parents should follow in her cruel footsteps, and that corporal punishment should begin as early as 18 months old.

We would argue, however, that Dobson's life discredits his portrayal of a rosy upbringing. His mother's tactics may have created a highly successful individual who became rich and famous. But it also produced a vainglorious tyrant who was cruel, callous, uncompromising and often devoid of empathy.

His life was seemingly consumed with bitterness and revenge, and his critiques often lacked basic honesty. When it was politically convenient, Dobson lied without compunction. Several notable academic and medical experts accused Dobson of brazenly distorting their work.

In 1977, Dobson founded Focus on the Family. The group was originally located in Pomona, California before Dobson moved its headquarters to Colorado Springs in 1991. Sadly, fear and hate found a large audience that provided lucrative financial results:

- Focus grew to become a \$140 million multimedia empire
- Focus published 11 magazines
- Focus published more than 70 independent books
- Its flagship show, "Focus on the Family", eventually was broadcast to 2,000 radio stations, reaching 28 million people, at its 1990's pinnacle, as well as several television outlets in the United States
- The radio programs were translated into a dozen languages and heard by 220 million people in 157 countries worldwide
- By the mid-1990s, Focus on the Family received upwards of 12,000 letters, emails, and phone calls every day.

In 1981, Dobson founded The Family Research Council to lobby lawmakers in Washington, DC. Dobson increased his political reach in 2004 by creating Focus on the Family Action, which lobbied state governments. This organization was renamed the Family Policy Alliance in 2016. Both FRC and FPA are on Project 2025's Advisory Board.

In the final chapter of Dobson's life, he wholeheartedly embraced Donald Trump, and enthusiastically scapegoated immigrants. In 2019, Dobson visited a migrant detention center in McAllen, Texas, declaring:

"Millions of illegal immigrants will continue flooding into this great land from around the world. Many of them have no marketable skills. They are illiterate and unhealthy. Some are violent criminals. Their numbers will soon overwhelm the culture as we have known it, and it could bankrupt the nation."

JDFI: Dobson's Greatest Hits and Still Broadcasting Bigotry



At the present time, JDFI mostly appears to be a bulletin board dedicated to bowing down and regurgitating James Dobson's greatest hits. It provides a [resource page](#) that sells Dobson's more popular books and also provides the founder's past commentaries through, "The Dobson Minute":

To reach the next generation, the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute is remastering Dr. Dobson's biblically-based "transforming truths" into 60-second audio messages. The new Dr. Dobson Minute will provide young families with practical insights that will strengthen marriages and help build better parenting skills.



Michele Bachmann

On the front page of JDFI's website is [a blog post](#) that provides an excerpt from Dobson's 1987 book, *Love for a Lifetime: Building a Marriage That Will Go the Distance*. The material seems hopelessly dated and supposedly offers nuggets of "wisdom".

In 2026, however, Dobson seems like a relic of the past. His sour advice often comes across as cheap, misogynistic stereotypes masquerading as legitimate social science:

For a man, romantic experiences with his wife are warm, enjoyable, and memorable—but not necessary. For a woman, they are her lifeblood. Her confidence, her sexual response, and her zest for living are often directly related to those tender moments when she feels deeply loved and appreciated by her man.



Gary Bauer

In the post-Dobson era, JDFI is hobbling forward while trying to find its voice. A centerpiece of its contemporary efforts is the dissemination of right-wing tropes through its blog and radio broadcasts. There are high-profile talk show hosts on its network, including former **Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)** and former Family Research Council president **Gary Bauer**.

More than anyone, Bauer channels the spirit of James Dobson, his political mentor. Bauer uses his pulpit to deliver the bloodiest of red meat to his rabid audience. On JDfI's blog, Bauer posted a screed against the National Football League (NFL) for choosing the popular performing artist **Bad Bunny** as its halftime act. On February 23, 2026, Bauer opined:

The NFL had an excellent opportunity to bring Americans together with a halftime show that celebrated our shared values, especially this year as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

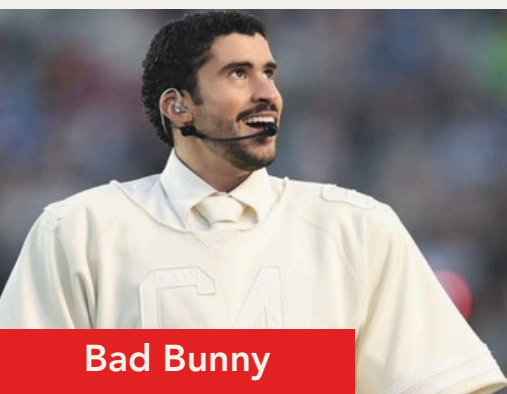
Instead, the NFL's woke leadership chose to divide the country by selecting Bad Bunny—a cross-dressing, Puerto Rican rapper—as the main performer for the halftime show.

Just like in the old days with the Family Research Council (1988-1999), Bauer uses his current perch at JDfI to viciously smear his political foes:

The Left constantly claims that "right-wing Christians" are the ones starting the culture wars and stoking division among Americans. That's a complete lie. It's the godless, globalist, secular Left that started the culture wars and constantly stokes division in our country.

Bachmann, for her part, made news in November 2025 by resigning from the Heritage Foundation's National Task Force to Combat Antisemitism (NTFCA). Bachmann strenuously objected to Heritage Foundation President **Kevin Roberts'** defense of Tucker Carlson, following the former Fox News host's controversial interview with Holocaust revisionist Nick Fuentes.

To her credit, Bachmann stated she could no longer remain involved because the Heritage leadership "failed to stand against the voices of antisemitism on the political right" and instead "embraced and, worse, defended" them. She explicitly criticized the Heritage Foundation's board of directors for failing to hold Roberts accountable, suggesting the organization's reputation was "on life support".



Conclusion

In 1982, Dr. James Dobson appeared on the cover of Christianity Today (CT) . The profile called him the “one man behind the pro-family phenomenon,” working to “snatch the tottering institution” of the traditional family “from the brink of the grave.”

In 2006, after a long, controversial career, CT again reported on Dobson, writing, “Nobody ... has done as much to align evangelicalism with hard-nosed partisan politics... ‘Family’ no longer goes with baseball and apple pie. It has become a fighting word, and a politicized one at that.”

That pretty much sums up the tragic arc of Dr. James Dobson’s bombastic and acrimonious career. He set out to save the American family but was so consumed with volcanic rage and detestation for many Americans, that he inadvertently transformed the beautiful concept of family into a divisive club in which to bludgeon his perceived enemies. Instead of elevating the family, he eroded its meaning and helped turn it into a partisan talking point.

Dobson would have been wise, and certainly more persuasive, if he had listened to his detractors who created bumper stickers that read, “Focus on Your Own Damn Family”.



Controversies

Gilbert Moegerle Saga:

James Dobson's 1977 15-minute radio show, Focus on the Family, was badly floundering. Christianity Today reported that, "Early listeners found the psychologist couldn't say much in that time, though, and often barely made it through a question."

In 1981, Dobson's producers revamped the show. They expanded the format to a half hour and added a professional radio host, Gilbert Moegerle. The new edition to the show was a hit and by 1982, Dobson was on 800 Christian radio stations daily, as well as some television stations.

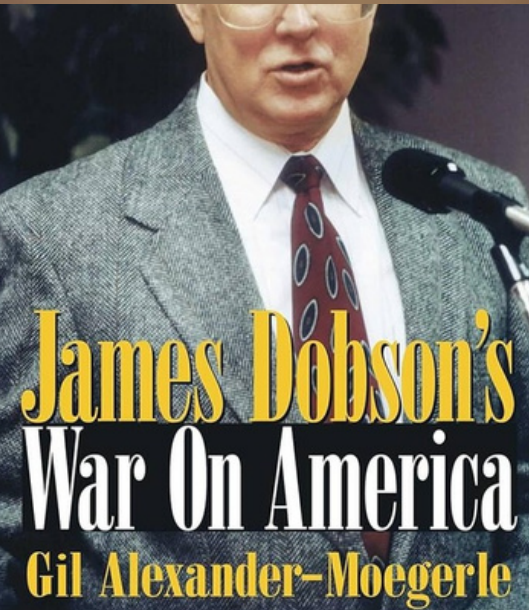
The Los Angeles Times called Moegerle, "a kind of spiritual Ed McMahon to the Christian radio broadcaster's Johnny Carson". It's fair to say that without Moegerle, Dobson probably would have failed and faded into obscurity.

The wildly successful partnership collapsed in 1987 after Moegerle had an affair, was divorced, and announced that he intended to marry his former secretary. Moegerle filed a lawsuit against Dobson and Focus on the Family in Pomona Superior Court.

In the suit, Moegerle claimed:

Dobson feared "that my deteriorating (first) marriage would hurt his reputation and ministry, that his credibility would be damaged by the revelation that his very visible sidekick could not hold his own marriage together."





Additionally, The Los Angeles Times wrote:

"His new wife, Carolyn, who also claims that she was forced to resign from Focus on the Family, has filed a companion suit. Their suits accuse Dobson and Focus on the Family with firing the couple illegally, invasion of privacy and causing emotional distress."

- After two weeks of trial in June 1991, Focus on the Family moved for a nonsuit, arguing Moegerle had not presented sufficient evidence to support his remaining claims. Moegerle instructed his attorney not to oppose the motion, leading the judge to formally dismiss the case.
- While no formal settlement was reached in court, both parties agreed to enter private reconciliation efforts. Focus on the Family agreed to pay most of the court costs and legal expenses for the trial, though no direct financial compensation was paid to Moegerle or his family.
- Following the legal battle, Moegerle authored the book, 'James Dobson's War on America', providing a critical "insider's look" at the organization.

Mike Trout Drama

A well-known radio personality and long-time co-host of James Dobson's popular radio program for 15 years, Trout resigned in 1999/2000 after admitting to an "emotional relationship" with a woman who was not his wife. He acknowledged that his behavior violated the ministry's moral standards. This was a particularly difficult blow to Dobson, marking two consecutive co-hosts who had affairs—even as Dobson preached to millions of people on how to keep families together. Trout told The Colorado Springs Gazette:

"I'm greatly saddened...I worked at Focus on the Family because I believed in what we were doing. I know that might sound strange, because I violated it." The relationship, he says, is over, was "not a long-term thing," and was not with another Focus employee. Trout told Dobson, and is now telling others, about the relationship and resigned immediately, he says, because "If I hadn't shared the truth, it would have eventually come out."

Dobson Distorts Research

Several notable experts and academics accused Dobson of brazenly distorting their work. This included New York University author and professor Dr. Carol Gilligan, and Yale author and professor Dr. Kyle Pruett.

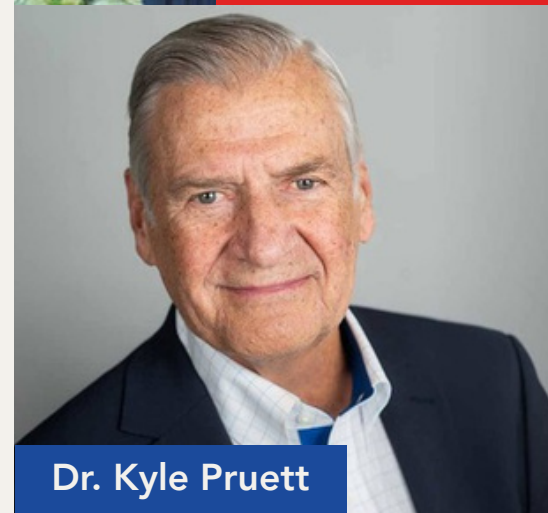
"I was stunned to hear that James Dobson had quoted me in Time magazine. I had no idea. I was mortified." said Dr. Gilligan, author of, "In a Different Voice", during a 2007 video interview with Truth Wins Out. She said Dobson's appropriation of her work was, "completely distorted and unfounded."



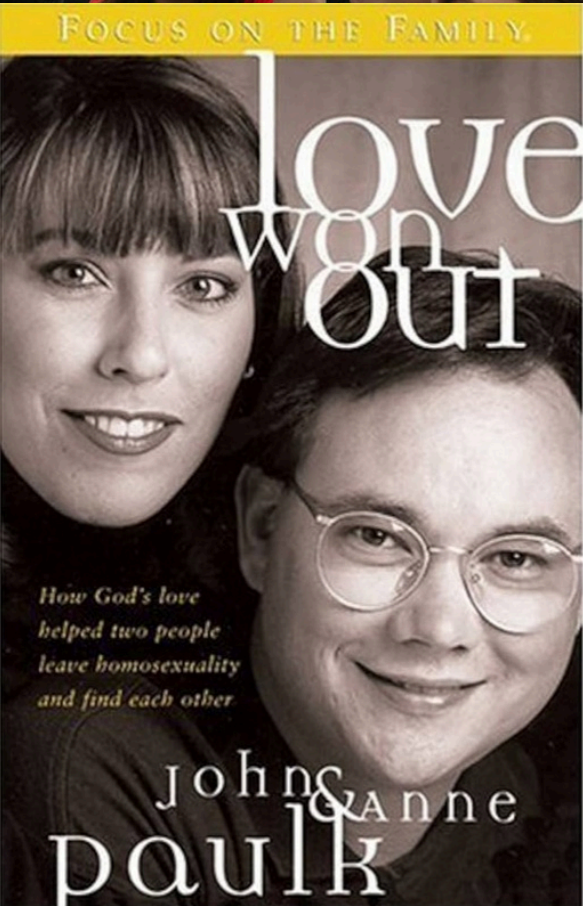
Mike Trout



Dr. Carol Gilligan



Dr. Kyle Pruett



Sexism

Dobson wrote books with titles such as *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women* (1975) and *Parenting Isn't for Cowards* (1987). These books are misogynistic and promote stereotypical messages disguised as social science. This includes gems like, "Men like to hunt and fish and hike in the wilderness" while women prefer "to stay at home and wait for them"; and "Men derive self-esteem by being respected; women feel worthy when they are loved."

Truth in Love Campaign

James Dobson was a dedicated promoter and supporter of "ex-gay" conversion therapy. He installed the Love Won Out program at Focus on the Family, which was a traveling road show where "ex-gays" on his staff told weeping audiences in mega-churches how they "prayed away the gay".

A 1998 Newsweek poll found that "young adults (ages 18-29) were significantly more accepting of gay marriage—or even adoption—than people over 30 (and baby boomers were more tolerant than people over 50)." The poll explained that this was probably the case because "Gen-X and Y people are also more likely to have a homosexual friend or acquaintance (65-percent) than 50-plus adults (45-percent)."

To counter this trend, Dobson convened a consortium of Religious Right activists. They called themselves the National Pro-Family Forum and met at Focus on the Family's headquarters. The group decided to launch the Truth In Love campaign, which would spend at least a half million dollars in newspaper and television ads featuring "ex-gays", according to Truth Wins Out Executive Director Wayne Besen's book, Lies with a Straight Face.



The campaign was a media sensation—landing on the cover of Newsweek--and created a Culture War firestorm. Unfortunately for Dobson, Truth Wins Out's Besen photographed "ex-gay" leader, and star of the Truth in Love campaign, John Paulk, in a Washington, DC gay bar in September 2000. Besen, with the help of Virginia attorney Mike Hamar, also exposed a second "ex-gay" campaign star, Michael Johnston, for having sex with men. Johnston resigned from his ministry after acknowledging a "moral failure".



Truth in Love boomeranged on Dobson and was an institutional humiliation for Focus on the Family. Nonetheless, neither Dobson, nor his cronies at other participating right-wing organizations, ever apologized for fraudulently claiming gays could go straight, even after their own heavily-promoted spokespeople dramatically faltered on the public stage.



Trump and Clinton Hypocrisy

Dobson feigned outrage over **President Bill Clinton's** tryst with White House intern **Monica Lewinsky**. He railed against Clinton's immorality—and the fact that the country seemed to only care about the state of the economy.

Yet, despite Donald Trump's three marriages, cheating with porn stars, chronic lies, friendship with pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, thin history with Christianity and frequent use of vulgar language, Dobson inexplicably supported and defended Trump.

"I really do love and appreciate that man," Dobson told an interviewer on the Christian Broadcasting Network in 2019, "I wish people would get off his back."

George Rekers Scandal

When James Dobson started the Family Research Council in 1983, he turned to notorious South Carolina conversion therapist **George Rekers**, who had written several books on curing LGBTQ people. Rekers was a founding board member and was part of the original group that emerged from the 1980 White House Conference on Families to establish the FRC.

The mental health professional frequently provided expert testimony for government agencies and in court cases to support policies such as Florida's ban on gay adoption, often being paid significant fees for his testimony.



Bill Clinton and
Monica Lewinsky



George Rekers



In 2010, Rekers was photographed at the Miami International Airport returning from a 10-day European vacation with a male escort hired from Rentboy.com. The conversion therapist laughably claimed he hired the boy solely to help carry his luggage due to recent surgery, despite being seen pushing his own luggage cart.

Following the report, The Family Research Council distanced itself, stating they had not had contact with him for over a decade, and reportedly removed references of him from their website's history section.

Radio Hall of Fame

In 2008, James Dobson was selected to Chicago's Radio Hall of Fame. Truth Wins Out and the Gay Liberation Front organized a robust 500-person protest, in bitterly cold weather, outside Chicago's Renaissance Hotel. According to the Windy City Times:

Although the protest was initially going to be focused on the museum awarding Dobson, who has preached anti-gay hate over the airwaves for decades, many people also marched in solidarity against the passage of California's Proposition 8 that evening. Dobson played a pivotal role in Proposition 8's passage, and his group, Focus on the Family, donated \$800,000 to the anti-gay-marriage measure. Proposition 8 banned same-sex marriage in California and invalidated the marriages of thousands of gay and lesbian couples who wed during the time it was legal.

Those present yelled chants, such as "Hall of Shame," throughout the evening, and felt that the Museum of Broadcast Communications showed a double standard by honoring an individual who is anti-gay.



George Rekers and male escort



Trashing Sen. Phil Gramm

Aspiring presidential candidate, **Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX)**, met with James Dobson in 1995. The Texas senator told him that he would not make his campaign a moral crusade, that he was running for president, not preacher: "I just don't feel comfortable going round telling other people how to live their lives."

Dobson angrily stalked out saying; "I walked into that meeting fully expecting to support Phil Gramm for president. Now I don't think I would vote for him if he was the last man standing."

Dobson responded to Gramm, and other candidates who advocated for a big tent philosophy in the GOP, by sending out an eight-page letter to his 2.1 million subscribers, 112,000 clergy, 8,000 politicians and 1,500 journalists, telling them that he would "never again cast a vote for a politician who would kill one innocent baby".

Sadly, Dobson's small-minded intransigence poisoned the Republican Party before it eventually infected American society. No one person, other than perhaps **Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA)**, has done more than Dobson to create the toxic, polarizing politics that plague our nation today.

Partly because of Dobson's tirade, Gramm faltered in the primaries.



FRC Hate Group

In 2010, the Dobson-created Family Research Council was formally designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for what it described as "anti-gay propaganda throughout its history."

Cartoon Wars

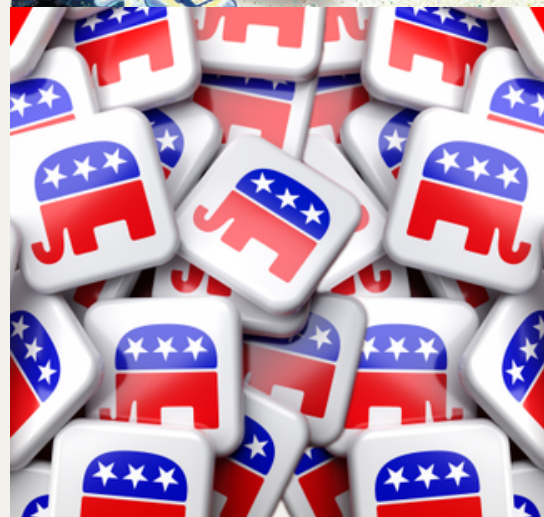
Dobson often looked ridiculous when his never-ending culture crusades extended to trashing beloved fictional characters. The paranoid Dobson even attacked the cartoon SpongeBob SquarePants, accusing the pixilated yellow sponge of teaching children homosexuality.

Dobson also vilified The Da Vinci Code, saying it "was cooked up in the fires of Hell". Dobson's followers were warned of Harry Potter too, with the right-wing firebrand thundering: "It is impossible to invest in a series that glamorizes witchcraft."

GOP Political Boss

As time went on, Dobson deviated from his avuncular role offering family advice and gravitated towards politics. Explaining his evolving role, Dobson said, "We are in a moral decline of shocking dimensions. I have asked myself how I can sit and watch the world go by without trying to help if I can. That is what motivates me at this time."

Dobson's huge evangelical following made him a force to be reckoned with. In essence, he became a feared GOP Party Boss, demanding Republicans strictly conform to his hardcore agenda. This was the beginning of GOP lawmakers losing their independence and becoming rubber-stamp Republicans. The problem has culminated with President Trump, who demands complete fealty from Congress and treats House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) like a puppet.



An excerpt from *Besen's Lies with a Straight Face* explains Dobson's feared presence in Washington during the 1990's:

In 1998, it was a midterm election year. The Religious Right was restless and disgruntled. They felt as if they were receiving lip service from their Republican congressional allies and demanded tangible results.

If Far Right leaders didn't get their demands met, they threatened to depress voter turnout. James Dobson, who at the time was the all-powerful leader of Focus on the Family, was lobbing threats at his supplicants on Capitol Hill.

"It wouldn't matter how many hoops of fire we jump through, it is never enough for him," an exasperated Republican operative angrily complained about "King James."

From his Focus on the Family compound in Colorado Springs, Dobson dictated his demands to the GOP. His power was so great that his organization had its own zip code to handle its humongous volume of mail. Dobson's radio and television broadcasts were heard or seen by 28 million people, many of whom could be summoned to vote – or stay home.

On March 18, 1998, a perturbed Dobson met in a Capitol Hill basement with twenty-five GOP lawmakers from the House of Representatives. He demanded that they fully embrace his social conservative agenda or else.

"If I go," Dobson threatened, "I will do everything I can to take as many people with me as possible...I really hope you guys don't make me prove it, because I will."

When Dobson said "Jump", the GOP asked, "how high." House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) ordered subcommittee chairpersons to explore how Dobson's agenda could be acted upon. Thus, the GOP's "Summer of Hate" commenced.

Dobson ensured that the Republican Party became a repository of bigotry and backwardness. It has never recovered from his political hijacking.

In 2004, he addressed thousands of conservative Christians gathered in Washington to protest same-sex marriage and, for the first time, endorsed a presidential candidate, George W. Bush, who was running for re-election. He also urged Bush to endorse a proposed federal marriage amendment to the Constitution, which would define marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

During the 2008 presidential primaries, Dobson attacked Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate, for his support of abortion rights, saying that he wanted "to go to the lowest common denominator of morality" and impose "his bloody notion of what is right in regard to the rights of tiny babies."

Ted Bundy Interview

Dobson interviewed serial killer Ted Bundy a few hours before he was executed in 1989, persuading the monster to claim that porn had encouraged him to kill 30 women. Tapes of the interview allegedly raised \$1million for Focus on the Family, though some was donated to anti-pornography and anti-abortion groups.

A 1989 New York Times op-ed, "Ted Bundy's Last Lie", authored by adult entertainment entrepreneur Al Goldstein, [eviscerated Dobson's interview](#):

There is still the very overbearing image of Ted Bundy himself testifying to the porn-violence connection "in the shadow of the electric chair," as commentator Maury Povich stated. (The Bundy interview was broadcast, in best tabloid-TV style, on Mr. Povich's show, "A Current Affair.") James Dobson is a psychologist and sophisticated enough to know the logical fallacy he is promoting: Ted Bundy used porn, Ted Bundy kills women, therefore all porn-users kill women.

And that is why Ted Bundy chose Mr. Dobson over all journalists clamoring for an interview. Mr. Dobson offered him a way out. Porn made me do it. In the many chronicles of Mr. Bundy's life, the word "manipulative" comes up again and again. In his last interview, Mr. Bundy tried to manipulate guilt away from himself and onto society as a whole.

Quotes

1995

"Do we as Christians need to be liked so badly that we choose to remain silent in response to the killing of babies, the spreading of homosexual propaganda to our children, the distribution of condoms and immoral advice to our teenagers, and the undermining of marriage as an institution? Would Jesus have ignored these wicked activities?" — **Christianity Today**, "Why I Use Fighting Words", June 19, 1995

2002

"The wages of sin is death and children have the right to understand that fact. The family was designed for a purpose and if you go tampering with it, the whole thing crumbles." — **Dobson**, **CNN**

2004

"Homosexuals are not monogamous. They want to destroy the institution of marriage. It will destroy marriage. It will destroy the Earth." — **James Dobson on marriage equality**, **Daily Oklahoman**, Oct. 23, 2004

2019

"Left-wing activists typically hate committed Christians and the Christian faith. It begins with resentment for everything we stand for, especially our belief in immutable standards of right and wrong that are based on biblical truth. They despise this belief system because it threatens their godless worldview." — **A newsletter to Dobson's followers**



"Millions of illegal immigrants will continue flooding into this great land from around the world. Many of them have no marketable skills. They are illiterate and unhealthy. Some are violent criminals. Their numbers will soon overwhelm the culture as we have known it, and it could bankrupt the nation."

— Dr. Dobson after visiting a migrant detention center in McAllen, Texas,

2019

"The LGBTQ movement is closing in on the God-inspired and established institution of the family." — Dobson Newsletter, September 1, 2019.

"I really do love and appreciate that man [Trump]. I wish people would get off his back."

— Christian Broadcasting Network interview with Dobson, 2019

2022

"There have been times of despair, real despair, and disappointment along the way. At last, the tide has changed, and the legality of abortion has been given to the people to decide — where it belonged in the first place."

— James Dobson Newsletter, July 13, 2022



Donald Trump



2025

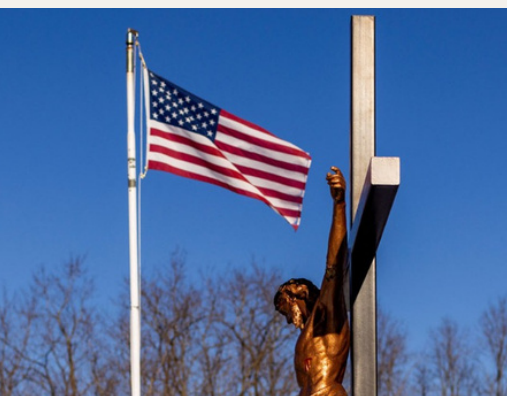


"Briefly stated, love is linked to self-esteem in women. For a man, romantic experiences with his wife are warm, enjoyable, and memorable—but not necessary. For a woman, they are her lifeblood. Her confidence, her sexual response, and her zest for living are often directly related to those tender moments when she feels deeply loved and appreciated by her man. That is why flowers and candy and cards are more meaningful to her than to him. This is why she is continually trying to pull him away from the television set or his computer, and not vice versa. This is why the anniversary is critically important to her and why she never forgets it. That is why he had better not forget it!" — **Sexist [blog Post](#) on JDFI website, Feb. 1, 2025. Quote from Dr. James Dobson's book, Love For A Lifetime**

2026



"We believe, as did our founder, Dr. James Dobson, that America's only hope for the future is that we turn our hearts back to God." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**



"When you read their stirring words [America's Founding Fathers], it is absolutely clear how strong a role the Christian faith played in the creation of our great country. Sadly, the educational establishment and radical secularist groups have convinced millions of Americans that religion was meant to be excluded from America's 'public square' and the halls of government. Nothing could be further from the truth." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**

"The James Dobson Family Institute is excited to join with the White House and Congress to celebrate and rededicate America to be 'One Nation Under God.'" — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**

"The NFL had an excellent opportunity to bring Americans together with a halftime show that celebrated our shared values, especially this year as we celebrate America's 250th birthday. Instead, the NFL's woke leadership chose to divide the country by selecting Bad Bunny—a cross-dressing, Puerto Rican rapper—as the main performer for the halftime show." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**



"Days before the Super Bowl, Bad Bunny was on Saturday Night Live. Many Americans were insulted when he told us we needed to learn Spanish to understand his halftime performance. America is a multilingual society, but English is our national unifying language." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

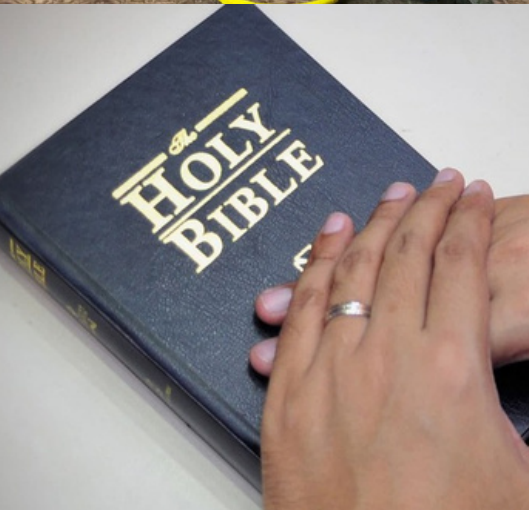


"The Super Bowl is viewed as 'family entertainment'. This halftime show was anything but. Sadly, Bad Bunny's show went largely as expected. Dancers performed provocative moves simulating sex acts, both heterosexual and homosexual, while the background imagery and scenes were saturated with anti-American messaging." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

"The Left constantly claims that 'right-wing Christians' are the ones starting the culture wars and stoking division among Americans. That's a complete lie. It's the godless, globalist, secular Left that started the culture wars and constantly stokes division in our country." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**



"The pro-life movement is built on everyday heroes who simply show up and stand for godly principles." — **JDFI, [post on X](#), Feb. 10, 2026**



"Men and women were designed with highly specific but very different psychological needs. Each is vulnerable to the other in unique ways. Indeed, the Creator observed Adam's loneliness in the Garden of Eden and said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone' (Genesis 2:18)."

— JDFI, [post on X](#), Feb. 4, 2026

"The Church, not the government, holds the real answer to helping those in need. Today on Family Talk, Star Parker explains why welfare programs have devastated black families, and how Christians can become the true safety net for struggling families."

— JDFI, [post on X](#), Feb. 3, 2026

"Join us in praying for Cities Church and Christians across the U.S. as churches are now targeted as battlegrounds in what is clearly spiritual warfare."

— JDFI, [post on X](#), Jan. 24, 2026

"Satan wants us to give up after a defeat. That's why Scripture tells us to 'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' That's a valuable lesson for your children."

— JDFI, [post on X](#), Jan. 10, 2026

"In today's culture, kids as young as kindergarten age are being targeted with confusing messages about gender identity. Today on Family Talk hear how parents can equip children to embrace their God-given design with confidence and biblical truth."

— JDFI, [post on X](#), Nov. 24, 2025



High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS)

Revenue: N/A

The High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS) is a fledgling political organization with outsized ambitions and a troubling trajectory. Founded in 2022 after a split from the older Teen Age Republicans, the HSREPS presents itself as the student-led future of conservative politics. Its leaders are not shy about their goals: mobilizing thousands of teenagers to campaign for GOP candidates, push conservative ideology in schools, and funnel young activists into the Republican machine.

But behind the branding of “grassroots youth engagement” lies something more sinister. In practice, the HSREPS has become a pipeline for Donald Trump’s brand of grievance politics, promoting intolerance, hostility to diversity, and unwavering loyalty to authoritarian ideas dressed up as patriotism. In aligning itself with Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation’s radical blueprint for dismantling democratic norms, the HSREPS has made it clear it is not just organizing future voters—it is training a generation of closed-minded ideologues eager to carry forward the politics of cruelty and be the foot soldiers for an authoritarian regime.

The HSREPS emerged in April 2022 after a messy split from the long-standing Teen Age Republicans (TARs), the GOP’s official youth arm since 1960. Dissatisfied with TARs’ adult oversight and slow pace, state chapters bolted and created a new “student-run” federation. William Atkins, a New Jersey teen, became the group’s first national chairman, boasting that the new federation would unleash the raw energy of high school conservatives.

The reality is that this “revolution” was less about empowering young voices than about channeling Trumpism into schools. While TARs remained relatively staid and adult-managed, the HSREPS deliberately embraced the most hard-edged culture war battles. It wasted little time declaring itself “the premier teen wing of the RNC” and aligning closely with the Trump-dominated Republican Party. With endorsements from GOP leaders like Elise Stefanik and former RNC co-chair Tommy Hicks, the HSREPS instantly became more than a student club—it became a weaponized training ground for the MAGA movement.

The HSREPS's mission statement is cloaked in the language of liberty and free speech. It claims to "unite teens" and "foster debate," but its real agenda is obvious: to indoctrinate teenagers with rigid conservative orthodoxy. Its magazine, *Conservateen*, pumps out predictable talking points about "woke schools," "socialism," and "radical leftists." Its events train students not to think critically but to parrot Republican dogma and demonize anyone outside the conservative tent.

The group's leadership insists it is giving students a voice, but the only acceptable voices are those that conform to MAGA ideology. LGBTQ rights? They oppose them. Their website links to the group "Gays Against Groomers" as a recommended resource, aligning the high school Republicans with the view that LGBTQ-related education or events equate to "child sexualization" or "grooming".

Racial justice? They smear efforts at equity as "anti-white." Climate change? They ignore the science and mock solutions as socialist overreach. This is not civic education—it is political conditioning that teaches young people to view diversity, science and dissent as threats.

By its second year, HSREPS was already celebrated by party insiders as a critical part of the GOP's future. Elise Stefanik credited the group with helping Republicans win the House majority in 2022. The organization's volunteers knocked on thousands of doors in swing districts, often campaigning for far-right candidates like Colorado gubernatorial hopeful Heidi Ganahl. Their efforts were not about fostering participation across the spectrum, but about hardening partisan trenches.





What makes the HSREPS particularly alarming is its explicit alignment with Trumpism and its connection to Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's extremist plan to gut the federal government and cement authoritarian control. By eagerly embracing Trump's "America First" agenda, HSREPS members are preparing to carry Project 2025's vision into the next generation. Instead of being taught the values of pluralism and democracy, they are trained to believe in mass firings of civil servants, dismantling of checks and balances, and crushing of dissent.



This is not the innocent activism of civic-minded teens. It is the creation of a youth brigade for the GOP's most intolerant forces.

Predictably, the organization has also been marred by infighting and chaos. In 2023, several chapters publicly rebelled against HSREPS leadership, accusing it of corruption, lack of transparency, and disregard for the voices of state chapters.



The HSREPS's rhetoric has consistently echoed the ugliest strains of the MAGA base. In interviews, its leaders claim Democrats are pushing "handouts for people who don't work" and describe Critical Race Theory as a conspiracy to teach that "white people are inherently racist." These lines are not original—they are recycled Fox News propaganda repackaged for classrooms.

The effect is clear: the HSREPS is cultivating a worldview where empathy is weakness, diversity is division, and authoritarianism is strength. By encouraging teenagers to see political opponents as enemies, the group is fueling polarization at the youngest levels of American life. And by linking itself to Trump and Project 2025, it is offering students not a vision of democracy, but of dominance.

Some defenders argue that the HSREPS is simply the Republican equivalent of High School Democrats—a place for teens to learn about politics. That comparison does not hold up. Unlike its counterparts, the HSREPS is not fostering broad civic engagement but actively pushing intolerance. It is a machine designed to recruit for one faction of one party, with no interest in dialogue or compromise.

The cost of this effort is steep. Every student funneled through HSREPS is one more young American being taught to view politics not as collective problem-solving but as trench warfare. Every club meeting that ridicules LGBTQ classmates or dismisses racial equity is another seed of bigotry planted. And every campaign where high school Republicans knock on doors for Trumpist candidates is another step toward the normalization of authoritarian politics.

The Republican Party once prided itself on cultivating civic-minded leaders through its youth programs. The HSREPS represents the opposite: a radicalization project that endangers democracy by training a generation of closed-minded partisans.

In short, the HSREPS is not building the leaders of tomorrow. It is building the bigots of tomorrow. And the consequences for American democracy could be devastating.

The group's leadership includes: **David Sharyan**, Chairman, **Carden Truong**, Co-Chairman and **Clayton Lord**, Secretary



Quotes

2024

Anti-Trans in Sports

"Biological men should not be allowed in women's sports!" — [Post on X, March 14, 2024](#)

Democrats Give Handouts

"It's about the American Dream, it's about putting hard work into what you earn. It's about actually earning something. And today's Democrat Party doesn't really resemble those values. You see it all the time with the Democrat Party pushing for handouts to people who don't have jobs. We need to get more people back in the workforce and less people on their couch eating potato chips." — **Giuseppe Schiano Di Cola, then-chairman of the Pennsylvania High School Republicans**

2023

Against Affirmative Action

"The Supreme Court's decision to strike down affirmative action reflects the foundational American principle of equal opportunity by ensuring no educational institution is using race-based considerations in admissions." — [Post on X, July 3, 2023](#)

Distortion of Public School Education and Trans

"Our schools shouldn't be teaching us that men can get pregnant. RT if you agree!" — [Post on X, April 19, 2023](#)

Democrats and Crime

"Democrat soft-on-crime policies are what make our cities dangerous." — [Post on X, Feb. 28, 2023](#)



Anti-Abortion Stance

"We have been hard at work fighting to keep our state as the #1 Pro Life State in America. We look forward to continuing to work with like minded organizations across our state to save lives by funding our vital Pregnancy Resource Centers!" — **Post on X by Arkansas Chapter, Feb. 15, 2023**

Testifying In Favor of Anti-Trans Bill

"Today I'm here testifying in favor of LB575, which prevents males and females from participating in sports of the opposite sex..." "I believe allowing males into the females' locker room and females in the males' locker room will lead to large amounts of emotional and physical harm, such as sexual assault or sexual harassment to all those involved." — **Patrick Medinger, Nebraska High School Republicans testifying before the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee, Feb. 13, 2023**

Support For Funneling Public Money into Private Schools

"This past week, the High School Republicans celebrated National School Choice Week. We continuously work to increase awareness and implement greater school choice freedom for all students." — **Post on X, New Jersey Chapter, Jan. 28, 2023**

Anti-Abortion Position

"We will always stand by the belief that every human has the right to life, and will uphold that against such inhumane practices. We wish to protect those who are unborn and not allow their lives to be cut short. We firmly advocate for policies that empower prospective mothers with the resources and support they need in order to defend the right to life for our weakest." — **Post on X, Jan. 23, 2023**



Hillsdale College

Hillsdale, MI

Revenue: \$366,000,000

Hillsdale College is a deeply conservative Christian private school. It was founded in 1844 by Free Will Baptists, but it has been officially non-denominational since its inception. The school says it has no required chapel and no institutional statement of faith that students must sign, while still framing itself as Christian.

The college enrolls roughly 1,500–1,600 undergraduates. Hillsdale College has built a substantial endowment. It has mushroomed from \$200 million in 2000, to about \$1.7 billion over two decades. In 2025, Hillsdale hired high-powered Washington lobbyists and used its MAGA friends in Congress to get an unethical carve-out, where it didn't have to pay taxes on its endowment, like more liberal universities.

Politico commented, "But Hillsdale stands apart from those schools: For one, it's a rare institution of higher learning that the modern Republican Party applauds."

In recent times, Hillsdale has been lauded by powerful Republican politicians as a national model for education. It is so strongly identified with Donald Trump's agenda, it might as well be referred to as MAGA U. The school has long been known for rejecting diversity and affirmative action, while enacting anti-LGBTQ policies. Hillsdale's sexual conduct doctrine stipulates it, "has always understood morally responsible sexual acts to be those occurring in marriage and between the sexes."

The university made national headlines in 2023 when Florida Governor **Ron DeSantis** singled out Hillsdale as the paradigm he wanted to replicate for state schools. Trying to make a bold statement in his anti-woke campaign, DeSantis zeroed in on transforming the progressive New College of Florida.

In a speech to Florida homeschooling families, DeSantis described his overhaul of New College, saying its mission was being refocused to become "the top publicly funded classical liberal arts college in America, similar to, like, Hillsdale College and some of these other places."



Like a wrecking ball, DeSantis systematically demolished New College of Florida. He appointed six new right wing extremist trustees which explicitly invoked Hillsdale. One of the six appointees is controversial activist **Christopher Rufo**, dean at Hillsdale and senior fellow at right-wing think tank The Claremont Institute—both Project 2025 Advisory Board members.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education wrote:

Rufo joined DeSantis when he signed the Parental Rights in Education Act, referred to by critics as the 'Don't Say Gay' bill.

On Jan. 7, Rufo posted on Twitter that public universities have "been corrupted by woke nihilism," and that he is ready to transform higher ed from the inside. Rufo said his plans were to recruit faculty, restructure the administration and academic departments, develop a new core curriculum, and eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies.

Speaking on the hostile takeover, DeSantis' Chief of Staff **James Uthmeier** stated: "It is our hope that New College of Florida will become Florida's classical college, more along the lines of a Hillsdale of the South". Likewise, Florida Education Commissioner **Manny Diaz Jr.** echoed that goal, saying New College should be remade "along the lines of a Hillsdale of the south".





When the “reformed” New College of Florida school year began, More than a third of the previous year’s faculty members had quit and about 125 students out of approximately 700 chose not to return. The New York Times reported:

One of the new leadership’s first acts was eliminating the college’s diversity office; soon after, the diversity chief and the academic librarian, both members of the L.G.B.T.Q. community, were fired.

The board of trustees’ faculty representative quit after five professors were denied tenure because of what [interim New College president Richard Corcoran] called a move toward “a more traditional liberal arts institution.” Some new administrators hired into top posts did not have a background in academia, but rather connections to Republican state politics.

The reconfigured board voted to abolish New College’s gender studies program, which one trustee called “more of an ideological movement” than an academic discipline. The school’s only full-time gender studies professor quit, writing in his resignation letter that Florida was “the state where learning goes to die.”

Gone are gender-neutral bathrooms, hallway art that in some cases featured nudity and student murals that had been completed in February and were expected to remain for several years. Student orientation leaders had to remove Black Lives Matter and Pride pins from their polo shirts. A student government election this week pitted a returning student against a new student backed by a newly formed campus chapter of the conservative organization Turning Point USA.

Similar to the New School debacle, DeSantis called for a public school program, Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative, to receive \$45 million in bonuses for teachers who take a civics curriculum class designed by Christian conservative Hillsdale College and the Heritage Foundation.



Some teachers who attended the program objected to its content, referring to it as “very skewed”. They were alarmed because it contains “a very strong Christian fundamentalist way toward analyzing different quotes and different documents.” The Miami Herald reported:

Those dynamics came into full view last week, when trainers told Broward teachers the nation’s founders did not desire a strict separation of state and church, downplayed the role the colonies and later the United States had in the history of slavery in America, and pushed a judicial theory, favored by legal conservatives like DeSantis, that requires people to interpret the Constitution as the framers intended it, not as a living, evolving document, according to three educators who attended the training.

“It is disturbing, really, that through these workshops and through legislation, there is this attempt to both censor and to drive or propagandize particular points of view,” said Richard Judd, 50, a Nova High School social studies teacher with 22 years of experience who attended the state-led training session last week.

A review of more than 200 pages of the state’s presentations shows the founding fathers’ intent and the “misconceptions” about their thinking were a main theme of the training. One slide underscored that the “Founders expected religion to be promoted because they believed it to be essential to civic virtue.” Without virtue, another slide noted, citizens become “licentious” and become subject to tyranny.

It's profoundly disturbing that today's conservative movement would see Hillsdale as a role model. The only thing the school is known for trailblazing is bigotry, discrimination and Christian fundamentalist indoctrination. It is a particularly unwelcoming school for LGBTQ students and faculty:

- The Princeton Review has repeatedly listed Hillsdale among the most "LGBTQ-Unfriendly" schools (e.g., #8 on the school's page of current rankings).
- Campus Pride's "Worst List" includes Hillsdale, citing a history of anti-LGBTQ language and the college's avoidance of Title IX obligations by forgoing federal aid.
- Hillsdale omits sexual orientation and gender identity from its nondiscrimination statement, and—because it declines government funding—isn't bound by federal Title IX LGBTQ protections.
- A 2023 New Yorker feature, "A Christian Liberal Arts School at the Heart of the Culture Wars", reported that while LGBTQ students attend Hillsdale, it's "almost impossible for them to form clubs," and relayed incidents where students felt pressure or social ostracism around LGBTQ identity.
- The civil-liberties group FIRE gives Hillsdale a "Warning" rating and notes that, under the college's written standards, administrators could refuse recognition to an LGBT-rights student group, which would also bar the group from using campus facilities. FIRE quotes Hillsdale's "between the sexes" guideline in that analysis.
- Hillsdale's public communications and events regularly promote traditional-marriage and anti-gender-ideology positions (e.g., lectures on drag-queen story hour; social posts opposing campus drag shows), reflecting the same commitments that appear in policy.
- After the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage, Hillsdale kept spousal benefits limited to heterosexual couples, with a senior administrator saying the ruling did not require policy changes at the private college.
- In 2015 a campus chaplain emailed the community soliciting prayers against same-sex marriage—calling it "evil." The college later said the email's tone did not represent its commitment to civil discussion.

Additionally, the Board-approved “Guidelines Regarding the Mission and Moral Commitments” state the college “has always understood morally responsible sexual acts to be those occurring in marriage and between the sexes,” and that the college “cannot...lend itself or its approbation to organizations or activities that contravene this commitment.” These guidelines are described as institutionally binding and drive student-conduct rules and institutional decisions.

The school also has a very strong anti-choice bent and favors activism to ban abortion:

- Hillsdale College for Life declares abortion “a moral evil” and details routine activism: monthly visits to pray at a Planned Parenthood, volunteering with a local pregnancy center, and organizing the annual trip to the March for Life. The college’s own press office touts these trips (e.g., 130 students traveled in January 2024).
- Hillsdale’s official channels repeatedly highlight March for Life trips and pro-life speakers/authors (e.g., Alexandra DeSanctis), reinforcing a campus climate where abortion is framed as a grave moral wrong.

Larry P. Arnn has served as the 12th President of Hillsdale College since May 2000. Before joining Hillsdale, he was president of the Claremont Institute, which is also on the Project 2025 Advisory Board. “Hillsdale will continue our devotion,” declared Arnn. “In that task we act at once as seekers of the truth, as creatures of the Almighty, and as citizens of the greatest Republic ever built.”

In fairness to Arnn, he deserves credit for supporting religious pluralism in America. In an Aug. 19 post on X, he wrote:

I appear to have made some people mad by saying a Christian nation is impossible. Let me propose another formulation that I have used often and for years: America is the most Christian nation because it recognizes the principle of religious liberty, which comes from the mouths of the Founders and of Jesus himself, when he says that His kingdom is not of this world. At Hillsdale we believe that Jesus is the Maker and Savior of all. We also believe with the Founders that no law is good that compels anyone to believe that. Laws that compel belief are what led to centuries of religious persecution and warfare in so-called Christian Europe.

One wonders why anyone who loves America would be opposed to Arnn’s words. Perhaps, it is time for Arnn to reconsider the crowd he runs with at Project 2025. They want our nation to become the very theocracy Arnn appears to abhor.

Controversies

Refusal of Federal Funding and Title IX Compliance

In the 1980s, Hillsdale was faced with a Supreme Court civil rights ruling that would've required universities to track admissions by race and bar sex-based discrimination in order to accept federal financial aid from students. Hillsdale refused to comply with Title IX regulations, arguing that it did not take federal funds .

In response, the school declared that it would no longer accept such assistance. However, the Department of Education argued that students receiving federal aid (like Pell Grants) effectively brought the college under federal jurisdiction. In *Grove City College v. Bell* (1984), the Supreme Court ruled narrowly that only the specific program receiving aid had to comply. Congress later passed laws expanding the reach of Title IX. Hillsdale responded by refusing to allow its students to accept federal aid and replaced it with privately funded financial aid.

Impeachment of College President George Roche (1999)

George Roche served as president from 1971 to 1999 and was credited with transforming Hillsdale into a national conservative institution. Roche resigned amid scandal when his daughter-in-law, Lissa Jackson Roche, committed suicide. She left behind a note alleging a decades-long affair with Roche, her father-in-law. The scandal rocked the college. Roche denied the affair but stepped down.



George Roche

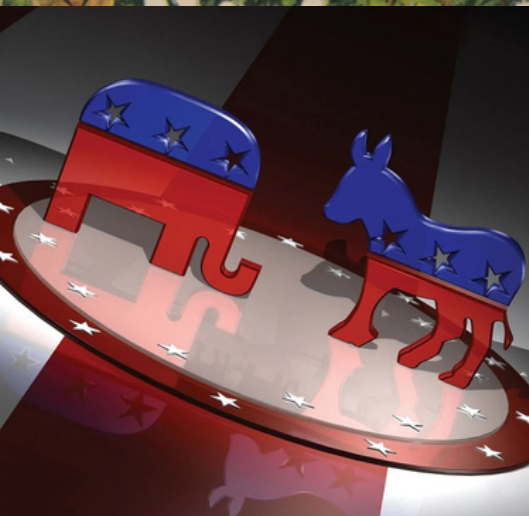
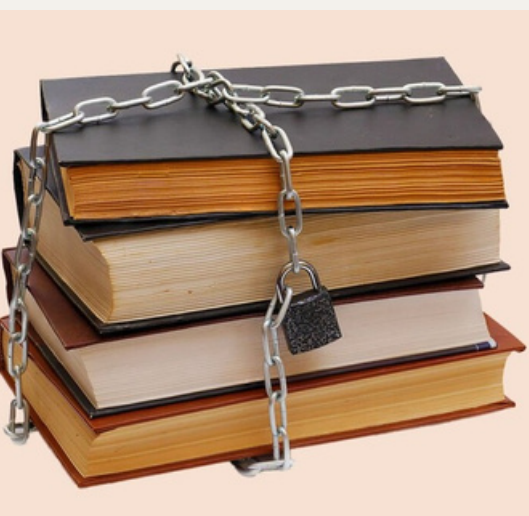
The incident remains a dark chapter in Hillsdale's history. Vanity Fair reported on the tawdry affair in March 2000:

For nearly three decades, the tall, handsome president of Hillsdale College, George Roche III, built his small Michigan school into a conservative bastion, drawing Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, William F. Buckley Jr., and other prominent right-wingers to its campus. But last fall Roche's daughter-in-law Lissa, who had helped him put Hillsdale on the map, claimed that they'd been having an affair for 19 years. Then she put a .357 magnum to her head and killed herself. Sam Tanenhaus explores Lissa's devotion to Roche, the wreckage of a family, and the disturbing reign of an all-too-powerful champion of Christian morality.

Controversial Statements by Larry Arnn, Current President

- In 2013, President Larry P. Arnn referred to minorities as "dark ones" in criticism of affirmative action, describing how state officials came to evaluate the racial diversity of Hillsdale's staff.
- In 2022, at a private event with Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Arnn mocked public school teachers and education departments, calling them "the dumbest part of the dumbest colleges."





Influence on Public Education Policy

Hillsdale has been influential in promoting its conservative "1776 Curriculum" created to counter the New York Times' 1619 Project. Opponents argue the curriculum downplays slavery, promotes American exceptionalism uncritically, and advances a right-wing political agenda. Critics also see Hillsdale's influence in campaigns to restrict how race and gender are taught in public schools. The commission, a vehicle for indoctrination, was widely criticized by historians for lacking scholarly rigor and for political motivations. Hillsdale obviously blurred the lines between education and partisan ideology.

Quotes

2013

"Dark Ones" Comment

"The state of Michigan sent a group of people down to my campus, with clipboards... to look at the colors of people's faces and write down what they saw. We don't keep records of that information. What were they looking for besides dark ones?" — **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

Context: During a 2013 legislative hearing in Michigan, while criticizing state evaluations of diversity. Michigan House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel condemned Arnn's remarks, calling them "offensive," "inflammatory," and "bigoted," and demanded an apology.

2022

Comments on Teacher Education

"The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." — **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

"In colleges, what you hire now is administrators... Now, because they are appointing all these diversity officers, what are their degrees in? Education. It's easy. You don't have to know anything."

"You will see how education destroys generations of people. It's devastating. It's like the plague."

"Here's a key thing that we're going to try to do. We are going to try to demonstrate that you don't have to be an expert to educate a child because basically anybody can do it."

Context: In June 2022, Arnn made this comment at a private event in Tennessee with Governor Bill Lee.





2025

Cracker Barrel Logo

"Cracker Barrel just offended its massive core customer base. Why?"

— Retweet on X, Aug. 21, 2025

Context: Cracker Barrel suffered a \$94 million loss in value after a rebrand sparked outrage among Donald Trump's MAGA base. The new logo, which removed the iconic seated man in overalls, was widely criticized by supporters as "woke" and "boring". Prominent MAGA figures, including Congressman Byron Donalds and Donald Trump Jr., publicly condemned the change, associating it with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.



Gen Z Turning towards tradition

"In our conversation, [Larry Arnn with Michael Knowles] [we] explored the promising signs among Gen Z, who, contrary to prevailing cultural currents, are eager to root themselves in tradition and the permanent things. We observed that this young generation's hunger for truth and order suggests a welcome return to the foundations that sustain and must sustain civilization." — Post on X, July 15, 2025



Honest Election Project (aka The 85 Fund and the Judicial Education Project)

Fort Worth, TX

Revenue: \$143,383,583

Upon visiting the Honest Election Project's (HEP) website, one is greeted with the cynical catchphrase: "It Should Be Easy To Vote, And Hard To Cheat". We can chalk this up to either projection or deception, with this undemocratic organization working tirelessly to make voting more onerous and Republican cheating more ubiquitous.

The New Republic deftly summed up the chicanery of HEP/85 Fund:

The 85 Fund represents some of the darkest money on the American political scene. The donors behind it are committed to weaponizing the political process against democracy and seem equally committed to their right to remain anonymous. One way they achieve this goal is by shuffling money around a network of interlocking groups.

The Honest Election Project—formerly the 85 Fund and the Judicial Education Project--was co-founded by notorious right wing activist **Leonard Leo** and megadonor **Neil Corkery** in 2011. Leo has established himself as a fundamentally corrupt and personally extravagant right wing Sugar Daddy ever since he received a whopping \$1.6 billion donation in 2023.

"Leonard Leo's new lavish lifestyle appears to be his reward for helping anonymous right-wing billionaires capture our Supreme Court," Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said in a statement to The New Republic.



Politico reported:

Leo's personal wealth appears to have skyrocketed. Leo bought a second home, a \$3.3 million mansion in Mount Desert, Maine. The affluent seaside village is a haven for a number of heirs to Gilded Age oil, industrial and banking barons like the Rockefellers and Morgans. The seller was an heir to chemical giant W.R. Grace chairman and CEO J. Peter Grace.

Meanwhile, in 2021, the same P.O. Box used to purchase Leo's first mansion was used to buy another home about a mile away in Mount Desert for \$1.65 million. This one was purchased from an heir to the financier and philanthropist Richard K. Mellon.

Leo also acquired a wine locker at Morton's Steakhouse and hired the chief steward at the Trump International Hotel as his wine buyer, according to the book, "Supreme Ambition."

The New Republic points to some eyebrow-raising conflicts of interest:

Leo is not listed as an officer, board member, or member of the staff of the 85 Fund. Why is he not in charge of the fund whose grants and direction he appears to control? It may have something to do with the fact that Leo's own for-profit firm, Creative Response Concepts/CRC Advisors, receives huge payouts from the same fund.

NPR found that the HEP (85 Fund) "has federal tax-exempt status, millions of dollars in donations and spending that are hard to trace." The New Republic revealed it "distributed \$134 million, largely to reactionary political causes in 2022."

Jason Snead is the shadowy group's executive director. He formerly was a senior policy analyst that helped maintain The Heritage Foundation's disingenuous voter fraud database. The Guardian found:

Heritage Foundation...curates an "election fraud database". It claims to expose the errors, omissions and mistakes made by election officials, but it presents incomplete and misleading information and underscores how exceptionally rare fraud is within the US system.

Its records stretch back 40 years, a period in which billions of votes have been cast. Yet the database records only 1,402 "proven instances of voter fraud" – a "molecular fraction" of votes cast nationwide, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

The organization's latest crusade is opposing ranked-choice voting, which HEP derides as, "a disruptive, unnecessary electoral system, designed to place second or third-rank candidates in office."

While pretending to be on the side of American citizens, HEP is working to sabotage democracy. It is a dangerous organization that is the enemy of voters, leveraging millions of dollars in secret money to lie about "election fraud" and diminish voting rights.



Controversies

Promotion of the Independent State Legislature Theory

HEP has advocated for the independent state legislature theory, a legal doctrine suggesting that state legislatures have exclusive authority over federal election laws, free from intervention by state courts or constitutions. Thankfully, the Supreme Court rejected this outlandish idea in June 2023. The Brennan Center for Justice wrote of the ruling:

Sanity prevailed today at the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Moore v. Harper*, six justices issued a near total rejection of the "independent state legislature theory" — a bogus and ahistorical reading of the Constitution that would have stripped important checks and balances out of federal election administration and opened the door wide to extreme partisan gerrymandering and voter suppression.

Opposition to Mail-In Voting and Voter Roll Purges

In the lead-up to the 2020 elections, HEP launched a \$250,000 advertising campaign opposing mail-in voting, citing concerns over voter fraud. The group also sent letters to election officials in states like Colorado, Florida, and Michigan, urging them to purge voter rolls based on claims of inaccuracies. These undemocratic actions were intended to suppress voter turnout.

Funding and Dark Money Allegations

The 85 Fund has been scrutinized for its financial practices, particularly its receipt of substantial anonymous donations funneled through donor-advised funds like DonorsTrust. In 2020, The 85 Fund reported over \$65 million in revenue, raising concerns about the influence of undisclosed donors on its activities.



Financial Ties to Leonard Leo and CRC Advisors

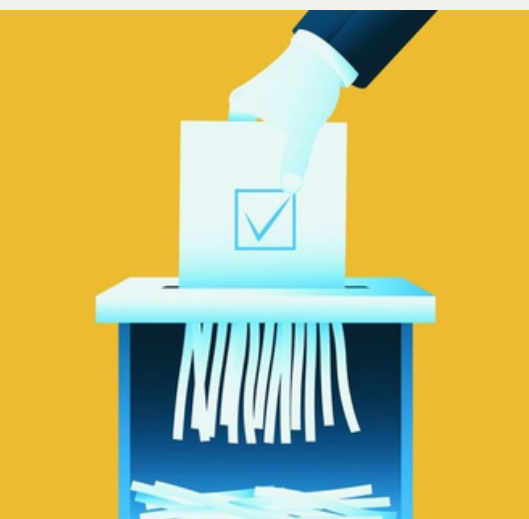
The 85 Fund has paid significant sums to CRC Advisors, a consulting firm chaired by conservative legal activist Leonard Leo. In 2021, The 85 Fund paid CRC Advisors \$21.7 million for public affairs consulting, leading to questions about potential conflicts of interest and the use of nonprofit funds.



Helped Donald Trump Try to Steal 2020 Election

In 2020, the Honest Elections Project submitted a legal brief in support of Pennsylvania's Republican Party, which unsuccessfully brought to the U.S. Supreme Court a case over whether a state court can extend the deadline for receiving mail ballots. Citing its authority under the state's constitution, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had ordered a three-day deadline extension to "prevent the disenfranchisement of voters" amid postal service delays during the COVID-19 pandemic's first year.





Quotes

2025

"Hotel check-in: 'Here's my ID.' Voting check-in: ID?' That's disenfranchisement!"
— **Post on X, Aug. 14, 2025**

"The claim that requiring Voter ID for mail-in ballots violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is absurd and disrespectful to voters. It's insulting to suggest people are capable of registering and mailing a ballot but somehow incapable of obtaining a state ID or Social Security card." — **Post on X, Aug. 6, 2025**

"Voters deserve final results on Election Day. Allowing ballots to be counted weeks after doesn't save anyone from disenfranchisement. It only creates more room for abuse, fraud, and cheating."
— **Post on X, Aug. 1, 2025**

Independent Women's Forum

Winchester, VA

Revenue: \$7,143,966

The Independent Women's Forum is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit front group where staunchly conservative women cosplay feminists to do the bidding of the anti-feminist right. Its 501(c)(4) branch, the Independent Women's Voice (IWW) is actively political. In 2019, IWF launched the Independent Women's Law Center (IWLC) as its legal arm.

IWF Board Chair and early Trump supporter **Heather Richardson Higgins** revealed in a speech to supporters that the group was "being branded as neutral, but actually having people who know that you're actually conservative puts us in a unique position." Clearly, IWF is a mendacious marketing campaign that "is taking a conservative message and packaging it in a way that will be acceptable," according to Higgins.

The problem is that once most women know the truth about IWF, they won't find its ideas acceptable or its vision palatable. Consider the organization's anti-woman stands on key issues:

IWF staunchly fought against the "Violence Against Women Act," (1994) maintaining that, "wives instigate violence, including severe violence, against husbands more often than husbands do against wives."

In 2012, when Congress was debating the Paycheck Fairness Act, which sought to ban discriminatory pay discrepancies between men and women, IWF opposed it. The group wrote, "Americans should reject more than just unnecessary, big government proposals like the Paycheck Fairness Act, but the entire War on Women mantra."

"Independent" is a PR term these groups use to appeal to women while pushing corporate-backed policies or extreme candidates that actually make things harder for working women and their families," asserted the Center for Media and Democracy (CMD). "Our investigation showed that Higgins uses IWW's independent brand name... and spends money to help anti-choice extremists."



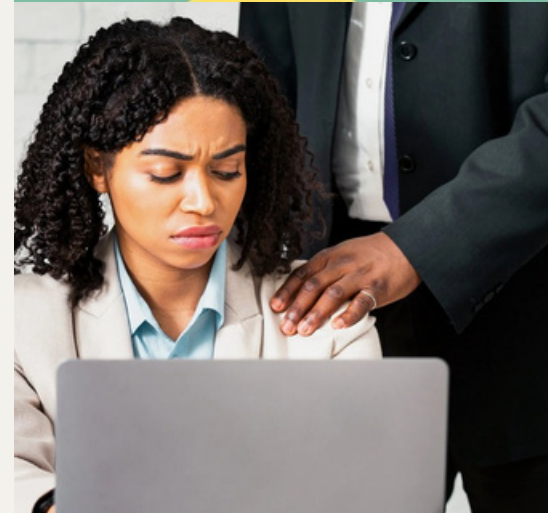
The CMD continued: "The Independent Women's Forum routinely attacks policies popular with many women, like equal pay, earned sick leave, and raising the minimum wage, as well as Title IX and protections for battered women."

DeSmog notes, to no one's surprise, that the duplicitous IWF:

Came out of Women for Judge Thomas, a coalition that formed to support George W. Bush's Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas who had been accused of sexual harassment. After Thomas's successful appointment, the group disbanded and reformed as WIN (Women's Information Network) which in turn founded the Independent Women's Forum in 1992.

While purporting to support women's health, IWF has been a proud shill for the cigarette lobby. In a 1999 fundraising grant request to tobacco giant Philip Morris, IWF wrote a shockingly honest pitch:

"Philip Morris has been a friend to IWF in the past for good reason. (Two years ago you gave us a \$15,000 grant.) After all, who 'ya gonna call when you need a sensible, intelligent woman's voice? Your yearly support can keep us competitive in the marketplace of ideas. For this important junk science project, please help with a gift of \$20,000 to underwrite our work in the press to counter the nonsense and stifle the litigation frenzy. You just might have a team member that can make the difference."





Todd Akin

IWF also funneled \$67,242 into the campaign of Republican Missouri U.S. Senate candidate **Todd Akin**. They did so following Akin's infamous quote on August 19, 2012 that rape victims were unable to be impregnated because "if it's legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

In 2016, *The Nation* wrote that IWF were "the feminists doing the Koch Brother's dirty work." The article states:

IWF and its political arm, Independent Women's Voice, have become aggressive players in Republican politics, embedded in the network of organizations backed by Charles and David Koch, advocating for the Koch brothers' myriad concerns, and playing on their "independent" label to elect GOP candidates.

Higgins has turned her Twitter feed into a running defense of Trump, praising his call to "Second Amendment people" to "do something" about Hillary Clinton as "brilliant," defending his claim that calling President Obama the "founder" of ISIS was sarcasm, and attacking Trump's detractors. Remarkably, Trump just made IWF board member Kellyanne Conway his campaign manager.

Under Higgins, IWF and IWV joined the cadre of right-wing players devoted to blocking Obama's agenda, particularly the Affordable Care Act. IWF produced and ran an ad charging that the ACA would hurt women with breast cancer, for instance. That ad was called "really faulty" by the American Cancer Society and drew a "false" rating from Factcheck.org.



IWF argued in the 1990's that integrating women into the formerly all-male Virginia Military Institute would "cripple national defense." More recently, IWF figures have claimed the problem of campus sexual assault is overstated, pushing back on the "one-in-five" women sexual-assault statistic as "misleading".



In August 2025, IWF promoted eliminating universal vaccination. The group is also in the forefront of promoting de-transitioners—which are people who are dissatisfied with their gender transition and take steps to reverse it. Opposing gender affirming care for teenagers is a significant part of IWF's current activism.



In an article titled, "The Female Face of Men's Misogyny", MS Magazine wrote that IWF was, "one of the right-wing groups rallying support for the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court—even in the midst of his own #MeToo moment."

Insincerity, rather than independence, is what defines IWF. It is a cynical and misleading political vehicle that deploys right wing women to advocate for policies wanted by staunchly conservative men.

Carrie Lukas is the president of Independent Women's Forum.



Controversies

Opposition to Title IX Enforcement

IWF has consistently opposed the enforcement methods of Title IX, a federal law prohibiting sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs. The organization has argued against what it perceives as quota-driven approaches, particularly concerning women's participation in athletics.

Anti-Transgender Initiatives

In 2022, IWF and its affiliate, Independent Women's Voice (IWW), promoted a "Women's Bill of Rights" (WBOR), which sought to define legal terms like "woman" and "mother" based on biological sex. Critics viewed this as an effort to exclude transgender individuals from certain legal protections. Documents revealed that IWW allocated nearly \$6 million to promote anti-transgender messaging in ten swing states during the 2022 midterm elections.

Litigation Against Title IX Revisions

In April 2024, IWF, alongside female athletes, college students, parents, and state attorneys general, filed a lawsuit challenging the Biden administration's proposed changes to Title IX. The revisions aimed to expand protections against discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, but IWF contended that these changes undermined the original intent of Title IX and compromised women's rights.

Defense of Public Figures Accused of Misconduct

IWF has defended individuals accused of sexual misconduct. Notably, the organization originated from a group supporting Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas during his 1991 confirmation hearings, where he faced allegations of sexual harassment from Anita Hill.



Campaign Against E-Cigarette Regulations

IWF lobbied against the Food and Drug Administration's proposed ban on flavored e-cigarettes, which are popular among underage users. The organization downplayed concerns about teen vaping, despite evidence of rising nicotine addiction among adolescents. IWF did its advocacy without disclosing that the group was underwritten by vaping companies. Hiding such a major conflict of interest is unethical and at odds with the morals this group claims to represent.



Opposition to the Violence Against Women Act

IWF lobbied against the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, claiming that "wives instigate violence, including severe violence, against husbands more often than husbands do against wives."



Climate Change Education

The organization opposed the teaching of global warming in public schools, labeling it as "junk science." IWF formed groups like "Balanced Education for Everyone" and "Mothers for Educating with Sound Science" to challenge mainstream climate science education.



Quotes

1997

"Like so many projects of the feminist agenda, the battered women's movement has outlived its useful beginnings." — **A 1997 IWF Women's Quarterly article, "It's Always His Fault", by Sally Satel on domestic abuse**

2002

Opposition to the Violence Against Women's Act: It would, "do nothing to protect women from crime" but would "perpetuate false information, waste money and urge vulnerable women to mistrust all men."

Context: The IWF made these inflammatory and false statements in an article on its website entitled, "Violence Against Taxpayers"

2010

Climate Change disinformation campaign

In 2010 the group launched a "Balanced Education for Everyone" initiative to stop "alarmist" global-warming curricula. IWF argued it wanted "another perspective" taught because it "thinks global warming is 'junk science' and that teaching it is unnecessarily scaring schoolchildren." The campaign described standard climate science education as "alarmist global warming indoctrination."

In a related press release timed for Earth Day, then-IWF President Michelle Bernard warned that children were being subjected to "terrifying lectures on global warming" presented as settled science. "That's just not the case," she said, calling Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and similar films erroneous and alarmist. Bernard argued it was "wrong for schools to try to scare our children" without offering climate-change skeptics' views.

2012

Assailing a student over contraception coverage

“The absurdity of women, under the banner of feminism, who want to be seen as independent as they try to force other people to pay for their choices and lifestyle.”

— **IWF’s then-managing director Carrie Lukas.**

Context: During the 2012 furor over law student Sandra Fluke’s congressional testimony on birth-control coverage, IWF attacked Fluke after Rush Limbaugh infamously called her a “slut.” Lukas argued that painting oneself as a victim for having to buy one’s own contraception...“is pretty difficult to mesh with the idea of true independence.”

2013

Pro-Ar-15 and against gun control: In Senate testimony (Jan 2013) amid gun violence debates, IWF senior fellow Gayle Trotter testified that an AR-15 rifle in the hands of a mother defending her home offers “peace of mind.” The AR-15, Trotter told the panel, is “a defense weapon” for women. She further claimed, “guns make women safer,” calling firearms “the great equalizer” and suggesting bans on high-capacity magazines would especially disadvantage women

2016

A disingenuous organization reveals its true colors

“Our value here and what is needed in the Republican conservative arsenal is a group that can talk to those cohorts [women who are not Republican conservatives] that would not otherwise listen but can do it in a way that is taking a conservative message and packaging it in a way that will be acceptable.” — **Heather Richardson Higgins, Board Chair of the Independent Women’s Forum**

2024

Elevating trans issues in the 2024 elections: “All issues are women’s issues, and women know that this election will impact ... whether women will be able to have women-only sports, opportunities, and female-only spaces of their own.” -- **Carrie Lukas, president of IWF**

“This is not a vibes election. This election is the difference between whether children get to grow up as innocent children, or be baptized by the government in gender ideology in schools, sports, hospitals, and therapy sessions. ... They deserve single-sex spaces.” — **May Mailman, director of Independent Women’s Law Center**

2025

IWF claiming New Mexico pushing ‘gender ideology’

“The report is part of the organization’s multi-faceted state sunlight project designed to highlight how New Mexico policies clash with public opinion and are actively undermining parental rights and harming children. New Mexican elected officials are pushing radical gender ideology on minors—saying that they can change sexes, encouraging drugs and surgery in the service of this lie, and leading them to irreversible physical and psychological consequences.” — **From the IWF report, “Identity Crisis: The Disjointed Reality in New Mexico”**

“Children deserve to grow up intact. Transition abuse for minors is leaving a generation of young people with irreversible harm. Independent Women Ambassador Soren Aldaco is fighting for change.” — **Post on X, Aug. 28, 2025**

“Women Leaving the Traditional Workforce Is Not Necessarily a Bad Thing. Women’s lives go through many phases: The career phase should not be what solely defines us.” — **IWF post on X, Aug. 29, 2025**



Institute for Education Reform

Ardmore, PA/Springfield, VA

Revenue: \$250,000

The Institute for Education Reform appears to be a sham organization. It's an astroturf enterprise designed to bash public teacher's unions. However, its impact on public policy and public discourse have been minimal.

It's an open question whether IER is still operational or is now defunct. The organization dismantled its Twitter/X account, with its last Tweet April 15, 2025. Truth Wins Out reached out to contact emails listed on its website (press@reformededucation.us and matt.buckham@reformededucation.us) and both bounced.

In September 2025, Education Secretary **Linda McMahon** launched her Orwellian patriotic education civics program, in conjunction with 40 right wing organizations, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. Notably, the Institute for Education Reform was not among the groups, which included many on the Project 2025 Advisory Board.

Given that this organization is dedicated specifically to education, it is a mystery why it was not one of the groups chosen by Secretary McMahon. This lends more credence to our hypothesis that the group has shut down.



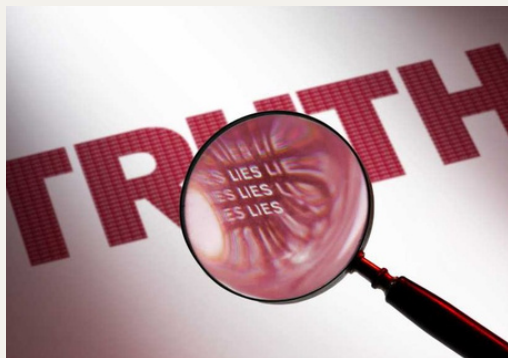
The website for this enigmatic organization was registered by its Secretary and Treasurer **Bill Hillman**. It is unclear what connection he has to education. However, Hillman owns a carpentry business in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, which in today's extreme right is enough to make one qualified to attack and dismantle public education. According to his website:

Bill Hillman: As a father and a business owner, I know first-hand that any change is disruptive. Your renovation shouldn't be. Hillman Carpentry specializes in the three "R's" of home ownership - Renovations, Restorations and Remodeling.

While the group doesn't publicly do much of anything, it does provide a healthy annual salary of \$111,125 for Executive Director **Matthew Coleman**. He claims to work 40 hours per week in IRS filings. Based on his paltry output, we can only assume he's as slow as molasses and a rather meticulous sort, when it comes to pursuing personal labor. There is no information on IER's donors, but the organization took in a cool quarter million dollars.

It's astounding that the Heritage Foundation would recruit such an underachieving entity to serve on Project 2025's Advisory Board. It speaks to the right wing's shallow vetting, low expectations, and lack of the most basic professional standards.

IER likely was selected to the Advisory Board because of its link to the group's former president, **Matt Buchham**. He once worked for the Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) and is currently serving as Health and Human Service Secretary Robert F. Kennedy's White House liaison, as well as overseeing recruitment of political appointees within the agency. Buchman also previously held positions with the Heritage Foundation and the American Accountability Foundation.



The most notable activity from IER is a March 14, 2025, op-ed in the Tennessee Star by the organization's Chair, **Kurt Christensen**. In this anti-union screed, Christensen chastises mainstream Republicans, saying they are fake Republicans, and "are actually in fact Democrats, wolves in sheep's clothing." In the op-ed Christensen wrote:

The Legislatures need to be made to vote on controversial bills that separate the sheep from the goats. In Tennessee, the school choice bill had gone down to defeat in earlier years. But names were taken and the actions of those siding with the radical teachers' union were exposed to the public, leading to many replacements.

In the 2025 sessions of Legislatures we have pushed for real reforms that take power away from teachers' union bosses. We have sided with those that want to see real reform, not phony pretend changes on the margins.

And this is what we have learned. Until the RINOs, and teachers' union advocates in GOP-clothes are replaced, nothing serious will happen. Only the aggressive actions like the steadfast leaders in Utah and Tennessee can bring about real change for the better and that can only happen by kicking [SIC] hornet's nest every day.

IER was active in Oklahoma in 2024 to promote Senate Bill 1513, which would "keep districts from requiring or coercing teachers into engaging with unions, or giving preferential treatment towards any one union." IER appears to have worked on this issue with lobbyist Jedidiah "Patriot" Cochran, a partner in the Tulsa-based Capital Ventures Government Relations. Jedidiah went to Oral Roberts University and lists his pronouns as "Masculine".

The Bill passed the Oklahoma Senate with a 28-14 vote on March 7, 2024. Nevertheless, it never became law after failing 74-14 in the Oklahoma House on April 25, 2024.

In January 2023, IER sent out a press release backing House Resolution 174, the "No Federal Funding for Teacher's Unions Act." The proposed legislation "aims to prohibit labor organizations of education professionals from receiving federal funds."

In support of this effort, IER created a caustic petition, stating "Government Unions Shouldn't exist:

Stand with other citizens, parents, and teachers who want to put an end to government teacher unions and return the focus back to teaching and educational outcomes for your children.

Quotes

"Sign the petition now if you agree it is time to put an end to politics using your kids as puppets for their greed and power." — **IER Petition**

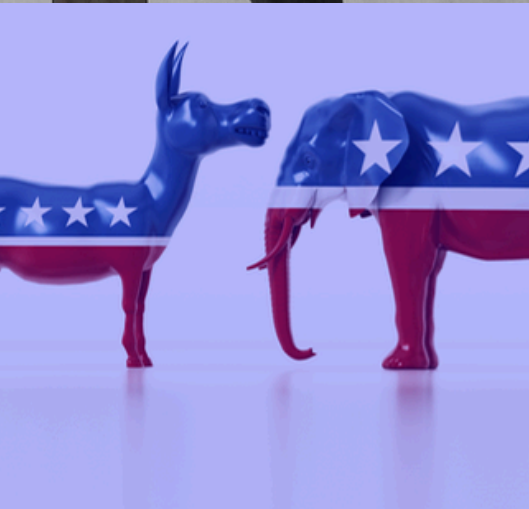
"You can take action by signing the petition to stop Government Teacher Unions from hijacking our political process." — **IER Petition**

"Government unions should not be taking hard earned money out of teachers [SIC] paychecks to pay for their political elections. Government unions should not be putting one party's political priorities ahead of what is best for your children." — **IER Petition**

"Many members of State Legislatures who refer to themselves as 'Republicans' or even 'Conservatives' are actually in fact Democrats, wolves in sheep's clothing." — **Op-ed in the Tennessee Star, Kurt Christensen, IER Chair**

"As the nation has become more divided, those forces looking to drag their feet or outright stop meaningful reforms have simply thrown away their 'Democrat' labels and run for office as Republicans. This duplicitous move has been backed up by the whole structure of the Left with the NEA teachers' union as the primary vehicle to install false members into office." — **Op-ed in the Tennessee Star, Kurt Christensen, IER Chair**

"The Legislatures need to be made to vote on controversial bills that separate the sheep from the goats. In Tennessee, the school choice bill had gone down to defeat in earlier years. But names were taken and the actions of those siding with the radical teachers' union were exposed to the public, leading to many replacements. That same exact formula was utilized in Texas with the same positive result." — **Op-ed in the Tennessee Star, Kurt Christensen, IER Chair**



"The institute strives for the outright banning of all public sector employee collective bargaining and thus the ensuing collection of compulsory dues that warp the fabric of government by shutting out taxpayers from decision-making."

— [IER Website](#)

"GOVERNMENT UNIONS SHOULD NOT EXIST. Public service should focus on serving the public good and those that enter it should be in the business of serving. Government jobs were never meant to hold the public – its families, children, and society hostage." — [IER Website](#)

"Americans should get an accountable and manageable government workforce, not one that teaches kids how to hate themselves while bankrupting our government to ensure they are never fired for bad work. — [IER Website](#)

"We believe that taxpayer money should be directed towards improving the quality of education for our students, not funding teachers' unions," said a spokesperson for IER. — [Press Release](#), Jan. 10, 2023

Oklahoma teacher unions shocked to consider that public schools exist for more than dues collection and member recruitment. — (X post, April 15)

Once again, teacher unions ignore parents to push radical social agendas. It's about power, not education. — (X post, Feb. 27)



Institute for Energy Research (IER)

Washington, DC

Revenue: \$2,295,957

The Institute for Energy Research is a bogus Astroturf organization tightly aligned with Koch Industries. If the group were honest its slogan would be, “we are a shill for shale and always for sale”.

IER exists to create doubt around climate change by downplaying the dangers and producing bogus studies to support the petroleum industry. It’s a radical organization that not only rejects green energy but also rejects Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, that ended economic hardship for millions of Americans in the 1930’s.

Tragically, the Trump administration has gone to war with critically important efforts to slow climate change. It has attacked windmills, allowed China to dominate the electric battery market, and serves as a giddy cheerleader for the production of damaging fossil fuels. This includes overthrowing Venezuelan dictator **Nicolas Maduro** to secure his notoriously dirty oil reserves for the United States.

Public Citizen reported that Donald Trump has placed dozens of people with ties to the fossil fuel sector in his administration, including more than 40 who have directly worked for oil, gas or coal companies.

However, just because this reckless regime has put climate mitigation efforts on the backburner doesn’t mean the continued burning of oil and coal won’t have catastrophic consequences. Despite all of the horrendous actions Trump has taken—such as weakening democracy, the endemic corruption, empowering the ICE goon squad, and destroying our global alliances—historians might conclude that the president’s most destructive act was deliberately accelerating climate change.



Before we further explore IER's nefarious efforts, it's critically important to remind people of what's at stake:



United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres** warned us of, "...the dangerous and existential threat of climate change," highlighting extreme weather and carbon spikes.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said, "We should make no mistake – climate change is an imminent threat to the health of our planet, our livelihoods, our well-being, and all other species sharing this world with us."

According to the World Wildlife Fund, "Our climate is changing faster than ever ... threatening crops, wildlife, and freshwater supplies."

Even the Pentagon recognized the threat of climate change, acknowledging, "Climate change is an existential threat to our nation's security ... the Department of Defense must act swiftly and boldly."



It is vital to understand that IER was selected as part of Project 2025 for its amorality. It has no compunction about whitewashing facts, spewing disinformation, and undermining alternative energy. Its goal is not to save your family from the ravages of environmental degradation, but to make petroleum executives wealthier at your family's expense.



The group's latest campaign slogan is "Blue States, High Rates", which is used as a dishonest cudgel to create the untrue impression that citizens must choose between making ends meet and curtailing the effects of climate change. It's exploiting populism to promote pollution.

Koch Connection

In 2014, Republic Report found that the Institute for Energy Research was founded as a Big Oil and petrochemical front group by controversial industrialist **Charles Koch**, who is worth an estimated \$73.8 billion.

In October of 1984, Charles, then using a Menlo Park, California address founded a non-profit called the Institute for Humane Studies of Texas. That organization briefly lost its charter in 1989 for failure to pay the Texas state franchise tax. Four years later, incorporation documents reveal, the group rebranded as the Institute for Energy Research, or IER, which later formed a subsidiary called the American Energy Alliance.

Charles' group, IER/AEA, has fought to protect special tax breaks that benefit fossil fuel producers. Along with issuing press releases against various federal efforts to eliminate oil and gas industry tax credits, IER/AEA commissioned a study claiming that such tax reforms would have an adverse effect on jobs and on oil production.

In other words, IER is in the business of gaslighting for oil and gas interests. DeSmog reported on the shady players behind this shifty front for fossil fuels:

IER's founder and CEO is **Robert L. Bradley Jr.**, former Director of Policy Analysis at Enron. Bradley worked for over 16 years at Enron, also working as the speechwriter for Kenneth L. Lay, and wrote "Renewable Energy: Not Cheap, Not 'Green'" (Cato Institute, 1997) where he voices his opposition of green energy.

Bradley has worked with a range of free market think-tanks including the Cato Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Institute of Economic Affairs in London, Center for Energy Economics, and the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University.



Charles Koch



Robert L. Bradley Jr.



IER also engages in partisan hackery, abusing its platform to disparage responsible officeholders who want to save the planet. For example, when Virginia rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in January 2026, IER pounced, writing on X:

Virginia Governor Spanberger's choice to rejoin RGGI is putting a short-term budgetary gain ahead of the long-term impact the compact has on electricity prices and Virginia's economic competitiveness.

The idea that RGGI-funded government subsidies for wind, solar, battery storage, and load-reducing programs will cover the costs of taxing fossil fuels doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

Of course, it's difficult to believe anything this dissembling organization says, considering it distorts studies, downplays climate science as "unsettled" and flippantly dismisses excess carbon dioxide in earth's atmosphere as "plant food".

Tom Pyle

Tom Pyle is the President of IER and its lobbying arm, the American Energy Alliance (AEA). Both organizations have received cash from numerous fossil fuel funders including ExxonMobil, Peabody Energy and Koch Industries. From 2001 to 2005, Pyle was Director of Federal Affairs for Koch Industries.

According to Politico:

Pyle regularly attends the mega-donor summits organized by the Koch brothers, including the 2012 winter summit in Indian Wells, Calif., where the Kochs raised more than \$150 million to be directed to groups ahead of the general election.



In late 2016, Trump appointed Pyle to head the Department of Energy transition team. In that role, Pyle created a 14-point memo, "What to Expect from the Trump Administration," which summarized energy policy suggestions that were congruent with the desires of the fossil fuel industry.

Controversies

Spanish Study Disinformation

In 2009, Gabriel Calzada, a professor at Spain's King Juan Carlos University, produced the "Study of the Effects on Employment of Public Aid to Renewable Energy Sources". The report claimed that every renewable energy job in Spain "destroyed" 2.2 jobs in the Spanish economy. The authors applied this ratio to the U.S. to show expected job losses from renewable energy development in America.

IER embraced and touted this flimsy study to attack renewable energy. The National Resources Defense Council points out that the Spanish study has been widely debunked as junk science. The study's author has "clear ties to Exxon Mobil". The conservative Wall Street Journal was even skeptical, writing, "... the study doesn't actually identify those jobs allegedly destroyed by renewable-energy spending."

The US National Renewable Energy Laboratory wrote a white paper that found, "The recent report from King Juan Carlos University deviates from the traditional research methodologies used to estimate jobs impacts ...The primary conclusion made by the authors - policy support of renewable energy results in net jobs losses - is not supported by their work."





Danish Study Distortion

In 2010, IER paid for the creation of a junk science study falsely claiming that Denmark embellishes the percentage of wind energy it creates and downplayed the effects wind-generated fuel has on carbon emissions.

The Copenhagen Post wrote of the con job, "A controversial report critical of the wind energy industry from conservative think tank CEPOS was commissioned and paid for by an American think tank with close ties to the coal and oil industries."



Sliming Green New Deal

In 2019, IER grossly disparaged the Green New Deal as an attack on liberty and free markets. In an article titled, "Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal", the alarmist organization wrote:

"The Green New Deal (GND) has brought the specter of full-blown government central planning into full view. But far from hedging, the Progressive Left has doubled down by declaring war on market capitalism, not just oil, coal and natural gas... Free speech, not only economic freedom, is at the crossroads to those who insist on climate peril and forced energy transformation... The energy/climate revolution must dispense with wrong thinking, this mindset believes. Expect the skeptic books to be lit on fire on the climate road to serfdom."



Shilling for XL Pipeline

For an organization that purportedly is interested in the environment, IER and AEA sure worked hard promoting the XL pipeline. In 2012, it launched a \$3.6 million ad campaign slamming then-President Barack Obama for opposing the controversial petroleum project. According to Politico:

The American Energy Alliance's ad campaign, which launches Friday in eight states, hammers Obama for his decision on the Keystone XL pipeline and recycles a 2008 quote from Energy Secretary Steven Chu about the benefits of European-level gas prices.

Lifestyles of Environmentalists Campaign

In 2014, IER ran an admittedly clever ad campaign pointing to the hypocrisy of celebrity environmentalists whose personal extravagance doesn't match their climate advocacy. The effort featured stars such as Madonna, Richard Branson and Leonardo DiCaprio. While their ads trenchantly reveal a "do as I say, not as I do" mentality among the elite, IER fails to highlight their own double standards. Where are their biting ads showing a supposed environmental group that exists as a cynical tool for Big Oil?





Quotes

2017

"Wind power is not only bird-killing, noise-polluting, eyesore-causing, cost-prohibiting and vegetative-decreasing, but its intermittency leads to periods of overproduction or power shortages that necessitate reliance on traditional technologies as back-up or on costly storage technologies." — **IER Report, Wind Turbines Reduce the Productivity of Surrounding Vegetation**

2019

"Both before and after the unveiling of the Green New Deal, the climate warriors have frontally attacked the very economic system and electorates that reject energy self-immolation." — **IER article, "Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal"**

"The Green New Deal (GND) has brought the specter of full-blown government central planning into full view. But far from hedging, the Progressive Left has doubled down by declaring war on market capitalism, not just oil, coal and natural gas." — **IER article, "Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal"**

"Free speech, not only economic freedom, is at the crossroads to those who insist on climate peril and forced energy transformation." — **IER article, "Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal"**



"The energy/climate revolution must dispense with wrong thinking, this mindset believes. Expect the skeptic books to be lit on fire on the climate road to serfdom." — **IER article, "Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal"**

"Expect a Green New Deal aiming to outlaw fossil-fuel usage to be a police state too, with self-interested actions towards cheaper, more reliable energies thwarting the central planners from Washington, D.C." — **IER article, What Was the Energy New Deal Anyway?"**



"It's slow-motion attack on wealth creation to subsidize the inefficient and a growing class of cronies would spiral the United States toward a present-day Venezuela. Indeed, the same intellectuals and politicians behind the Green New Deal are predisposed to a new social order that was supposed to come with Chavez/Maduro. A basic understanding of economics and history should lead to a rejection of both the actual New Deal and a prospective Green New Deal." — **IER article, What Was the Energy New Deal Anyway?"**

2026



"Governor Spanberger's choice to rejoin RGGI is putting a short-term budgetary gain ahead of the long-term impact the compact has on electricity prices and Virginia's economic competitiveness. The idea that RGGI-funded government subsidies for wind, solar, battery storage, and load-reducing programs will cover the costs of taxing fossil fuels doesn't stand up to scrutiny." — **IER article, Virginia Rejoins the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

"One year since President Trump took office, his administration, along with Congress, have taken over 250 actions to unleash America's energy potential."

— IER post on X

"I wonder if @GavinNewsom signed any more "bilateral" climate agreements with foreign nations while he was in Davos? How many is he up to now? Who is going to tell him he has no authority to set international climate policy?"

— IER President Tom Pyle, post on X.

"Venezuela is rich in critical minerals, including gold, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, rare earths, coltan, nickel, copper, zinc, tin, tungsten, and titanium — minerals important for defense and technological applications." — IER post on X

"Recent analysis from the Institute for Energy Research and Always On Energy Research finds that states with electricity prices above the national average are disproportionately Democratic-led states that rely on aggressive energy mandates."

— IER President Tom Pyle, op-ed in Boston Herald

"Energy affordability is sacrificed to advance climate policy. For most people, this debate comes down to one thing: what they pay each month to keep the lights on. Until more states move away from policies that treat expensive electricity as an acceptable tradeoff, millions of households and businesses will continue to pay the price for high energy costs as a deliberate political choice."

— IER President Tom Pyle, op-ed in Boston Herald

"Yes, we're always looking for converts, but it's a shame that Western governments (and private citizens) have diverted trillions in taxpayer resources away from alleviating poverty and human suffering in the name of curbing emissions. ?"

— IER President, Tom Pyle, post on X



Institute for the American Worker

Hamilton, VA

Revenue: \$1,034,211

The Institute for the American Worker (I4AW) is an Astroturf front group for Big Business. It purports to advocate for the working man and woman. Dig a bit deeper, however, and you will find that I4AW exists to “speak out against Big Labor rhetoric” to provide “workplace freedom”.

I4AW works against The Protecting the Right to Organize Act and promotes The Employee Rights Act (ERA), which would intimidate workers by requiring they meet with their bosses on unionization efforts so they could “hear from both sides.”

The organization strongly supports anti-union “Right to Work” laws, claiming that efforts to end R2W would, “take away protections in 26 right-to-work states that prevent unions from getting private sector workers fired for declining to pay union fees.”

The organization supported billionaire Elon Musk’s much-reviled Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) efforts to push out government workers, effectively ending their careers. According to a February 21, 2025 USA Today op-ed by I4AW’s president:

Someone’s doing some oppressing, all right. But it’s not Trump. It’s the government labor unions that tried to stop those 75,000 workers from making their own decision about what’s best for them.

I4AW underhanded efforts and sophistic use of language can only be described as Orwellian. This wolf in sheep’s clothing should not be trusted by American workers.

I4AW Leadership

The Institute for the American Worker was created in 2018. The organization’s president and co-founder, **F. Vincent Vernuccio** worked for two anti-labor presidential administrations. He served on the U.S. Department of Labor Transition Team for both Trump Administrations (2016-2017 and 2024-2025) and served in the George W. Bush Administration’s Department of Labor (2008-2009).



Jennifer Butler is the other co-founder and on the organization's Board of Directors. She works for "free market state-based think tanks" and is an advocate for "private property rights".

The group's Board Chair, **Terry Bowman**, worked to undermine the United Auto Workers Union. In 2010, he "started organizing union members who disagreed with the political activities of their union officials." In other words, he wanted the union to back right-wing politicians who were anti-labor. Bowman's bio states that, "he was one of the central figures in Michigan's successful 2012 Right to Work campaign.

Bowman was politically active with the Trump campaign, stating:

In 2016, he was asked to join the Michigan Donald Trump campaign as a volunteer co-chair with a focus on blue-collar/union voters. In 2019, Terry was elected by state delegates as the Co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party and was also chosen as the National Chair of the Workers for Trump coalition, promoting the President's message to working families and union workers around the country.

Nationally known right wing advocate Grover Norquist is on I4AW's Board. He is the president of Americans for Tax Reform. Norquist is best known for an infamous quote where he said, "I don't want to abolish government. I simply want to reduce it to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub."

His organization also helped skyrocket the deficit and degrade services because Republican candidates for office were forced to sign a pledge not to raise taxes. "Nobody should be able to raise your taxes, and if they do we should hold it against them," Norquist said.



Biased and Untrustworthy

Media Bias/Fact Check (MBFC) observes that "I4AW's content reflects a strongly anti-union stance," noting that the group emphasizes claims like "95 percent of union workers never voted for their union," to highlight a "perceived lack of democratic processes" in unions.

MBFC rates I4AW as “Right Biased” and notes a pattern of advocacy that favors a conservative-libertarian agenda while sometimes relying on partisan sources (like Fox News or the Daily Caller):

They may utilize strong loaded words (wording that attempts to influence an audience by using an appeal to emotion or stereotypes), publish misleading reports, and omit information that may damage conservative causes. Some sources in this category may be untrustworthy.

It’s clear that I4AW is a shifty organization that pretends to be pro-union while advocating for laws and policies that would disband them. It is a union busting front backed by conservative business interests.

Controversies

Anti-Union State Policy Network and Koch Industries

The Center for Media and Democracy (CMD) describes I4AW as part of a broader right wing State Policy Network (SPN) anti-union ecosystem. At a 2022 SPN conference in Atlanta: “Under the guise of ‘workplace freedom,’ anti-union activists from the Mackinac Center, Empire Center, Illinois Policy Institute, and Institute for the American Worker presented ‘new solutions to the country’s evolving workplace and union issues.’” According to CMD:

SPN and its members systematically spearhead attacks on unions and workers in statehouses and courtrooms nationwide with the goal of decimating the union movement. It also played a leading role in the 2018 Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME, which resulted in unions no longer being able to require members to pay “fair share” fees to cover the cost of bargaining for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

An email obtained from that working group obtained by CMD shows that ALEC is working in lockstep with the billionaire Charles Koch’s astroturf group Americans for Prosperity, the Koch-linked front group Independent Women’s Voice, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and longtime union foe F. Vincent Vernuccio’s the Institute for the American Worker to push out their messaging points and “collected stories and testimonials from workers affected by reclassification.”

IRS filing flags

ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer found that I4AW "reported conflict of interest transactions" and "operated a donor-advised fund" This is not definitive proof of misconduct, but common scrutiny triggers.

Right Wins Donors

For an organization that purports to stand on the side of workers, its funding comes from virulently anti-labor right wing hack foundations. These include Donor's Trust, Searle Freedom Trust, and Sarah Scaife Foundation.

Quotes

2023

"The core principle of the federal labor law is to provide employees with the freedom to choose whether they wish to be part of a union, devoid of any fear of retaliation or coercion. Neutrality agreements and especially card check deny employees that freedom."

— RealClear Markets, F. Vincent Vernuccio

2024

"When the Teamsters labor union declined on Sept. 18 to endorse a presidential candidate, the media quickly spun it as a loss for Vice President Kamala Harris. But the bigger losers are Teamsters members, the majority of whom have now been ignored by union leaders who claim to represent them. Republicans should seize this opportunity to strengthen outreach to union members, who are more aligned with the GOP than many realize." — Washington Examiner op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio



“Labor Day is the traditional start of the campaign season, which means labor unions will soon hold get-out-the-vote efforts among their members. Yet a new study from the Institute for the American Worker finds that 95.1% of private-sector union members never voted to join their union. Worse, unions are getting more unrepresentative. Based on one estimate, the percentage of private-sector union members who have voted in a unionization election at their workplace has declined by 2 points since 2009.



The lack of workplace democracy isn't an accident. As unions have acknowledged, they have sought to organize more workers through card check, a process by which they can pressure workers into supporting unionization. Card check—a public form of signature gathering—deprives employees of secret-ballot elections, which would allow them to express their preferences without fear of being ostracized.”

— **Wall Street Journal op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**



“What’s happening at Starbucks shows the end game is to give unions more power. Yet while unions win, workers lose — and so do the investors whose money is being used for political purposes.” — **New York Post op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**

“President Biden has put special-interest goals ahead of investors’ retirement goals, none more so than labor unions’. The unions that back him want to keep using other people’s money for their own purposes. Since Biden won’t protect workers or investors, the next president must.” — **New York Post op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**



2025

"Card check is a mechanism of union organizing where a union collects cards to unionize employees. It bypasses the protections of a secret ballot election and can lead to coercion and deception of workers." — **Vincent Vernuccio, Statement before the House Committee on Education and Workforce**

"Each of the 75,000 federal workers who took President Donald Trump's buyout offer had a reason for accepting it. But instead of defending their interests, the unions tried to stifle their freedom."

— **Vincent Vernuccio, USA Today op-ed**

"The unions claim to represent workers' interests and by law are given a monopoly to represent everyone on a job, but as my organization showed in a report last month, they're bargaining over many things that frankly don't matter to government employees and certainly are not an effective and efficient use of taxpayer resources."

— **F. Vincent Vernuccio, USA Today op-ed**

2026

"We believe that workers and families are best served by government policies that promote ample work opportunities and rising incomes without distorting labor markets through burdensome mandates and regulations."

— **I4AW website**

"Workers should have the right to vote in secret ballot elections so that they can express their true preference without outside influence. There should be free and robust debate during union organizing campaigns and workers should hear from both sides so that they can make informed decisions."

— **I4AW website**

"Government contracts should be granted based on efficiency, and selecting companies that provide the best product at the lowest cost, regardless of whether the company is unionized or not."

— **I4AW website**



The Institute for Women's Health

Washington, DC

Revenue: \$1,183,257

The Institute for Women's Health (IWH) ostensibly exists to create better medical outcomes for women. In reality, it is a trade group for religious extremists—mostly men—to subjugate women across the globe. Most cynically, IWH uses its female leadership as furtive fronts to create public policies that oppress other women by imposing Christian fundamentalism and restricting their personal choices.

IWH specializes in promoting forced births, by attending international women's conferences and working to end access to abortion. The organization aggressively globetrots, forging ties with conservative and authoritarian governments.

Most recently, it has focused on harming women, under the guise of providing healthcare, in Latin America and Africa. This includes meeting with leaders in Uganda, Chile and Paraguay.

IWH's leadership lives in a nostalgic 1950's fantasy land where abstinence-only education for teenagers is effective. The organization is a foe of contraception and promotes "sexual delay" for teenagers.

Promoting "sexual delay" is not, by itself, harmful. However, denying teenagers access to comprehensive sex education is unhelpful. In doing so, the group is likely an accelerant for sexually transmitted infections among schoolchildren, who they deliberately keep ill-informed of prophylactics.

IWH is probably a contributor to teenage pregnancies too, promoting sectarian-based ignorance over science-based sex education. In every meaningful way, IWH increases health risks by habitually choosing rigid ideology over personal safety.

For example, IWH's manipulative messaging creates doubt over whether women can receive a "safe abortion". In truth, the World Health Organization says abortion, "is very safe when carried out using a method recommended by WHO, appropriate to the pregnancy duration and by someone with the necessary skills."

Despite all evidence to the contrary, this partisan Project 2025 culture war battalion, closely aligned with The Heritage Foundation, states:

“The Institute for Women's Health exists to promote the highest attainable health and wellbeing for women throughout every stage of their lives and works to tackle the most pressing women's health issues through honest discourse, targeted action, and empowered alliances.”

IWH's word salad of insincerity translates into American evangelicals and western Christian fundamentalists colonizing global healthcare and disempowering women and teenage girls in developing countries. They offer “partnerships”, but what they really deliver is paternalism. Sadly, the most vulnerable women, in less powerful and wealthy nations, pay the consequences of IWH's hubris, ideological imperialism and sectarian certainty.

What most offends the senses, however, is how IWH wraps its agenda in unctuous concern for women. On its website, it shows a forlorn woman from Southeast Asia and writes, “Women suffer and die from preventable causes worldwide. Divisive agendas derail progress for optimal women's health.”

Seriously? Is there any more divisive organization in America, that peddles a hidden agenda, than The Institute for Women's Health? The raw cynicism and unbridled chutzpah are breathtaking!





Valerie Huber

If one browses IWH's promotional materials, the organization is seemingly innocuous and preoccupied with diseases that impact women. Underneath the fluff, however, IWH makes the specious argument that those advocating for abortion access are responsible for poor health outcomes. There is no evidence to back this up—and it is such toxic rhetoric that is the real distraction from helping women achieve better health and wellbeing.

The real goal of IWH can be found on its [website](#):

Faith, religion, and spirituality offer multifaceted benefits that align closely with enhancing women's, children's, and families' health and well-being...The intersection of faith, spirituality, and religion with mental and physical health is profound and multifaceted. As we continue to face global challenges and individual struggles, the nurturing role of faith-based communities and spiritual beliefs remains a cornerstone for resilience and well-being.

We have no problem whatsoever with this position. A healthy spirituality can improve health outcomes, in some circumstances. However, IWH exaggerates the benefits and would have more credibility if it designated itself a church, instead of dishonestly posing as a legitimate, science-based healthcare organization.

Valerie Huber, M.Ed., is the Founder and President of IWH. She served as the first U.S. Special Representative for Global Women's Health under the first Trump administration. Huber also served as U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Senior Policy Advisor, and Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Health.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism found, that while working for the Trump administration, “Huber made sweeping changes that led to the closure of some evidence-based family planning programmes.”

Unfortunately, Huber exploited her perch to “lay the groundwork” for the Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD) - a coalition of conservative nations committed to outlawing abortion globally. Huber and her approximately 40 GCD international partners—including the United States under Trump--stand together in, “agreeing there is no international right to abortion.”

Early in her career, Huber served as leader of the National Abstinence Education Association, which renamed itself “Ascend”. She also served as abstinence education coordinator for Ohio, overseeing abstinence programs serving over 100,000 students annually, according to the Associated Press.

In 2017, David Crary wrote in the AP:

Over the years, Huber established herself as one of the leading advocates of programs that stress the benefits of sexual abstinence, as opposed to comprehensive programs that include instruction about contraception. She has been particularly critical of the federally funded Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program created while Barack Obama was president and now targeted for elimination by President Donald Trump’s administration.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said of Huber’s selection by Trump in 2017: “It’s disappointing that President Trump continues to make appointments that put partisan ideology ahead of public health and science.”



Controversies

Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD)

A key goal of IWH is promoting The Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD). It is an international, nonbinding policy statement that explicitly rejects an “international right to abortion”.

Amnesty International said it believes the GCD endangers lives and flies in the face of human rights and decades of health research. “Any policy based on GCD is catastrophic for bodily autonomy and reproductive rights. We should all be concerned and watchful for what’s coming out of the US,” says Jamie Vernaelde, a senior researcher at reproductive justice NGO Ipas.

Approximately 40 nations support the GCD, including the United States under President Donald Trump. On October 2025 IWH received a gushing letter of support from Trump that said:

- This historic Declaration stands for the advancement of women’s health and opportunity, the protection of life, and the preservation of the family as the heart of a strong and resilient society.
- For 5 years, its members have worked together to advance these shared values and to ensure that global health efforts reflect a respect for life.
- I will never waver in protecting the sanctity of every human life. I will always be a voice for the voiceless and a defender of the most vulnerable among us.
- ...upholding the eternal truth that every person is created in the holy image and likeness of God...





Vice President **JD Vance** is also a staunch supporter of IWH, as he is with many Project 2025 organizations. On January 23, 2026, JD Vance gave a combative speech at the March for Life rally in Washington, DC:

"It's not our job as the United States of America to promote radical gender ideology. It's our job to promote families and human flourishing. That's why we've completely realigned U.S. foreign aid and turned off the tap for NGO's whose sole purpose is to dissuade people from having kids. It's why we rejoined the Geneva Consensus Declaration, to promote maternal health and strong families all over the world.

This is something we are so proud of. We are returning accountability to our foreign policy as well. Under Joe Biden, It was the policy of the United States to export abortion and radical gender ideology all around the world.

That is what they did with your tax money. They would relentlessly bully developing countries into parroting their far-left views. But under President Trump's leadership and with our great Secretary of State, we believe that every country in the world has the duty to protect life."



In June 2023 the Biden administration adamantly rejected GCD. Biden's Department of Health and Human Services slammed the underhanded effort in a Q&A:

Does the United States support the so-called Geneva Consensus Declaration?

No. The United States withdrew from the so-called Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD) in January 2021, and immediately notified GCD members.

The Trump Administration promoted a joint statement titled "The Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family" outside of the UN system, which arbitrarily quotes from various UN instruments on women, family, and life, including instruments the United States has not ratified.

The GCD promotes anti-LGBTQI sentiment and undermines women's health. The GCD is not a UN document and does not reflect consensus successfully achieved at the UN.

The declaration's narrow framing on "traditional" families fails to recognize the diversity of families that exist around the world and the many valuable roles women play across their lives, including as economic contributors. The Biden-Harris Administration remains concerned that the Geneva Consensus Declaration undermines UN multilateral efforts to advance gender equality and global health through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Not surprisingly, IWH's Valerie Huber declared, in an interview with Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts, "I would give the Biden administration a failing grade." Of course, the real failure is with Huber's duplicitous Geneva Consensus Declaration, which is nothing more than malice masquerading as medicine.

Unfortunately, the GCD is metastasizing under the Trump administration. In December 2025, The Guardian reported that Huber's goal is to reach 80 countries in the next three years, creating "an invincible force for women's health, strong families, and national sovereignty that no international pressure can break".

Authoritarian Hungary

IWH views autocratic Hungary as a healthy political and social model for the United States. In its deceptive “Women’s Optimal Health Framework” they write in a section on “Healthy Marriage and Family Relationships”, “Some governments, like Hungary, are providing incentives for couples to marry and have children.”

IWH presented its 2025 Distinguished Award of International Honor, to Hungary “for its exemplary service as GCD Secretariat”. **H.E. Péter Szijjártó**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, accepted the award on behalf of (Now Former) Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán**.

In 2023, Huber was a panelist at the second annual CPAC Hungary in Budapest. The topic of the event was “Nation’s First” and the speakers discussed “modern threats to national sovereignty”. For IWH, “sovereignty” is often strategically employed a euphemism for right wing nations that seek to abandon global standards for human rights and individual liberty.

In its noxious love affair with Hungary, IWH conveniently fails to mention that Hungary was, until his stunning rebuke by voters, controlled by oppressive dictator Viktor Orban, who is virulently anti-LGBTQ, has severely damaged independent media, curtailed checks and balances, and sabotaged Hungarian democracy. The Democratic Erosion Consortium wrote:

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán turned Hungary from a hopeful post-communist democracy into the first “illiberal democracy” since taking office in 2010. Originally rated “Free, Hungary is now only “Partly Free,” reflecting a consistent drop in political rights and civil liberties, Freedom House rates.

No responsible U.S. organization should laud the way Orban turned Hungary into a corrupt, backward nation, and view his now defeated regime as a positive example. Yet IWH believes that the dark, repressive Orban regime is a beacon of light the world should emulate. Indeed, it appears that Orban’s rejected paradigm for Hungary is the model IWH wants to impose on America.



Population Alarmists

In its “Women’s Optimal Health Framework” IWH engages in alarmist rhetoric on population decline. In the “Healthy Marriage and Family Relationships” section they write:

“Many countries are now facing a serious population decline that will limit their future productivity and survival. Couples who wish to have children should be supported by their nation and community. Early adult pregnancy is recommended before fertility decreases with increasing age.”

In truth, IWH is irresponsibly engaging in Cassandra-like language because it is pushing a narrow biblical worldview that commands, “Be fruitful and multiply.” They want as many children born as possible, the consequences—such as poverty, illiteracy, poor health outcomes and overpopulation--be damned.

This is especially true in a world that is suffering the effects of climate change, which is rapidly accelerating. A February 2026 Washington Post climate change analysis reported, “Global temperatures have been rising for decades. But many scientists say it’s now happening faster than ever before.”

Unfortunately, for the extremists at IWH, ideology always trumps what is in the best interest of individuals, families, America and civilization itself.



Unrealistic Sexual Expectations

IWH provides some positive information on teenage sexuality, seeking to help teenagers and parents navigate difficult subjects. However, it often presents a fairytale vision that is not necessarily realistic for most people. The group says it seeks to:

Promote standards encouraging committed sexual relationships with a trusted mature life partner. Commit to a caring, faithful marriage characterized by a satisfying and pleasurable sexual relationship.

At first blush that sounds great. But how many teenagers are going to find their spouse in middle school or high school, at the time when they reach puberty? The obvious answer is very few—so to promote “sexual delay” until a “trusted mature life partner is found” is a nice sentiment. But it is clearly at odds with the way the vast majority of people experience their relationship journey. (Not to mention that IWH pretends that LGBTQ people and their relationships don’t exist.)

If finding that special person was so easy, there wouldn’t be so many online dating sites. This includes companies like Christian Mingle, Christian Café and Christian Connection. Are those who don’t find true love at the onset of puberty doomed to virginity, loneliness, and sexual frustration until their 20s, 30s or possibly forever?



Comprehensive sex education is critically important because it recognizes the reality that teenagers are going to have sex. It's fine that IWH promotes "sexual delay". However, when people finally do have sex, it is imperative that they are fully educated.

Simply waiting for that special soulmate before having sex is great in theory. But if teenagers are sexually illiterate, the worldview of IWH can lead to gonorrhea and unwanted babies that teenagers can't afford in the real world.

Sadly, IWH and its global partners don't care about the consequences of their failed programs. For example, Valerie Huber's early career included working for Ohio's Department of Health. In that role she led the state's abstinence-only (or "sexual risk avoidance") program.

A 2005 report evaluated Ohio's abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula and concluded that "critical problems" included "false and misleading information" and misrepresenting "religious convictions as scientific fact."

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism found:

Huber...has spent almost three decades promoting schemes that teach young people that the best way to avoid infections and unwanted pregnancies is to forego sex altogether.

Protego is Huber's latest project in a 25-year career spent promoting ineffective abstinence-focused sex education and so-called "natural" contraceptive methods.



Operating in Uganda

Uganda is notorious for passing one of the most draconian anti-gay laws on earth—and its LGBTQ population describes Uganda as "Hell".

Janet Museveni, wife of dictator Yoweri Museveni, was a vocal supporter of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, which imposed harsh penalties, including life imprisonment and the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality." She has framed the law as a necessary measure to protect Ugandan children from "recruitment" and "promotion" of LGBTQ "lifestyles".

As Education Minister, she consistently opposed curricula that include information on LGBTQ people, falsely claiming that fighting for equality was a form of "foreign influence" intended to corrupt Ugandan youth.

Her bigoted public positions largely mirror the more explicit rhetoric of President Museveni, who has described homosexuality as "disgusting", a "deviation from normal" and "psychological disorientation".

Despite Uganda's brutality and persecution against its LGBTQ population, IWH's launched its ProtegoWomen's Optimal Health Framework with Janet Museveni.

A 2024 investigative report by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism characterizes the sleazy Uganda arrangement as "secretive". According to their report:

- TBIJ can reveal that Huber and her charity, the IWH, have entered into a secretive agreement with the Ugandan government to find public money to spend on her Protego programme.
- What's more, key documents relating to the project are being kept away from the public eye in a manner described by one lawyer as "unconstitutional".



In a February 8, 2024 Instagram post, **Janet Museveni** wrote, “I had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Valerie Huber, the founder and president of the Institute for Women’s Health (IWH), along with her team, to discuss their organization and the programs they have planned for Uganda.



On January 17, 2026, IWF effusively celebrated the Ugandan autocrat’s “re-election”:

“Congratulations to H.E. President Museveni for your re-election as President of Uganda! The Institute for Women's Health looks forward to continued partnership to further women's health and families in Uganda.



Recently, IWH guided Trump’s State Department to partner with Uganda and Kenya in implementing the organization’s backward health policies. IWI also has its tentacles wrapped around Burundi and the Republic of Guinea, leveraging U.S. financial power to colonize the health systems of these countries. No doubt these “partnerships” will lead to increased misery and death for African women victimized by IWH’s Christian imperialism.





Quotes

2016

"The healthiest message for youth is one that gives youth the skills and information to avoid the risks of teen sex, not merely reduce them. This is the kind of message we give to youth when we encourage them not to smoke, to exercise more, and to avoid underage drinking." — **Valerie Huber, President of the Institute for Women's Health**

2017

"Valerie has a long history of promoting healthy lifestyles, especially for women and children. I can't think of anybody better for the job." — **Tony Perkins, President, Family Research Council, commenting on Trump's appointment of Valerie Huber to the Department of Health and Human Services**

2022

"Women's health is being subjugated to an ideological agenda with little concern for women themselves. In Ecuador, those who would impose their own ideological colonization on Ecuadorian women by insisting upon abortion as a human right have lost."

— **Valerie Huber, Post on X**

2023

"I think that in virtually every country in the world, they're being confronted by radical ideologies that were either brought to the country from other external sources, whether it's a foundation, another government, or an international organisation, or that are being fomented within the government. But at the core, we have to recognise the importance of the family, as critical to the survival of a nation, and in all of these ideological debates, we have to protect the sovereignty of the country because it's up to the country and its people to decide rather than be forced upon them by external forces."

— **Valerie Huber, President of IWH,**
Interview with the Hungarian Conservative

Note: This quote is a classic example of projection. Huber is an American who is globetrotting with her U.S. non-profit to change foreign laws and impose American evangelical values. While she decries liberals, what Huber is pushing can only be described as leveraging American money and power to coerce weaker countries to adopt her brand of "right wing woke" policies and politics.

"Transgenderism wasn't that much, but still, LGBTQ and abortion, those were the major ones. They were redefining gender, but there wasn't so much transgenderism, that was pretty new. It was a part, but not like it is today." — **Valerie Huber, President of IWH,**
Interview with the Hungarian Conservative

Context: The Hungarian Conservative, a loyalist "news" outlet, that promoted former dictator Viktor Orban, asked Huber, "What were those 'correct positions', were they this new gender theory and transgenderism?"





2025

"The Geneva Consensus Declaration would not have survived without Hungary's steadfast leadership as Secretariat since 2023. When others faltered, Hungary stepped up. Today we honor their courage and dedication to the sustenance and growth of the GCD." — **Valerie Huber**, President, The Institute for Women's Health



"With America back and new nations joining, the Geneva Consensus Declaration's momentum is undeniable. The future has never been brighter for our coalition." — **Hungarian Minister Péter Szijjártó**



"The Geneva Consensus Declaration affirms basic principles that all life is sacred and there is no international right to abortion. The GCD has continued to grow, with 40 signatories all committed to upholding the protection of families and the unborn. I am thrilled that President Trump rejoined the GCD within the first week of his presidency and look forward to the day that all nations come together to recognize these fundamental truths." — **Senator Steve Daines** (R-MT), leader on every Senate pro-GCD resolution.

2026

"We are very grateful for today's announcement of the expanded Mexico City policy, and its implications for protecting life around the world. This action represents exactly how American foreign policy should function: through humanitarian and health partnerships with countries built on mutual respect, not the imposition of ideologies with U.S. dollars." — **Valerie Huber**, **President and CEO of the Institute for Women's Health**

"This marks a return to foreign policy grounded in respect, partnership, and authentic health outcomes. American generosity should empower nations to address their own health challenges according to their own values, and that's exactly what this policy achieves. Bravo, for today's announcement!" — **Valerie Huber**, **President and CEO of the Institute for Women's Health**

"Today marks the end of abortion-centered US foreign aid and ideological colonialism. Now 40 nations strong, and representing 2.5 billion voices, the GCD reinforces this approach. The Institute for Women's Health works to advance real women's health and family strength worldwide." — **IWH Post on X**, Jan. 23, 2026

"U.S. taxpayer dollars should never fund abortion or ideological coercion abroad. President Trump's Mexico City Policy and Geneva Consensus Declaration lead by principled example. @IWH4Women champions this approach, supporting global partners in defending life, faith, and sovereignty, because when women and families thrive, nations thrive. — **IWH Post** on X, Jan. 23, 2026

Context: In January 2026, President Trump's reinstated the Mexico City Policy, (aka the "Global Gag Rule"). This U.S. government policy prohibits foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from receiving U.S. global health assistance if they provide, counsel, or refer patients for abortion services.



Intercollegiate Studies Institute

Wilmington, DE

Revenue: \$13,639,241

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) is an organization founded in 1953 by **Frank Chodorov**, a staunch libertarian and isolationist. It was originally named the Intercollegiate Society of Individualists. Conservative godfather William F. Buckley Jr. was the group's first president, two years before he founded the National Review.

Unfortunately, in the age of MAGA, ISI has taken a dark turn. It has enthusiastically leapt into fetid right wing rabbit holes where extremism, conspiracies and authoritarianism run rampant. Among the group's more recent conspiracies, is the bizarre idea that the Deep State sabotaged President Richard Nixon and is responsible for wrecking his disgraced presidency.

This disturbing shift has been initiated by insular Hillsdale College graduate **Johnny Burtka**, who became the group's President and CEO in 2020. Under his tutelage, ISI has dedicated itself to radicalizing impressionable college students with totalitarian ideas.

In a well-researched and important Dispatch article, "The Closing of the Conservative Mind", the publication concluded, "The Intercollegiate Studies Institute has downgraded traditional conservatism as it courted populism, post-liberalism, and online popularity." The Dispatch continued, "...ISI's movement toward nationalist-populism and post-liberalism under Burtka is undeniable. And it has been deliberate."

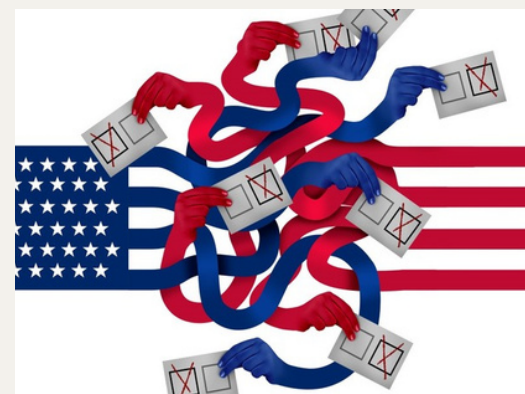
Some would argue that Burtka is no more than an ambitious puppet who was installed by a cabal of wealthy anti-democratic forces. The successful organizational coup by authoritarians, against the organization's mainstream conservatives, was allegedly led by ISI trustee and Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts. He installed Burtka, to carry out a "post-liberal hijacking" of the group.



Frank Chodorov



Johnny Burtka





Powerful Board allies of Roberts are reportedly Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn and Michael Gleba, chairman of the Sarah Scaife Foundation.

"You have Michael Gleba of Scaife and Larry Arnn of Hillsdale using their money and influence to silence the opposition and to support the postliberal agenda. Kevin Roberts is the brute force behind it," former ISI board member Thomas Lynch said. "That's what happened at Heritage, and that's what happened at ISI...Kevin basically positioned himself as Shadow Chair of ISI. Kevin had been working around me for the last two years at least."



Michael Federici, a professor of political science at Middle Tennessee State University, said that ISI, "kind of lost a sense for the big-tent approach that it used to have, and moved—I'm not saying completely away—but moved more away from traditional conservatism" and "sort of tipped the scales on the side of the integralists."



It is the strong recommendation of Truth Wins Out that more attention be paid to Arnn and Gleba—who appear to be in cahoots with the more recognizable Roberts. Likewise, the relatively under-the-radar ISI must be considered a vital player in the far right's plot against democracy and worthy of closer monitoring.

Growing evidence suggests this immensely wealthy, and well-connected, cabal is an authoritarian force that is quickly metastasizing. Their alleged manipulation and backstabbing, behind the scenes, at ISI suggest that they are in the process of fully hijacking the conservative movement. Their goal is to stifle opposition and exile dissenters. However, their ultimate goal, once the internal purge is complete, is thrusting their sharpened, gilded swords directly into the heart of our cherished democracy.

A common refrain we keep hearing from the ultra-right faction that these leaders represent, is that they want to "blow up the system". Obviously, they want to replace it with a staunchly conservative theocracy—where they are in full control of politics, media, culture and rewriting laws in their fundamentalist Christian image.

This is why ISI and their right-wing benefactors' worship at the feet of recently defeated Hungarian dictator Viktor Orban. Until he lost his election, Orban accomplished abroad what these aspiring tyrants want to achieve at home. Donald Trump, JD Vance and Mike Johnson are their Trojan Horses in which to seize power, as evidenced by their role in Project 2025.

ISI is a key part of this nefarious effort to hijack Western democracies. ISI's embrace of tyranny is evidenced by its platforming of the bizarre and dangerous **Curtis Yarvin**, a fringe extremist with white nationalist views.

Yarvin originally published an influential online blog under the pen name "Mencius Moldbug", once writing, "I am not a white nationalist, but I do read white-nationalist blogs, and I'm not afraid to link to them...I am not exactly allergic to the stuff". If that weren't crazy enough, Yarvin wrote, "If you ask me to condemn [mass murderer] Anders Breivik, but adore Nelson Mandela, perhaps you have a mother you'd like to fuck." Despite his odious views, this cheap, dime store "philosopher" has found an audience with Vice President JD Vance. The second most powerful man in America disturbingly considers Yarvin a "friend" and political guru. Vance has explicitly referenced Yarvin's "RAGE" (Retire All Government Employees) concept, which Elon Musk attempted to carry out with the failed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).



In 2021, Vance cited Yarvin when suggesting that a second Trump administration should "fire every single midlevel bureaucrat" in the administrative state and replace them with loyalists.

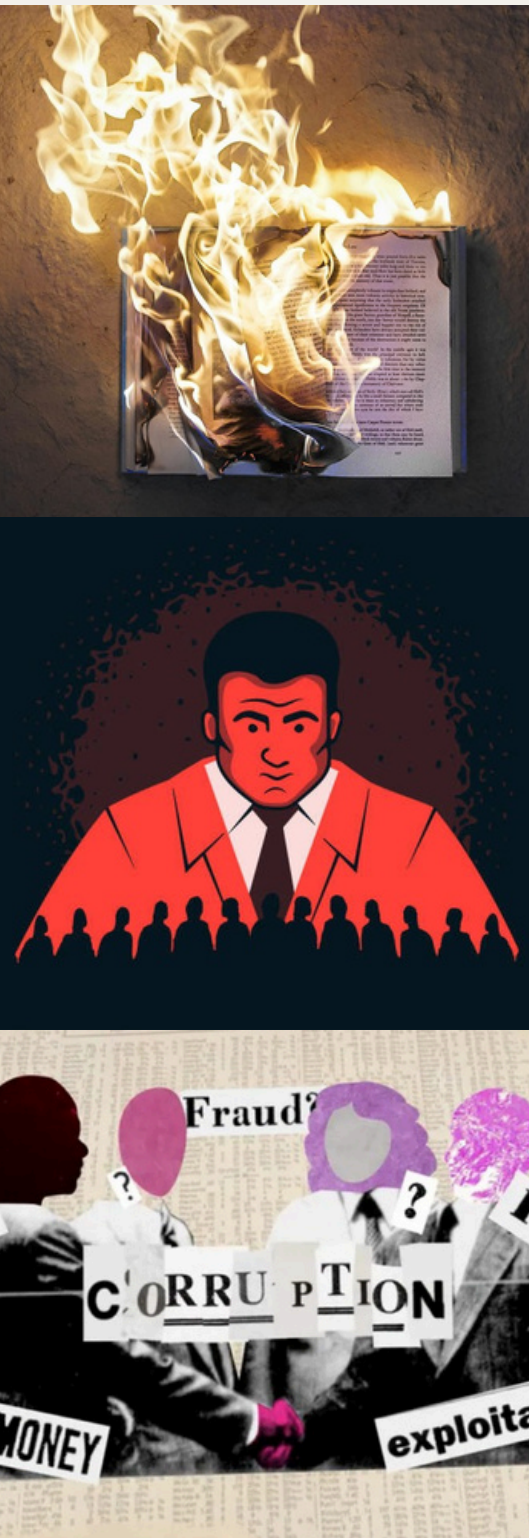
Most disturbingly, Yarvin advocates for a technocratic dictatorship supplanting American democracy. Politico writes:

For over a decade, Yarvin, an ex-computer programmer-turned-blogger, has argued that American democracy is irrevocably broken and ought to be replaced with a monarchy styled after a Silicon Valley tech start-up.

According to Yarvin, the time has come to jettison existing democratic institutions and concentrate political power in a single "chief executive" or "dictator." These ideas — which Yarvin calls "neo-reaction" or "the Dark Enlightenment" — were once confined to the fringes of the internet, but now, with Trump's reelection, they are finding a newly powerful audience in Washington.

Aside from Vance, one of those eager audiences for Yarvin's anti-democratic drivel is ISI. The group featured Yarvin in an eyebrow raising video discussion, which was part of the group's Project Cosmos. Among the questions the ISI video covers: "Should Americans embrace Caesarism?"

Obviously, the answer is a hard "no". But ISI has become so out there that it believes discussing whether America would be better off with a dictator is a legitimate, reasonable debate. Such corrosive propaganda makes one wonder if the next generation of conservatives—being directly influenced and trained by ISI--will become a dire threat to America's national security and global stability.



The controversial online Project Cosmos panel also featured notorious anti-DEI activist Christopher Rufo, who is best known for his role with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' censorship and anti-DEI crusade. On the ISI Project Cosmos video, Rufo said that rather than unsuccessfully running for president, "He [DeSantis] would have been better off saying, 'Hey, I'm very popular. Florida should repeal term limits, and I will like rule Florida for 25 years.'" How very Putinesque of Rufo.

With such autocratic views, it is no surprise that Rufo is a fervent supporter of former Hungarian dictator Viktor Orbán and his oppressive political system of "illiberal democracy". The Bulwark reported:

Writing in Compact in July 2024, Rufo praised Viktor Orbán's authoritarian government in Hungary for its willingness to use its muscle to "disrupt the socialist left's soft-power hegemony" and "create an enduring conservative counter-hegemony" via "far-reaching reforms in schools, universities, nonprofits, media, and government." (These reforms included having media organizations taken over either by the government or by Orbán-friendly tycoons.)



Unfortunately, there are incredibly wealthy, connected, and influential ideologues who want to embrace and disseminate ISI's backward worldview. In 2025, ISI launched a "\$25 Million initiative to expand programs that educate rising leaders for liberty." The organization boasts a powerful alumni of conservative leaders. ISI writes on its website that, "Thousands of thoughtful, principled leaders have come through ISI's programs, including the following:

- Supreme Court justice Neil Gorsuch
- Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito
- PayPal cofounder Peter Thiel
- Heritage Foundation founder Ed Feulner
- Hillsdale College president Larry Arnn
- Reason Magazine editor Katherine Mangu-Ward

ISI also runs the Collegiate Network, an assortment of conservative propaganda "newspapers" on university campuses. This is profoundly troubling, because these outlets are used as ISI vehicles for radicalization. Instead of experiencing a well-rounded education focused on developing empathy, intelligence, and understanding, ISI's Collegiate Network helps transform malleable recruits into extremist ideologues who oppose democracy and human rights.

ISI's Board of Directors also includes Rick DeVos, a member of the Amway founding family: Son of former Amway CEO Dick DeVos and former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. The DeVos family has a net worth estimated between \$5 billion and \$5.8 billion as of late 2024 and early 2025. Needless to say, money is no longer an issue for ISI's destructive agenda.



Controversies

Board Rebellion

Project Cosmos, ISI's controversial video series, represents a sharp break from the organization's traditional conservative past. It signaled that ISI was wholeheartedly embracing MAGA's conspiracy theories and dark anti-democracy views.

ISI President Johnny Burtka's divisive new path caused a serious rupture within the organization. Key board leaders said the fundamental shift in ISI's focus was done "behind the board's back." ISI's underhanded behavior and extremist makeover raised alarms. The Washington Times reported in November 2025:

Christopher Long and Thomas Lynch said they resigned at the end of Friday's board meeting after the panel rejected their call to fire ISI President Johnny Burtka over what they describe as the institute's shift from "educating for liberty" to platforming unorthodox figures hostile to the nation's founding principles.

"ISI has largely abandoned its on-campus philosophical programming, which equipped future leaders to better uphold American ideals," they wrote in an open letter posted on X.

"Instead, it focuses on ideological and political podcasts that introduce audiences to alt-right online personalities, such as Tucker Carlson and others who seek to undermine the liberal ideas of the American Founding."



Extremist Student Retreat

Tucker Carlson spoke at ISI's 70th anniversary gala in 2023. In April 2025, ISI awarded eight students an "exclusive retreat and dinner with Tucker Carlson" at his home on Gasparilla Island, Florida for their work at an ISI-owned network of conservative college newspapers.

Carlson's inclusion was controversial, considering his slide into white nationalism. Additionally, his slanderous conspiracies, surrounding the 2020 presidential election, cost him his job at FOX. Not to mention his previous employer had to pay a whopping \$787 million in settlement fines with Dominion Voting Systems due to Carlson's outrageous lies.

Even more shocking, the bombastic conspiracy nut, **Alex Jones** from InfoWars, was an honored guest at the dinner. Jones is a discredited hack who had previously been fined \$1 billion in damages for defamation after he cruelly and recklessly proclaimed the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre was "staged" with professional crisis actors.



The dwindling number of mainstream conservatives at ISI were profoundly troubled that Burtka would uphold these scandalized and financially penalized charlatans as journalistic role models for aspiring journalists to emulate. In *The Dispatch*, John McCormack and Michael Warren write:

In 2024, the same year Carlson said 9/11 truther and Sandy Hook truther Alex Jones had been “vindicated on everything,” Carlson also produced a misleading, anti-American propaganda video in a Moscow grocery store after conducting a softball interview with Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin.

“Coming to a Russian grocery store, the ‘heart of evil,’ and seeing what things cost and how they live, it will radicalize you against our leaders,” Carlson said after learning how much \$100 could buy in a Russian grocery store—never bothering to tell his viewers that the average Russian household spends 29 percent of its budget on groceries, while the average American household spends less than 7 percent.

In the fall of 2024, Carlson sparked outrage again when he hosted a little-known amateur historian named Darryl Cooper on his podcast, during which Cooper called Winston Churchill the “chief villain of the Second World War,” described the Holocaust as happening almost by accident, and likened the Nazis’ extermination of millions of Jews to Israel’s defensive war against Hamas in Gaza.

“I want you to be widely recognized as the most important historian in the United States,” Carlson told Cooper, who had posed with a Nazi-themed coffee mug in a photo posted online a couple of weeks before the podcast appearance.

Despite all that, Burtka still brought top conservative student journalists to dinner with Alex Jones at Tucker Carlson’s home in April. And this year, for the first time, ISI placed one of its three yearlong fellows at the Tucker Carlson Network at a cost to ISI of \$75,000 (with the other two fellows going to Fox News and The Free Press).

Carlson has also been at the center of the most recent controversy to roil the conservative movement, when in October of this year he hosted neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes for a two-hour podcast episode in which Carlson posed no challenging questions to Fuentes.

An interesting aside, in a picture following the dinner that was posted on X, Burtka poses with Carlson but not Jones. On some level, Burtka must know what he’s doing is unethical, unprofessional, and unseemly.

Radical Project Cosmos Video

The initial Project Cosmos video featured ISI President Johnny Burtka interviewing four modern right wing “luminaries”. The first was anti-DEI and pro-censorship activist Christopher Rufo.



The second participant was Christopher Caldwell, a contributing editor for the white nationalist Claremont Review of Books. In his 2020 book, *The Age of Entitlement*, Caldwell argues that the U.S. civil-rights movement that emerged after the 1960s effectively became a second Constitution—one incompatible with the original.

The third panelist was University of Notre Dame professor Patrick Deneen, who is the author of *Why Liberalism Failed* and *Regime Change: Toward a Post-Liberal Future*.

The final panelist was computer programmer and “Dark Enlightenment” philosopher Curtis Yarvin, who once wrote that Americans are “going to have to get over their dictator phobia” if they want to change their government.



In the shocking video, Yarvin aggressively called for a total reordering of American society that relied, “on the state and state power.” Yarvin waxed nostalgic for England’s Victorian Era, when “you were required to go to church every week. You were actually fined. Your name was written down in a little book. It was, in a way, it was a system of, you know, you would almost call it totalitarian in a way.” Yarvin continued:



“They certainly did not have a free press at that time and yet, you know, Elizabethan society, you know, produced the most, you know, amazing, you know, sort of artistic works of all of history...and so when you imagine basically like, you know, sort of uses of state power that really go far beyond, uh, anything that we've sort of considered here.”

Remember, ten seconds ago, when conservatives believed in limited government and personal liberty? Those days are long gone. In its place is Yarvin's perverse fantasy world, which is an amalgamation of the ayatollah's Iran and the Handmaid's Tale. On the video he shared his twisted vision:

"Your relationship with the state is intermediated through your church and basically your minister can drug test you. He can assign you work. He can put an air tag on you. He can tell you where to go, where not to go."

We were fully expecting at least one of the panelists to jump in and say, "Hey, Curtis, you sound CRAZY." But not a single participant batted an eye and instead they collaborated to try to figure out the most effective method of implementing Yarvin's fever dream.

Led by Christopher Caldwell, they floated the idea of repealing the 14th Amendment—which includes providing citizens due process, birthright citizenship, and equal protection under the law. In other words—the freedom that separates America from nations like North Korea and Russia.

Patrick Deneen chimed in, offering that the 14th Amendment didn't actually have to be repealed. Instead, the conservative movement could simply campaign to "reinterpret" it, just like they did with abortion rights, as well as the 2nd Amendment.

The moderator, ISI's Burtka, seemed to agree that the 14th Amendment was a nuisance, and obstructed the right wing's dystopian plans. However, he was skeptical of repeal or redefinition, adding, "I just don't think that's ever going to happen absent, like, a cataclysm."





One idea repeatedly floated was having American states separate into two camps: Modern and traditional. California, for example, would be a modernist stronghold, and Texas, a bastion of tradition.

"Let's sort ourselves", Deneen pronounced. What about those stuck in a state hijacked by an opposing faction?

"If you don't like what's happening...we are a society in which you can move," Deneen breezily offered, as if most Americans want to—or can even afford—to pick up and start over.

The ISI production had a number of other weird and disconcerting moments, such as Rufo strangely admitting, "I'm good at, in a sense, what is propaganda." We wholeheartedly agree with his rare moment of candor.

Rufo then went off the rails on his burning desire to abolish the Department of Education. "If this building [DOE] is still standing, physically, at the end of this president's term, uh, you know, we haven't achieved the objective...just level the building."

An infamous trans-basher, Rufo also proclaimed: "The trans community is not a community in the traditional sense of the word."

During a debate on the effectiveness of Elon Musk's DOGE, Rufo flippantly said, "We're going to reduce the cost of transgender surgeries for minors and save taxpayer money, you know, with a pile of, uh, you know, you know, teenage genitalia this high."

Rufo also revealed how far his movement wants to drag America back into the past.

"People were sick of this, and the reaction against BLM [Black Lives Matter] mania, kind of an aggressive capture of the institutions...[Once Trump won reelection MAGA wasn't] only going to snap back to 2019, we're going to snap back parts to 1964 essentially."

The landmark federal Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. Rufo unintentionally revealed the despicable bigotry of his perverse movement, and its primary desire to turn the clock back to a time when black people were second class citizens in America.

Later in the show, Yarvin declared that Gov. Ron DeSantis' Florida is not conservative enough and wants a leader like DeSantis, but on steroids.

"Can we have a picture of what Ron DeSantis 10x, Ron DeSantis times 100 is? You know, is Ron DeSantis going to start, for example, a Florida branch of, you know, the Boy Scouts where they're the Florida Scouts where they wear Florida uniforms?"





Disturbingly, the panelists seemed sympathetic to the Confederacy and appeared to be disappointed the Union won the Civil War. Caldwell lamented that with the “benefit of hindsight they [The South] should have marched on Washington.”



The show also provided comic relief. The guests vigorously competed to brownnose President Donald Trump. At one point, they laughably portrayed him as an honest man. Rufo absurdly said, “If you get beyond the verbal” Trump doesn’t lie. Yarvin farcically leapt in to add, “Trump is a very honest person, actually.”

The more these beclowned ideologues try to be taken seriously, the more ridiculous they appear to normal people. For example, how do we not chuckle at Yarvin, who fancies himself somewhat of a historian, when he slouches like a teenager on the couch, and says, with a look of profound seriousness:

“I mean, Napoleon is really a startup CEO. He’s just like exactly a Silicon Valley CEO. And so, the question of what would a Silicon Valley CEO do with power over Washington, is like, look at Napoleon.”



Yarvin might help his case for respectability, as a legitimate academic mind, if every sentence he uttered didn’t include verbal filler, such as: “Uh”, “like”, “totally”, and “you know”.

Association with Rod Dreher

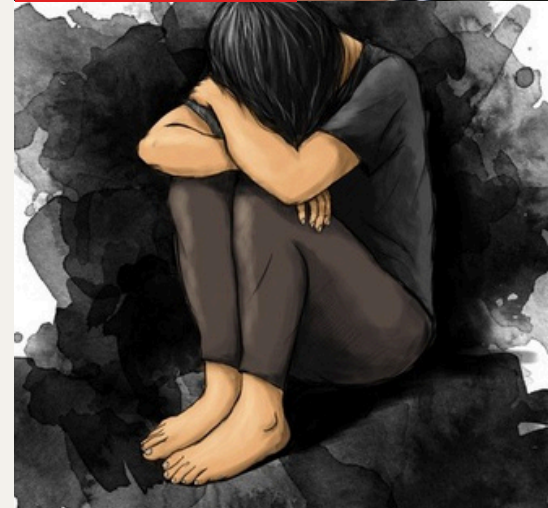
After two board members resigned from ISI, post-liberal conservative writer Rod Dreher came to Burtka's defense, calling it a "filthy smear to try to tar Johnny with [Hitler admirer] Nick Fuentes!"

Dreher used to be a moderate and respected voice. But lately he has gone off the deep end. Following a bitter divorce, where two of his three children stopped correspondence, as well as debilitating personal rejection by his own father, Dreher seems to have spiraled into what appears to be a deep depression.

Once his family life collapsed—and he refuses to divulge precisely why--Dreher moved to Budapest in 2022. His relocation seems directly connected to his affection for former Hungarian tyrant Viktor Orbán. Dreher has been affiliated since 2021 with the Danube Institute, a state-backed think tank that has been a vehicle for disseminating Orbán's propaganda.

According to The Atlantic:

Dreher used his ties with Orbán to help [Tucker] Carlson get an interview, which aired in August 2021. After Carlson gushed about Orbán's avowedly illiberal approach to governance, American conservatives began making regular visits to Budapest, and references to "the Hungarian model" became a standard feature of Trumpian politics. Dreher bears a share of responsibility for all of this.





Instead of Dreher engaging in mature reflection on the demise of his own family, he has irresponsibility lashed out at society, blaming modernity for his personal shortcomings.

Dreher's recent rants include his view that The Enlightenment was a mistake. He is also dabbling in nihilism and political anarchy, writing in February 2025, "The system is collapsing? Good. It's about time."

The Atlantic also reported on Dreher's recent delusions, which include increasing encounters with ghosts and demons:



He believes that a great spiritual battle is under way: "As faith has receded, and interest in the occult and pornography has grown, so has demonic activity."

He continues, "Priests must understand that they are dealing with discarnate beings—fallen angels—who are vastly more intelligent than mortals."

Dreher often speaks of AI as a portal to the demonic, and he feels similarly about the trans-rights movement, which he sees as a symptom of a progressive dystopia in which there are no "structures of truth outside the choosing self."



Not surprisingly, Dreher is a very close confidante of JD Vance, who seems to be an extremist magnet.

"That man is the future of America," Dreher wrote of Vance in April.

ISI and the Lost Cause

In the 1980s, ISI and its journal *Continuity*, edited by Paul Gottfried, were known to feature some neo-Confederate views, according to *Neo-Confederacy: A Critical Introduction* (United States: University of Texas Press. p. 31). Gottfried was a key advisor in the 1990s to Pat Buchanan during his populist 1992 presidential campaign.

Burtka Allegedly Misrepresents Work to Board

At a board meeting, then board member Thomas Lynch accused ISI of misrepresenting data to donors. The group claimed that it had 91 active campus publications, but only 52 papers had published an article in the 2024-25 academic year, according to a damning memo.

The Dispatch reported that Lynch said, “it wasn’t until 2025 that he learned from Burtka that there were only 15 to 20 truly active ISI chapters, which are discussion groups distinct from Collegiate Network papers. In documents presented to the ISI board, more than 100 ISI chapters were typically listed.



Outburst Rocks ISI Conference

In 2022, Bradley Watson, a senior fellow of the Claremont Institute, was on-stage speaking at an ISI conference in Philadelphia on the American constitutional tradition.

He began discussing, according to The Dispatch, how he believed Catholic integralists and post-liberals were making the same mistake that the Christian-influenced progressives of the early 20th century had made in attacking the classically liberal framework of the Constitution:

Suddenly, one of the other scholars in the room, Catholic University professor and prominent integralist Chad Pecknold, stood up. "Your nose is growing!" Pecknold said, according to Jeff Polet and Elizabeth Corey, two scholars with longstanding ties to ISI who were among those who witnessed this stunning break in decorum. Pecknold then left the room in a huff, they said. Many students were confused and upset, according to Polet and Corey, and the other academics in the room were appalled.

Pecknold, who has called for the enactment of blasphemy laws in the United States, denied that he mentioned anything about getting rid of the Constitution or blowing up the system.

The 2022 summer honors conference, it turned out, would be the last time ISI would invite Corey, who had been a mainstay for more than a decade, and Watson, who had been a mainstay for nearly two decades, to participate.

Polet, who privately raised concerns to Burtka about the dominance of integralism in ISI programming at the 2022 conference, has also not been invited back to an ISI honors conference since 2022 after more than a decade of participating.

Pecknold, however, was invited back to the 2023 honors conference and just participated in an ISI government conference in November. After his email exchange with The Dispatch, Pecknold posted a photo of himself with Heritage Foundation president Kevin Roberts, an ISI trustee who is the chairman of ISI's programs committee: "Celebrating America

Quotes

2015

"Liberals on campus respect a variety of viewpoints —as long as they're not conservative views. As a student on a liberal campus, I've had to deal with the chilling effect that radical students and a hostile administration can have on open discourse."

— **"Liberal Tyranny on College Campuses", an article written by David Ortiz for ISI's Intercollegiate Review**

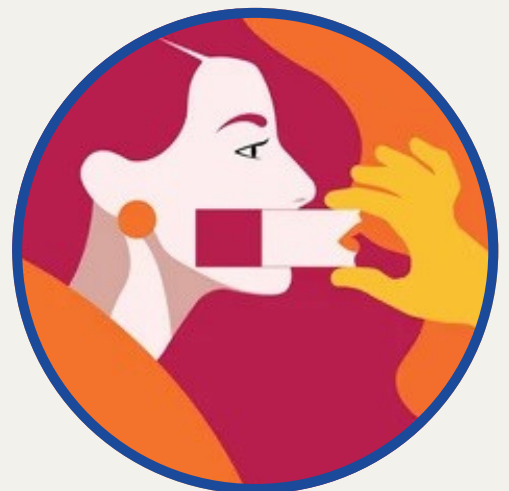


2025

"Over the past several years, the DEI counter-revolution has won key legal victories for meritocracy over explicit race-and gender-based discrimination. Yet even as many of the hiring and promotion practices that became common over the last decade are being rolled back, their demographic impact remains." — **ISI's Intercollegiate Review, "Systemic Discrimination Against White Men", Dec. 1, 2025**



"It's already been three and a half years since the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade and the purported constitutional right to abortion. After decades of effort by the pro-life movement, the end of Roe marked a major victory. While the abortion debate has continued at the state level, Christians who fought for unborn lives rightly celebrated the Dobbs decision." — **ISI's Intercollegiate Review, "Roe's Religious Roots", Dec. 1, 2025**



"Your relationship with the state is intermediated through your church and basically your minister can drug test you. He can assign you work. He can put an air tag on you. He can tell you where to go, where not to go." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Curits Yarvin suggesting that the government control people**



"Let's sort ourselves...If you don't like what's happening...we are a society in which you can move." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Patrick Deneen calling for Americans to sort themselves politically by state, and those who don't like it can leave**

"If this building [DOE] is still standing physically at the end of this president's term, uh, you know, we haven't achieved the objective...just level the building."
— **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo on Ending the Department of Education**

"The trans community is not a community in the traditional sense of the word."
— **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo**

"We're going to reduce the cost of transgender surgeries for minors and save taxpayer money, you know, with a pile of, uh, you know, you know, teenage genitalia this high." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo, during a debate on the effectiveness of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**

"You've got to be kidding me." — **Former ISI President Chris Long, The Dispatch, a text message when asked if he was aware of a private event with students featuring the odious conspiracy nut Alex Jones and white supremacist Tucker Carlson**

2026

"Even if you think about Watergate, there is a lot more to the story than meets the eye. He [Nixon] says he's going after the Deep State. He doesn't quite do it. In fact, they use him to expand much of the Deep State. But if he's saying it enough and he's not actually doing it, it made him a bit of a sitting duck for exploitation. And I think the lesson for today is we can't just talk about gutting the bureaucracy or draining the swamp. You got to go in and do it. And, if not, you're in some ways the worst position of all. You've put the enemy, that machine on notice, that you might have some risk for the machine, when the machine just crushes you, like they have to the citizens of this country for a long time." — **ISI interview posted on X, Vivek Ramaswamy peddling the conspiracy that President Richard Nixon was sabotaged by the Deep State, Feb. 13, 2026**

"It's a liberal plot, to get you off social media." — **Ann Coulter speaking at an ISI event, Feb. 11, 2025**

"The single biggest problem facing America today, which is being nurtured in higher education, and K through 12 as well, is the identity politics, innocent victimhood frame of mind. It has utterly poisoned higher education. I think it's poisoning our young people, because there is no way we can build a civilization if we are simply saying this group is innocent and this group is a transgressor. We have got to get rid of these scapegoat words which have dominated the left and dominated our higher education for the last 10 or 15 years. There can be no pursuit of knowledge unless we get rid of all that."

— **ISI Interview, posted on X, with Dr. Joshua Mitchell, Professor of Political Theory, Feb. 6, 2026**

"I just had the opportunity to go by a school here in DC, Dunbar, which was a school where doctors, lawyers, academics, it was a great place. People from all across America would send their black kids, their children, to this school. And now, after the Brown vs. the Board of Education, the school started to slide backwards. That school now has failing students who can't read, can't do math, but they still have a 70% graduation rate."

— **ISI interview, posted on X, with Pastor Corey Booker, Project HOOD, February 2, 2026**

The James Madison Institute

Tallahassee, FL

Revenue: \$2,749,626

A defining difference between liberal and conservative organizations is basic honesty. Project 2025 offers a bevy of Astroturf organizations that purport to stand for one thing—yet actually stand for the opposite of their stated mission. The goal is deception, with an emphasis on bait-and-switch.

One such organization is The James Madison Institute (JMI). It attempts to come across as measured and mainstream. However, this right-wing group is indisputably extreme, and partners with America's most radical organizations. This is why it is on the Advisory Board of Project 2025 and a staunch ally of Florida's Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is a regular headliner at JMI's most lucrative fundraising events.

JMI bills itself as "Florida's leading think tank, in America's most important state." But rather than being a legitimate think tank, this duplicitous organization is dedicated to obfuscation to conceal unpopular conservative policy ideas.

The group's modus operandi is analogous to the cigarette lobby. In a 1969 internal memo, the tobacco company Brown & Williamson acknowledged that it could no longer directly challenge the scientific consensus linking smoking to lung cancer. So, they resorted to manipulation and chicanery, designed to confuse consumers. According to the notorious memo:

"Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the mind of the general public. It is also the means of establishing a controversy."

Similar corporate skullduggery is essentially the game plan of the James Madison Institute. They purport to care about regular people, when their real goal is shilling for conservative billionaires and their avaricious right wing corporate masters.

JMI is enmeshed in dark money and captive to the notorious Koch Brothers. DeSmog offers a [comprehensive list](#) of JMI funders—which reads like a shady who's who of extremist foundations. This includes: The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Castle Rock Foundation, Donors Capital Fund, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, Charles Koch Institute, National Christian Charitable Foundation, American Petroleum Institute, Lillian S. Wells Foundation, and Dunn's Foundation for the Advancement of Right Thinking.

JMI is deeply integrated into the State Policy Network (SPN) and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). The group is a partner with these conservative “bill mills” which specialize in helping draft and circulate cookie cutter legislation.

JMI is anti-union, opposes Obamacare, fights measures to limit the impact of climate change, favors tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy and undermines public education. They work with Gov. DeSantis to further transform Florida into an unaffordable, sunny playground for the global elite—at the expense of families struggling to make ends meet.

Undermining confidence in elections is increasingly the purview of JMI. The organization feted Republican Sen. Ashley Moody, who was a keynote speaker at the group’s February 2026 Naples Annual Dinner.

Moody was one of 17 Republican attorneys general who joined a Texas lawsuit asking the Supreme Court to invalidate election results in four battleground states won by Joe Biden. Internal emails later revealed that some of her own staff lawyers privately mocked the lawsuit as “batshit insane” just before she officially joined it.

Following the January 6 Capitol attack, Moody scrubbed mentions of her leadership role with the Rule of Law Defense Fund (RLDF) from her official biography. The group had reportedly sent robocalls urging Trump supporters to “march to the Capitol” to “stop the steal.”





Additionally, after Florida voters passed an amendment to restore voting rights to former felons, Moody supported a law requiring them to first pay all court fees and fines.

JMI is now openly campaigning in favor of voter suppression. They are in support of President Trump's controversial Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE). This sham legislation is an effort by Republicans to steal elections by limiting the number of registered voters.

JMI is also pro-merger, potentially at the expense of consumers and content creators. They were plugging the proposed merger between Netflix and Warner Bros:

"Blocking a voluntary, market-driven transaction that aims to create stronger, more efficient competitor risks undermining exactly the consumer benefits antitrust law is supposed to protect."

Meanwhile, much of Hollywood is portraying a potential merger in apocalyptic terms:

- Writers Guild of America (WGA): Issued a statement calling for the merger to be "blocked," arguing it would "eliminate jobs, push down wages... and reduce the volume and diversity of content".
- Cinema United (Theater Owners): Labeled the merger an "unprecedented threat," stating that Netflix's business model is "fundamentally at odds" with theatrical exhibition.
- SAG-AFTRA: Raised "many serious questions" about the impact on human creative talent whose "livelihoods and careers depend on it"
- [**Netflix walked away from a deal to buy Warner Bros. Discovery's studio and streaming asset. Paramount Skydance is on track to make the purchase.]

JMI is also a vocal supporter of SB 1134, titled "Official Actions of Local Governments." This is a high-profile bill in the 2026 Florida legislative session designed to prohibit local governments (cities and counties) from funding or promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Disturbingly, the bill empowers "values vigilantes" to harass and hunt for offenses, by allowing a city or county resident to sue any government that violates the legislation and be awarded damages and court costs.

The Orlando Sentinel reported on the bill:

Orlando Commissioner Patty Sheehan...bristled that it would prevent city sponsorship of some of the largest and most popular parades and festivals held in the city — and would even allow the governor to remove officials from office who do so.

"It's like the crosswalks," she said, comparing the bill to the state removing "nonstandard" road markings such as Blue Lives Matter and student artwork along with LGBTQ rainbows like the one outside Pulse. "They wanted to kill the rainbow crosswalks, so they got rid of all crosswalks."

Orlando sponsors multicultural events such as Come Out With Pride, Lunar New Year and Puerto Rican Day parades.

"I think these kinds of events add so much to our community. We should be celebrating our unique culture," Commissioner Patty Sheehan said. "I know that our lobbyists are working hard to stop this legislation and it's just ridiculous. If you don't value diversity, equity and inclusion, then don't go to the parade."



Dr. Robert McClure is the President and CEO of The James Madison Institute. As a DeSantis sock puppet, he deceptively plugs the idea that blue states are "heading for financial disaster" and businesses are responding by moving in large numbers to Florida. He wrote a February 11, 2026, op-ed for Fox News arguing that:

Individuals and companies have had it with blue state taxes, wild spending, suffocating regulations and draconian environmental policies that stifle innovation and entrepreneurship. They are moving to red states like Florida and Texas that value capital, markets, free exchange and opportunity.

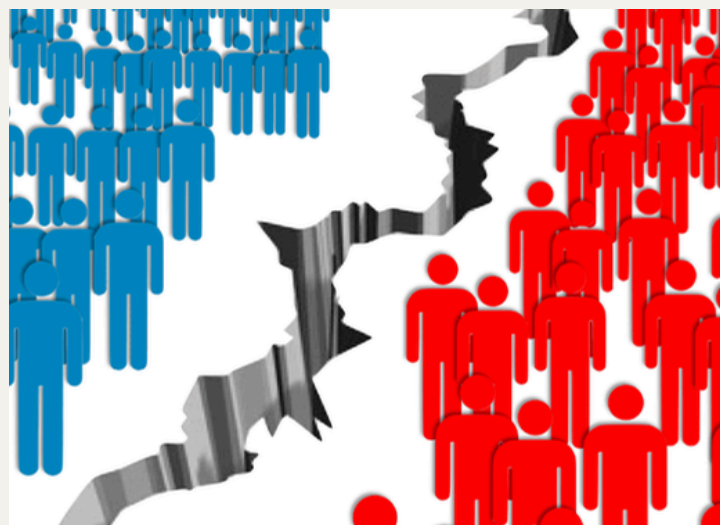
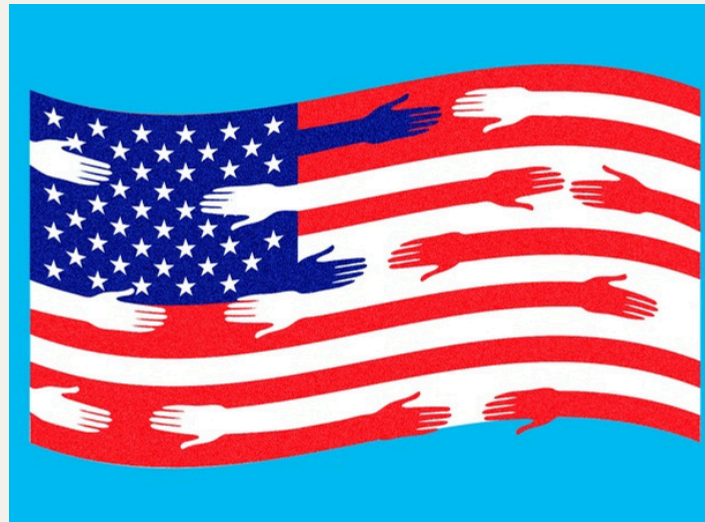
Controversies

The Solar Sham

In 2016, audio leaked of then Vice President of Policy, Sal Nuzzo, speaking at a conference where he detailed how JMI and utility companies, who provided \$21 million in financing, created a "pro-solar" ballot amendment (Amendment 1) that was actually designed to restrict solar expansion.

Nuzzo was recorded boasting about the deception to an audience of conservative groups. His comments revealed the cynical strategy behind the amendment:

"The point I would make is the controversial nature of it. As you guys know, solar polls very well...To the degree that we can use a little bit of political jiu-jitsu and take what they're kind of pinning us on and use it to our benefit either in policy, in legislation or in constitutional referendums—if that's the direction you want to take—use the language of promoting solar, and kind of put in these protections for consumers that choose not to install solar."



At the time of the scandal, the Miami Herald reported:

The political committee behind Amendment 1 on solar energy has scrubbed from its social media platforms nearly every reference to the James Madison Institute after revelations that the group's policy director bragged in a leaked audio recording that the utility industry is using the amendment to deceive the public into thinking it is a pro-solar initiative.

Consumers for Smart Solar, a political committee financed primarily by the state's largest utilities, had prominently displayed a favorable voters guide prepared by JMI on its web site, and in most of its promotional materials for the past several months.

But nearly all references were deleted after the Miami Herald and Tampa Bay Times reported that JMI's policy director, Sal Nuzzo, was recorded calling the amendment "an incredibly savvy maneuver" that "would completely negate anything they [pro-solar interests] would try to do either legislatively or constitutionally down the road."

... The comments underscore the claims made by opponents to Amendment 1 on the November ballot that the utility-backed political committee, Consumers for Smart Solar, was formed to undercut attempts to allow third-party sales of rooftop solar by leaving voters with the impression that their rival amendment will expand solar generation in Florida.

According to federal tax documents, JMI has received more than \$120,000 from the Charles Koch Institute and Charles Koch Foundation, and Stan Connally, the CEO of Gulf Power, sits on JMI's board of directors. Gulf Power and its affiliates have contributed more than \$2.3 million to the utility-backed amendment, which also has received funding from Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy, Tampa Electric Co., and non-profit groups primarily funded by Exxon and the Koch brothers.

Before the leak, the amendment was polling near the 60% threshold needed for passage. After the story broke, support cratered, and the amendment failed.



Continued Ties to Sal Nuzzo

While the discredited Sal Nuzzo is no longer Vice President of Policy, he remains a JMI Fellow. He is also the Executive Director of Consumers Defense, an extremist Project 2025 organization that campaigns against "woke corporatism" and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives.

At Consumers Defense, Nuzzo has further radicalized, and is known for extreme rhetoric. Here are a few of his quotes:



- "This woman is evil. She should not be anywhere near policy concerning our children."

— **Sal Nuzzo** on X sliming American Federation of Teachers President Randy Weingarten

- "What about ponies? You forgot to put a pony for everyone on that list. There is no such thing as a living wage, free healthcare, childcare, yada yada yada. THEY DO NOT EXIST. The mind of the Left is a fantasyland." — **Sal Nuzzo** Responding to Robert Reich on X, after he promoted a living wage



- "Reason 844,527 Florida has a Republican supermajority. @FlaDems Leadership Blue event closed out with a drag show." — **Sal Nuzzo** insulting Florida Democrats on X over a drag show performance

Ron DeSantis Mouthpiece

The relationship between The James Madison Institute and Governor Ron DeSantis is extensive and symbiotic. JMI functions effectively as the "intellectual engine" for the DeSantis administration, providing the policy blueprints that the governor signs into law, while DeSantis legitimizes the institute by headlining their major events and appointing their leadership to state task forces.

- JMI releases "Policy Priorities" that frequently mirror Governor DeSantis's legislative agenda almost verbatim.
- During the 2018 election, JMI released a report explicitly claiming DeSantis's economic plan would create 215,000 jobs while framing his opponent Andrew Gillum's plan as an "economic disaster."
- When DeSantis vetoed HB1 (a social media ban for minors) due to constitutional concerns, JMI immediately issued a statement supporting the veto, signaling to conservatives that the move was a tactical refinement rather than a retreat.
- When DeSantis launched his war on "woke corporations" (ESG), JMI provided the research and media surrogates to defend the policy, with Sal Nuzzo eventually leaving his daily role to lead a national group, Consumers Defense, dedicated to that exact mission. In 2023, DeSantis appointed Nuzzo to the Government Efficiency Task Force.





Anti-Union

JMI filed amicus briefs supporting the anti-union side in the landmark Supreme Court case *Janus v. AFSCME*. JMI was one of 13 groups filing briefs that had received funding from the Bradley Foundation and Donors Trust, illustrating a coordinated, well-funded assault on public sector unions disguised as independent "think tank" research.

Climate Change Denial

Nineteen U.S. Senators delivered a series of speeches in July 2016, condemning climate change denial from 32 groups with conflicts of interests, due to their financial ties to the petroleum lobby. One group named as compromised was the James Madison Institute. Sen. Whitehouse (RI-D) said in his floor speech that the reason for calling out these deceitful organizations was to, "shine a little light on the web of climate denial and spotlight the bad actors in the web, who are polluting our American discourse with phony climate denial."



SAVE ACT

JMI is in support of toxic legislation that may help MAGA at the ballot box in 2026 at the expense of democracy. It will turn America into a “show your papers” nation, more reminiscent of authoritarian regimes that “fix” the vote. The Trump-endorsed SAVE Act will lead to voter suppression through the following mechanisms:

Documentation Barriers

Approximately 21 million U.S. citizens of voting age lack ready access to proof of citizenship, and roughly half of all Americans do not have a passport—and many voters can’t afford the \$165 required to get one.

Impact on Specific Groups

The requirements disproportionately affect married women (due to name changes), voters of color, younger voters, and rural residents who may have to travel long distances to present documents in person.

Elimination of Flexible Registration

The act effectively nullifies online and mail-in registration by requiring in-person document verification, despite these methods being used by tens of millions of voters in recent cycles.

Error-Prone Purges

The bill mandates frequent voter roll purges (every 30 days in some versions) without requiring notice to voters, which historically has led to the removal of thousands of eligible citizens based on outdated or incorrect data.

Legal Risks for Officials

Election workers could face criminal penalties for registering someone without the required paperwork, even if that person is an eligible citizen, potentially leading to overly cautious denials.

The SAVE Act is partisan hackery. It is a bogus solution in search of a problem. In 2016, The Brennan Center for Justice analyzed 42 jurisdictions (representing 23.5 million votes). Election officials identified 30 incidents of suspected noncitizen voting to be referred for investigation. This equals 0.0001% of the votes in those areas.

Even Project 2025 organizer, The Heritage Foundation, could not find evidence of meaningful voter fraud. In a review spanning over 20 years and billions of votes cast, they documented approximately 77 cases of noncitizens voting in the entire United States.

One reason for the low instance of non-citizen voting is that those applying for citizenship are careful not to commit crimes. Unlawful voting is a misdemeanor with up to one-year in prison, while a false claim of citizenship is a felony that can be punished up to five years in prison. Getting caught would lead to certain deportation. So, the SAVE Act is an un-American voter suppression bill and an affront to democracy.



Job Creators Network

Addison, TX

Revenue: \$3,198,899

The Job Creators Network (JCN) is a conservative advocacy group founded in 2010 by Bernie Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot. JCN, which was originally named The Job Creators Alliance, focuses primarily on small business interests, tax policy, and economic deregulation. To entice lawmakers to vote on their side, JCN hands out "Defender of Small Business" awards to members of Congress.

JCN launched a "Bring Small Businesses Back" (BSBB) campaign in 2016. One year later, The Hill reported that JCN created a multimillion dollar campaign to "pass tax cuts by Thanksgiving as Trump administration officials and leading GOP lawmakers have said they want to pursue broader tax reform." According to The Hill:

The Job Creators Network, a coalition that includes former leaders of Home Depot, Best Buy and BB&T bank, argues that tax cuts for small businesses would lead to job creation and wage growth. The group is pushing for a tax-cut bill to pass this fall that is retroactive to the start of 2017.

The group, which counts heavy hitter Trump backers including former Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) among its allies, said its campaign will include a bus tour that will make stops in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the country and advertising on television, radio, print and digital platforms. The group also launched a website called TaxCutsNow.com to highlight the campaign and to get people to sign a petition.

During President Donald Trump's first term, JCN lost much of its credibility. It dove down bizarre right wing rabbit holes. This included lobbying for dubious remedies to cure COVID, as well as lobby vociferously for small businesses to reopen during the pandemic, which would have put their employees and customers at risk for catching a deadly disease.

In Trump's second term, JCN has mostly shilled for the Trump administration, parroting their talking points. For example, on February 13, 2020, JCN said, "President Trump and Congressional Republicans are setting the stage for an economic golden age."



Perhaps, the only daylight between the President and JCN is over immigration. On February 10, 2026, **Alfredo Ortiz**, JCN's CEO warned, "removing 20 million illegal immigrants could hurt the economy and cost Trump politically."

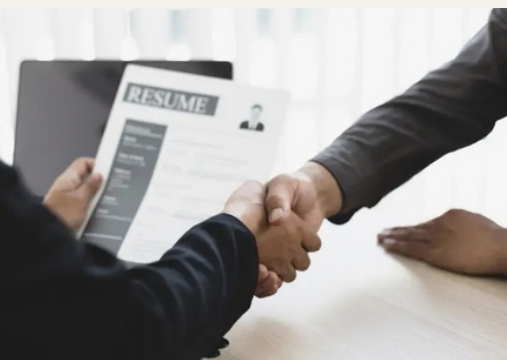
While the GOP likes to pretend that it's a populist party that stands up for the little guy, JCN is a veritable who's who of corporate leaders and billionaire fat cats. Instead of creating jobs, as their name implies, JCN is about leveraging billionaire money to change public policies, so the rich get significantly richer.



Brad Anderson, former Best Buy CEO is JCN's Executive Board Chair. Alfredo Ortiz is CEO of the Job Creators Network, and he previously worked at "a variety of Fortune 500 companies."

Revealing their true values in 2024, JCN appointed Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, to its board of directors. During an interview on NPR's Morning Edition on May 25, 2001, Norquist said, "My goal is to cut government in half in twenty-five years, to get it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub". It remains unclear how such draconian cuts to services and eliminating investment in R&D would create jobs or make America's economy more competitive.



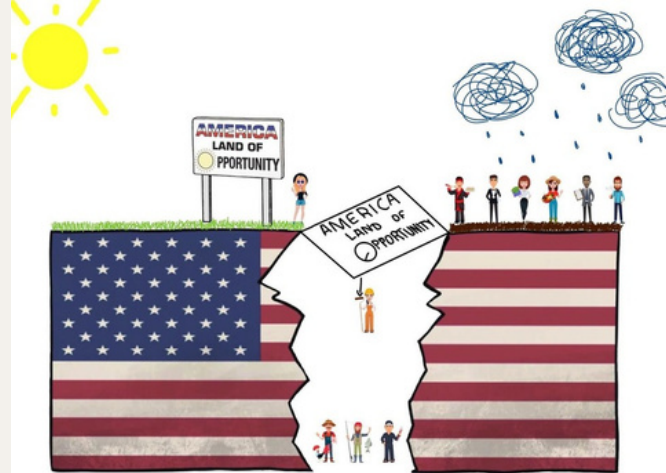


In 2026, JCN will join conservative activist organizations “to tour in six of the nation’s most competitive swing districts and feature lawmakers, local small business leaders, community leaders, and voters.” JCN will tout Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill”, claiming that it “achieved significant tax savings for small business owners and working-class families.” In reality, the Big Beautiful Bill will:

- Serve as a "reverse-Robin Hood" mechanism that transfers wealth upward. By 2027, the bottom 99% of households are projected to see a decrease in after-tax-and-transfer income, while the top 1% receive substantial gains.
- Economists at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School warn that the massive increase in debt could lead to a "doom loop" where high debt forces interest rates higher, further ballooning the debt and eventually requiring painful austerity measures.
- The CBO projects that by 2030, the bill's increase to the deficit will reduce the resources available for private investment and put upward pressure on interest rates, a phenomenon known as "crowding out".
- The bill significantly reduces the social safety net, with an estimated 12 to 16 million people projected to lose health insurance by 2034 due to cuts to Medicaid and the expiration of Obamacare subsidies. (JCN supports ending Obamacare and instead directly giving subsidies to patients through Health Savings Accounts)
- The legislation slashes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by an estimated \$300 billion, potentially stripping 3 million low-income individuals of access to groceries.

JCN's funding derives from a Davos-like collection of right-wing monied interests, including: Bernie Marcus and The Marcus Foundation, Mercer Family Foundation, Anschutz Foundation, John William Pope, DonorsTrust, and the Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation.

Pro Publica reports, "Bennie Marcus is a generous donor to Republican groups and causes. During the 2016 presidential campaign he gave \$5 million to a pro-Trump PAC and has said he'll support the president's reelection campaign." Marcus contributed over \$1 million to support Donald Trump's 2024 campaign before his death on November 4, 2024. This included a specific \$1 million donation to MAGA Inc., Trump's primary super PAC, in the second half of 2023.





Controversies

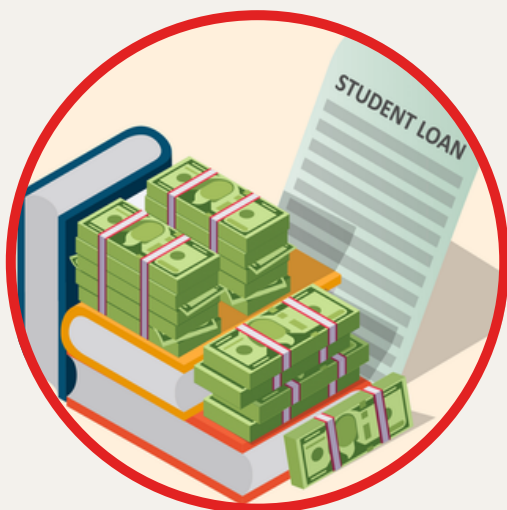
Opposition to Student Loan Forgiveness

In October 2022, JCN's Legal Action Fund filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education and Secretary Miguel Cardona, aiming to block the Biden administration's student loan debt forgiveness program. The lawsuit contended that the program violated the Administrative Procedure Act by bypassing notice-and-comment procedures. In November 2022, U.S. District Judge Mark T. Pittman ruled against the program, deeming it an overreach of executive authority.



Lawsuit Against Major League Baseball (MLB)

In May 2021, JCN sued MLB after the league moved the All-Star Game from Atlanta to Denver in response to Georgia's new voting laws. Georgia's Election Integrity Act, which was signed by Gov. Brian Kemp, was slammed by opponents as new "Jim Crow" laws. "This is Jim Crow on steroids, what they're doing in Georgia," President Biden told ESPN.



JCN claimed this relocation harmed local businesses, leading to significant financial losses, and sought \$100 million in damages. However, a judge ruled against JCN, and the lawsuit was subsequently dropped.

Billboard Campaigns Targeting AOC

In February 2019, JCN launched a billboard campaign in New York City's Times Square criticizing U.S. Representative **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (AOC) for Amazon's decision to cancel plans for a headquarters in Queens. The billboards blamed AOC for the loss of potential jobs and economic benefits. The billboard—which was located on 42nd street near 8th Avenue for one week-- was headlined "Amazon Pullout, Thanks for Nothing, AOC." Ocasio-Cortez dismissed the campaign, highlighting her opposition to "dark money" and anti-worker policies.

In 2024, JCN returned with a follow-up billboard campaign in Times Square that said, "Hey AOC, Weeee're Baaaack!". In a press release, JCN wrote:

"The billboards expose AOC's responsibility for rising crime rates, illegal immigration chaos, defunding the police, sky-high grocery prices, out-of-control energy costs, and driving 25,000 good-paying jobs out of her district by chasing away Amazon's HQ2 a few years ago."

The campaign failed to stop AOC from being elected. That she was attacked by angry billionaires only reinforced her image of standing up to power and money.

Promotion of Unproven COVID-19 Treatments

During the COVID-19 pandemic, JCN advocated for the use of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment, despite the lack of FDA approval for its efficacy against the virus. The organization hosted a petition supporting the drug, aligning with certain political figures who promoted its use without substantial scientific backing. It also placed Facebook ads and texted supporters to urge President Donald Trump to "CUT RED TAPE".



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Employer-to-Employee Communications

JCN has been criticized for its "Employer to Employee" (E2E) program, which encourages business owners to communicate political preferences to their employees. Critics argue this approach can border on workplace intimidation, pressuring employees to align with specific political views. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) described the biased, partisan program that often uses fear to mislead workers:

The Job Creators Network (JCN) is a corporate advocacy organization that provides businesses with tools to influence employee political choices. JCN believes employees are "an untapped reservoir of support for free enterprise" and has developed an Employer to Employee (E2E) communications program to help companies enlist their employees as political advocates. Among other things, JCN's materials seek to convince employees that raising the minimum wage will hurt them and that new power plant emission rules "could lead to higher energy bills, fewer jobs, a weaker economy, greater poverty – for minorities in particular – and even world hunger."

JCN stresses that its materials do not explicitly tell employees for whom to vote, but as CREW noted, slides used to pitch the E2E program to business leaders tout how a quarter of surveyed employees at one JCN CEO's company say the materials influenced how they voted. In 2012, an early version of JCN created a voter guide that was distributed to employees of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. The pamphlet, which emphasized to employees that voting is important to "protect your job," criticized Democratic candidates while praising Republicans.



Quotes

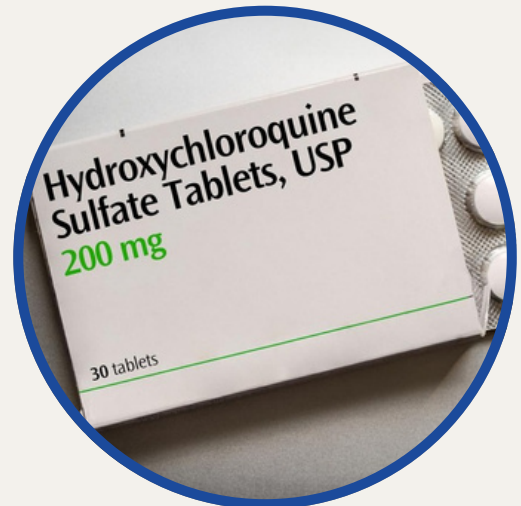
2019

"The Amazon pullout is a perfect example of what we've been saying: socialism takes and capitalism creates. The economic consequences of the HQ2 termination gives America a small taste of the harm that is to come if Ocasio-Cortez's anti-business canon comes to fruition and is made federal policy." — **Alfredo Ortiz, JCN president and CEO, FOX Business, Feb. 20, 2019**



2020

"Doctors who think hydroxychloroquine needs to be approved to fight coronavirus need to make their voice heard NOW. Please sign our petition which will go directly to President Trump." — **JCN Facebook ad, March 23-26, 2020**



2021

"MLB robbed the small businesses of Atlanta – many of them minority-owned – of \$100 million, we want the game back where it belongs. This was a knee-jerk, hypocritical and illegal reaction to misinformation about Georgia's new voting law which includes Voter-ID. Major League Baseball itself requests ID at will-call ticket windows at Yankee Stadium in New York, Busch Stadium in St. Louis and at ballparks all across the country." — **Statement from Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network. ABC News, May 31, 2021**



2022

"This bailout is going to affect everyone in this country because of the mass size of the program. And everyone should have the opportunity to provide their views to the government. These universities need to be held accountable for this student debt crisis." — **Elaine Parker, President, Job Creators Network Foundation, PBS, Oct. 10, 2022, opposing President Joe Biden's student debt relief**

2024

"AOC is a threat to American small businesses and America's way of life. Her policies are responsible for the crime, migrant, and economic crises burdening her constituents in New York and around the nation. She single-handedly drove 25,000 good paying jobs out of her district by chasing away Amazon's HQ2. It's time to send her packing. Democrat Martin Dolan is a much-needed voice of moderation that will help small businesses and working families in New York City and beyond. New York City residents looking to stop the bleeding and undo AOC's damage should vote for Dolan now."

— **JCN billboard campaign endorsing primary opponent against Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)**

2026

"Since President Trump took office, he has cut 350,000 government jobs, a remarkable achievement." — **JCN statement praising mass layoffs through the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network**

"Trump's tariffs achieved what they intended: rebalancing global trade in favor of American manufacturers and small businesses...they set the stage for a significant increase in economic growth and living standards in 2026." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, praising Trump's controversial tariffs**

"The spike in gas prices due to the Iran War would have been much worse without the Trump administration's drill-baby-drill energy policies that has dramatically increased domestic energy supply." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X, March 11, 2026**

"Trump ended costly Biden-era appliance mandates that drove up prices. He scrapped the electric vehicle quota that would have forced two-thirds of new cars to be electric within several years — a regulation that's forced the big three automakers to take a \$52 billion write down so far, costing thousands of jobs. Trump restored predictability for small businesses that were tired of bracing for the next wave of federal mandates." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X praising Trump's State of the Union Speech, Feb. 24, 2026**

"President Trump and Congressional Republicans are setting the stage for an economic golden age." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X, Feb. 13, 2026**

Keystone Policy Institute

Elverson, PA

Revenue: \$48,903 [2005 Filing]

Founded in 2005, Keystone Policy Institute is what we call a “Black Box” organization. There is virtually no institutional or financial information available on this mysterious non-profit.

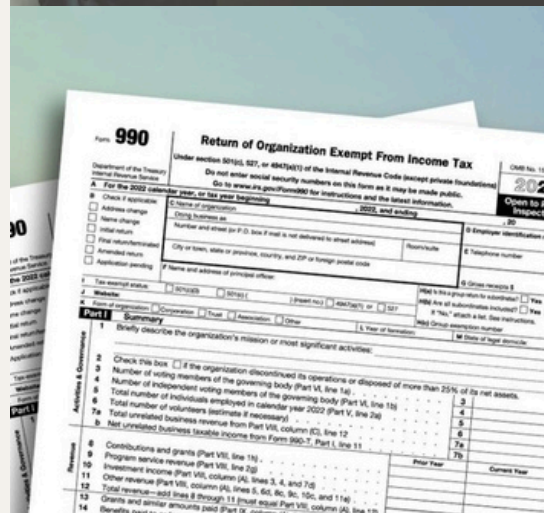
The million-dollar question is why would the Heritage Foundation include a group on Project 2025’s prestigious advisory board that is a veritable nonentity? The fact that a virtually invisible group was placed alongside, and bestowed equal stature, to major right-wing organizations is fishy, to say the least.

In its only publicly available IRS 990 filing, the organization received \$48,903 in contributions, with \$21,806 distributed as “compensation” for officers and directors. The organization listed as its activities:

Keystone policy institute as an organization conducted a statewide survey to ascertain the public's view of the most pressing statewide issues. These survey results were then released statewide and utilized to educate the public.

Although obscure, KPI is politically well-connected. The organization’s Vice President (in 2005) was **Pat Toomey**, Pennsylvania’s United States Senator from 2011-2023. From 1999-2005, Toomey represented Pennsylvania’s 15th congressional district.

The group’s president and founder, as listed in 2005, is **Alan Egolf**. Egolf is also named as a contact for the Penngift Foundation Inc., another educational nonprofit based at the same Elverson address, which provides scholarships and student financial aid.



Pat Toomey



Alan Egolf



Pat Langiotti, KPI's Secretary, is the president and founder of Creative Management Concepts, a consulting firm that provides strategic planning and leadership development. She has a long history of involvement in Pennsylvania business and policy circles, including serving on the board of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jennifer Leinbach served as the Executive Director of the Keystone Policy Institute from approximately 2004 to 2005. Her career includes roles at the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and the Innovation Transfer Network, focusing on technology investment and innovation in the commonwealth.



The institute allegedly works in tandem with the Penngift Foundation, also based in Elverson. Together, they supposedly focus on:

- **Scholarship Management:** Providing financial aid and scholarships to students, often utilizing the very tax credit programs the Institute researches.
- **Legislative Briefings:** Summaries of proposed state house bills related to education funding and property tax reform.
- **Economic Impact Studies:** Occasional white papers detailing the benefits of specific tax incentives for Pennsylvania's private sector.



Given the small footprint of this group, one wonders if it was included as a Project 2025 partner to serve as a future conduit for dark money? There is no reasonable, nor rational, explanation for why this organization is part of Project 2025. Perhaps, the purpose of their inclusion will become more apparent in the future.

Leadership Institute

Arlington, VA

Revenue: \$54,449,596

The Leadership Institute (LI), which serves as a farm team to train young conservatives, was founded in 1979 by **Morton Blackwell**. His political manta is, "You owe it to your philosophy to study how to win, you have a moral obligation to learn how to win." According to Blackwell's [bio](#):

The Leadership Institute is the culmination of the political lessons Morton learned throughout his life – that America would only stay free if it had a steady flow of leaders rising to positions where they could make a difference.

At the 1964 Republican National Convention in San Francisco, Blackwell served as Barry Goldwater's youngest elected delegate. In 1988 he was first elected Virginia's Republican National Committeeman, a post he still holds. He serves on the RNC's Standing Committee on Rules and has attended every meeting of the Republican National Conventions' Rules Committees since 1972.

A who's who of right-wing glitterati has been trained by LI. Among the graduates is firebrand Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), who endorsed the group: "Leadership Institute students don't just learn textbook theories. Instead, they get real-world, use-it-now lessons about how to fight the good fight and win."

Conservative anti-transgender activist and LI graduate Riley Gaines said, "The Leadership Institute gives youth hope for a prosperous future—and the skills to make it a reality.

By any measure, LI is an incredible success story, having trained well over a quarter of a million student activists to participate in GOP politics—although this flamboyantly Republican organization disingenuously masquerades as a 501 c3 non-partisan group. For instance, LI has shown recruits videos such as, "The Roots of the Ultra Left."



The impressive roster of LI graduates includes **Karl Rove**, **Jeff Gannon**, **Ralph Reed**, **James O’Keefe** and two Miss Americas: **Kellye Cash** (1987) and **Heather Whitestone** (1995). Rove and Reed, in particular are both towering figures who helped define the politics of our time. LI also boasts of launching the careers of hundreds of state and local legislators, as well as members of the U.S. Congress. Without the training of the Leadership Institute, where might the conservative movement be today?

Tragically, LI plays a key role in sullyng today’s political landscape. They put conservatives on course to participate in manufactured outrage and outright cheating—two ugly traits that have defined the modern GOP and harmed national unity.

LI imparts to impressionable students what they call “Controlled Controversy.” For example, in 2003 at University of Miami, an LI sponsored group, Advocates for Conservative Thought, hosted an affirmative action bake sale in which the price of a cupcake varied according to the race of its buyer. While this might have lifted the profile of the conservative campus group, in undoubtedly gnawed at the university’s social fabric.



Karl Rove



Jeff Gannon



Ralph Reed



James O’Keefe



Kellye Cash



Heather Whitestone

The dodgy organization also imparted lessons on rigging campus elections. Salon reported on the slimy tactic:

They take careful notes as instructor Paul Gourley teaches them how to rig a campus mock election.

First you find a nonpartisan campus group to sponsor the election, so you can't be accused of cheating. Next, volunteer to organize the thing. College students are lazy, and they'll probably let you. Always keep in mind that a rigged mock election is all about location, location, location.

"Can anyone tell me," asks Gourley, a veteran mock electioneer, "why you don't want the polling place in the cafeteria?"

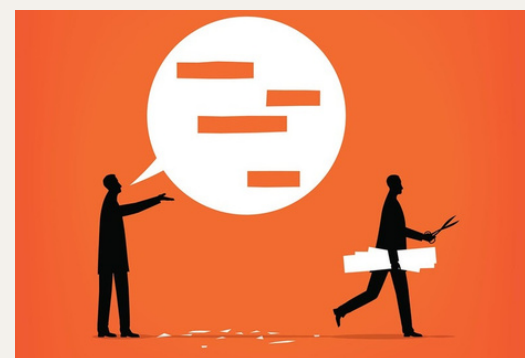
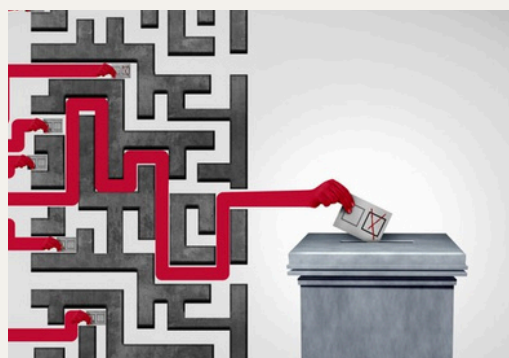
Stephen, a shy antiabortion activist sitting toward the rear of the class, raises his hand: "Because you want to suppress the vote?"

"Stephen has the right answer!" Gourley exclaims, tossing Stephen his prize, a copy of Robert Bork's "Slouching Toward Gomorrah."

Gourley, a charismatic senior from South Dakota and the treasurer of the College Republican National Committee, assures them: "This is not anti-democracy. This is not shady. Just put [the polling place] somewhere where you might have to put a little bit of effort into voting." The rest, Gourley explains, is just a matter of turnout.

Reporters will almost certainly ignore it, but after a dozen similar victories, they'll start dashing off articles about the youth phenomenon behind your candidate's campaign — or better yet, just start plagiarizing your press releases.

There is no better place to master the art of mock-election rigging — and there is no better master than Morton Blackwell, who invented the trick in 1964 and has been teaching it ever since.



Salon reported that the formula for LI is simple:

The Leadership Institute trains promising conservative college graduates over the summer and dispatches them to campuses in the fall with a mandate to start conservative student organizations. Need \$500 and some ideas to start a combative right-wing campus publication? The institute would love to help you. Is the campus administration discriminating against your Second Amendment club? The institute will help you take your cause to the Internet. No one on campus at your Christian college has ever heard of the institute? Staffers will be glad to drive down, take you to a steakhouse, and talk it up.

"You know, the most conservative students are the freshmen," Blackwell told me. "There is an acculturation there."

Unfortunately, there has been an ugly side to LI's lessons in the dark arts of politics. Several college professors and students have reported being targeted for harassment and violence after being singled out in LI's "Campus Reform", a vicious [news website](#) that serves as the organization's primary vehicle for monitoring and reporting on what it characterizes as liberal bias and "indoctrination" within American higher education.

Campus Reform is a cheerleader for [Donald Trump](#), while dedicating an [entire section of its website](#) bashing transgender people. It also spends a great deal of time working [to end](#) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).



LI has broadened its vision, working to turn Europe more conservative. A 2020 report from Open Democracy discovered:

This bare-knuckled politics is no longer confined to the US. The Leadership Institute has spent around \$350,000 bringing its agenda to Europe since 2016, according to a new investigation by openDemocracy. There has been a marked increase in its European activities in recent years – and it spends more money in Europe than anywhere else in the world, outside the US.

openDemocracy's research also reveals that the organisation has worked with controversial ultra-conservatives in Europe including a Lega politician in Italy, the Spanish far-right group CitizenGo, Croatia's anti-LGBT 'In the Name of the Family' coalition and the neo-feudalist Tradition, Family and Property movement's branches in Austria and France, as well as across Latin America.

The Leadership Institute has also worked with a number of conservative groups and politicians in the UK – including Tim Evans, a former lobbyist for privatised healthcare; a former chair of the conservative Bow Group think-tank; and Matthew Elliott, chief executive of the Vote Leave campaign in the Brexit referendum campaign.

Speaking to openDemocracy, the prominent UK LGBTIQ rights activist Peter Tatchell accused the Leadership Institute of "a form of cultural imperialism". "It is exporting culture wars to subvert our democracies and influence our politics. We [didn't] even know it is happening, until now," he said.



Controversies

Attacking John Kerry's Military Record

Before the 2004 Republican Convention, Morton Blackwell went to a drugstore and bought little pink heart stickers, bandages and purple nail polish. At home, he made the "Purple Heart Band-Aids" that he later distributed in Madison Square Garden to mock John Kerry's war wounds. From Blackwell's perspective, the Kerry camp's outrage at the gag was a tactical disaster. Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe, Blackwell says, kept the story alive for days by "running around like a chicken with its head cut off." While this controversy harmed Kerry, the country was the biggest loser, with Blackwell making it OK to mock veterans. This tactic metastasized years later when Donald Trump mocked John McCain for being captured in Vietnam.

— Salon, *My Right-Wing Degree*, May 25, 2005

Helped Launch James O' Keefe's Sordid Career

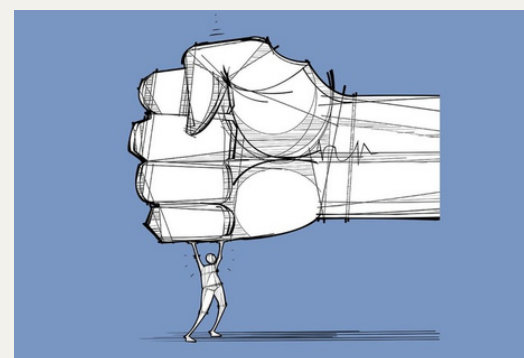
LI helped former Rutgers student James O'Keefe found an inflammatory right-wing publication at the university. The institute gave O'Keefe books on starting a publication, awarded him a \$500 "Balance in Media Grant," and suggested never-fail places on campus to ferret out liberal excess. "They were really excited," O'Keefe recalls.

In 2017, The Washington Post wrote, "While at the Leadership Institute, O'Keefe traveled to campuses to consult with students on starting clubs and conservative newspapers."



In 2010, O'Keefe founded the notorious, and serially dishonest organization, Project Veritas, which would go "undercover" and then distort its alleged findings. This led to O'Keefe paying a \$100,000 settlement to a fired ACORN employee for violating privacy laws. The Lowlights of O'Keefe's sleazy career include:

- O'Keefe and three others were arrested after entering the office of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu dressed as telephone repairmen. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of entering federal property under false pretenses and was sentenced to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.
- O'Keefe allegedly planned to lure CNN correspondent Abbie Boudreau onto a boat filled with "sex props" and hidden cameras to seduce and humiliate her on film. The plan was foiled when a Project Veritas executive warned Boudreau; Veritas later paid that executive a five-figure settlement after she threatened to sue.
- 'Keefe released a video of NPR executives that led to the resignation of CEO Vivian Schiller. However, an analysis of the raw footage showed the video was heavily edited to misrepresent the executives' comments, making personal observations appear as official NPR stances.
- The FBI raided O'Keefe's home in connection with the theft of a diary belonging to Ashley Biden. While O'Keefe was not charged, two individuals pleaded guilty to transporting the stolen property and selling it to Project Veritas.
- Accusations included O'Keefe spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in donor funds on personal luxuries, such as \$150,000 on "black car" services, \$14,000 for a charter flight to fix his private boat, and \$60,000 for theatrical dance events. This led to his dismissal from the organization in 2023.
- A 11-page staff memo described him as a "power-drunk tyrant" who was "outright cruel" to employees. Allegations included screaming at staff, making them run personal errands, and even reportedly taking a pregnant employee's lunch.



Moms for Liberty Sponsorship

One of the most toxic new right-wing organizations in America is Moms for Liberty (MFL), which was founded in Melbourne, Florida in 2021. This organization—tied to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis—is deeply homophobic, works to ban books, censors school curriculums, and creates a dismal atmosphere that stifles free-inquiry-centered education in favor of right-wing indoctrination. According to National Public Radio:

Known largely for speaking out against mask mandates in the pandemic, demanding access to school curricula, rooting out offensive or explicit content in literature and voicing their suspicions about the pervasiveness of "woke ideology" at school board meetings across the country, members of Moms For Liberty said they now hope to expand their political influence and the scope of parental rights laws, which exist in about one third of states.

One year after its founding, the Leadership Institute kept Mom's for Liberty afloat with a \$50,000 donation. LI also participated in MFL training sessions at their 2022 summit in Tampa.

Nicole Smyth, a mom from South Carolina, told NPR. that she believes the Leadership Institute trainings are transforming the movement by providing an understanding of how to navigate – and influence – bureaucracies.

"I think we're shifting, where a lot more people are like, we're not just going to speak out, we're going to have facts to back it up. And that is really helping us. And I'm hoping as time goes on, more and more parents start realizing that's why Moms For Liberty is so great. And that the training is so great, because it's teaching us more," Smyth said.





In 2023, the supposed moral standing of Mom's for Liberty crumbled into a hypocritical mess. Co-founder Bridget Ziegler and her husband, former Florida GOP Chairman Christian Ziegler, allegedly planned a 3-way sexual encounter with another woman. The woman accused Christian Ziegler of sexual assault.

In January 2024, Sarasota police announced they would not file rape charges against Christian Ziegler, stating video evidence suggested the encounter was likely consensual. Prosecutors also declined to pursue a separate charge of video voyeurism related to his recording of the encounter. In any case, it was clear that MFL was a fraud where its leaders were not practicing what they were preaching.

Targeting of Trinity Professor

In 2027, Trinity professor, John Eric Williams, shared a link to a Fusion piece called "Bigoted Homophobe Steve Scalise's Life Was Saved by a Queer Black Woman." It points to the fact that Scalise, the Republican congressman who was shot at a baseball practice in Alexandria, Va., previously opposed extending protections to LGBTQ people and reportedly once spoke at a meeting of white supremacists, while one of the black law enforcement officers who rescued him is a married lesbian.

Williams shared the article through an embedded link in Medium, accompanied by commentary from an author called Son of Baldwin, entitled "Let Them Fucking Die." Baldwin's piece argues that "indifference to their well-being is the only thing that terrifies" bigots, and so people of color should "Let. Them. Fucking. Die" if they're ever drowning, "teetering on the edge of a cliff" or caught in various other emergencies.

“Saving the life of those that would kill you is the opposite of virtuous,” Baldwin wrote.

In sharing Baldwin’s link to the Fusion article, Williams also used his “Let them fucking die” comment as a hashtag, and wrote that it is “past time for the racially oppressed to do what people who believe themselves to be ‘white’ will not do, put end to the vectors of their destructive mythology of whiteness and their white supremacy system.”

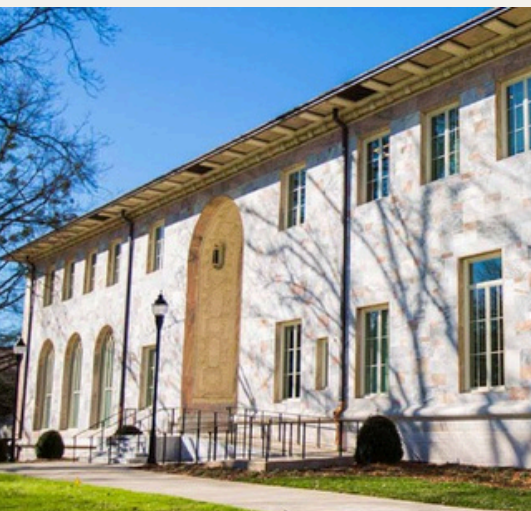
The incident was covered by LI’s Campus Reform campaign, where Professor Williams was excoriated. Trinity originally condemned Williams’s use of that hashtag and asked Williams to go on leave through the fall as it investigated his comments. He declined and was put on paid leave anyway.

However, Trinity President Joanne Berger-Sweeney, according to Inside Higher Ed, “called out Campus Reform, saying its initial report on Williams’s posts “led to distortions and an ensuing harassment that has become troublingly common for people of color and those who speak out on issues of race and racism”...Such harassment, she said, is “intended to intimidate, is appalling and, indeed, a threat to freedom of expression”.

In 2024, the Guardian reported:

“Campus Reform’s past efforts have led to faculty on campuses across the nation receiving “threats of harm” – including violence or death, according to research by the American Association of University Professors. The Leadership Institute, funded by the Koch family and others, runs the group.





Noëlle McAfee

Fear of Emory Flyers

In 2024, LI's Campus Reform delivered inflammatory flyers to Emory University, targeting pro-Palestinian protesters. Titled "Security Alert", it included the names, ages and mugshot-style photos of students and professors, arranged under the word "Arrested".

One student who was named in the flyer told The Guardian, "It's scary. I don't want to be targeted. I'm scared someone will see the flyer, see me, feel afraid and call the cops on me."

Noëlle McAfee, chairperson of Emory's philosophy department and also featured on the flyer, sent an email to Brad Slutsky, Emory's general counsel, asking what the university "will do to notify the [Campus Reform] organization that it is has violated our rules and, absent any invitation from any member of the campus community, is not welcome here".

Ibrahim, a Muslim Emory student, said, "If you go around handing out flyers with people's names and pictures, drawing negative attention to them," he said, "it's very clear you want to cause harm to them – physically, emotionally or psychologically."

Quotes

2010

"Conservatives from nearly a dozen countries arrived in Washington, DC this week to learn how to effectively defeat the radical Left. Travelling from as far away as Ghana, Venezuela, and the Netherlands, these students attended the Leadership Institute's International Seminar, a power-packed training which gives foreign conservatives an opportunity to learn from their American counterparts." — **Leadership Institute-trained freedom fighters gather in Washington, DC, Jan. 22, 2010**



2015

- "Moral outrage is the most powerful motivating force in politics." — **Morton Blackwell, Founder, Leadership Institute, "The Laws of the Public Policy Process"**
- "Personnel is policy." — **Morton Blackwell, Founder, Leadership Institute, "The Laws of the Public Policy Process"**
- "Don't fully trust anyone until he has stuck with a good cause which he saw was losing." — **Morton Blackwell, Founder, Leadership Institute, "The Laws of the Public Policy Process"**
- "Pray as if it all depended on God; work as if it all depended on you." — **Morton Blackwell, Founder, Leadership Institute, "The Laws of the Public Policy Process"**





2020

"I want to eliminate the IRS, but most voters don't. But if you say, 'Do you want tax reform?' voters are completely in favor of it." — **David Blair, Then-Director of the Youth Leadership School at the Leadership Institute, Open Democracy, Oct. 31, 2020**

2026



"Conservative students face constant abuse from their peers. Their grades get docked by leftist professors. Their rights get violated by spineless school administrators. Liberals must answer not only for the pie-throwing and the riots. They must also answer for the culture of bullying and intimidation they've created on college campuses." — **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

"The time has come to expose leftist thugs and their attacks on freedom." — **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**



"Through powerful journalism, advocacy, and grassroots training efforts all across America, the Leadership Institute's Campus Reform exposes leftist bias, abuse, and indoctrination on college campuses for all America to see — and equips conservative students to fight back!"

— **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

League of American Workers

Chicago, IL

Revenue: \$4,143,580

The League of American Workers (LAW) is a bogus AstroTurf organization founded in 2022 by **Steve Cortes**, an extremist adviser to the 2016 and 2020 Trump campaigns. Cortes' catchphrase is "diversity is not our strength" and he appears substantially more interested in ending immigration than supporting American workers.

His organization, LAW, seems to be another "Black Box" organization, where there is no clear rationale why it is part of Project 2025—other than serving as a transparent front for the right wing to feign interest in helping workers.

LAW is aggressively partisan and claims to represent labor against their "corrupt leadership" which has been "totally captured by The Democrat Party and a cringe radical agenda."

According to the group's website:

On the management side, powerful corporate cronies find willing supplicants pushing their agenda in media and in the halls of political power. But what about workers? Who is the advocate for the salt-of-the-earth citizens who make our society function, especially the blue-collar workers who work with their hands as well as with their minds? The answer is the League of American Workers.

LAW uses incisive and original research and communicates it powerfully to change the conversation and tilt the paradigm back toward workers. Founder and President **Steve Cortes** leads a young and growing movement of pro-worker patriotic populism.



Despite the self-aggrandizing propaganda, LAW has no known labor constituency and consists of one guy with a website. Its donors remain secret, which strongly suggests it is a conduit for dark money. Cortes is cosplaying “salt of the earth citizen”, as he’s a graduate from elite Georgetown University and previously worked on Wall Street. His opportunistic embrace of blue-collar workers is incongruent with his hifalutin career arc.

Cortes was also an on-air personality hawking white-collar financial advice on CNBC. He moved on to become a CNN contributor, with the role as staunch MAGA defender.

As Cortes’ TV career plummeted, he had a brief moment at Newsmax, then created a failed YouTube channel, which he unceremoniously abandoned. Now he is reduced to making poorly produced mini-documentaries, including, “You Don’t Know Barack: Exposing Obama,” where Cortes said, “Why did America’s first black president work constantly to divide America, making race relations way worse.”

The political apex of Cortes came in 2020, when he was chosen to help turn around President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign, after Brad Parscale had failed to boost Trump’s foundering candidacy.

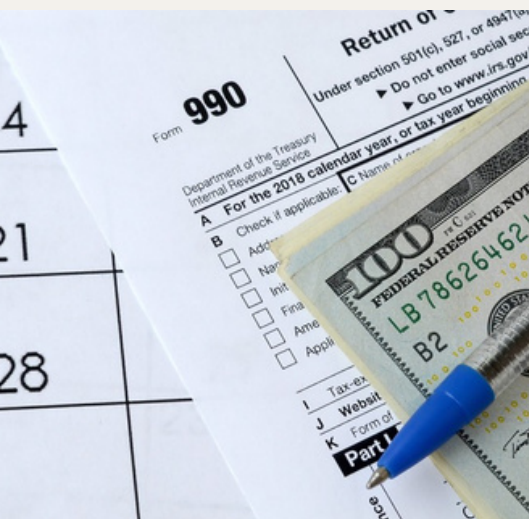
Cortes failed at this political task and revealed himself to be a bit of a religious extremist and uncompromising fanatic who episodically embraces state-sponsored violence against his political foes. The Daily Beast reported in 2020:

President Donald Trump’s political fortunes took a nosedive when he had federal agents use tear gas to clear out a park across from the White House so he could conduct a photo-op at a nearby church.

But to hear his campaign’s newest senior adviser, Steve Cortes, tell it, Trump’s misstep was not the act of authorizing attacks on peaceful protesters—it was that the president wasn’t even “more of a fascist.”

“If Trump were the fascist that they pretend that he is, wouldn’t he have cracked down much, much harder on the unrest in the American streets?” Cortes said on The Steve Cortes Show on June 25, less than three weeks after the incident at Lafayette Square. “To be quite honest, you know, when there were people being bloodied, cops being attacked, businesses being smashed, I could have used a tad bit more of a fascist Trump.”

In terms of finances, LAW is an enigma with a malodorous stench of likely corruption—although it shrewdly operates in a cloudy gray area between poor ethics and breaking the law.



Brian Burch



David R Langdon

It received 2 grants from 1 secret philanthropist totaling \$3,793,556 over the most recent 5 years of available data. In 2023, a right-wing organization, Restoration of America, dedicated to “God, family and education”, provided the League of American Workers with a generous \$450,000 general support grant. This gift represented 99% of LAW’s total revenue in 2023.

Aside from Cortes, board members and staff are not listed on the organization’s website or on Candid, which provides information about nonprofit organizations. A 2023 IRS 990 form, however, revealed that **Brian Burch** is the Treasurer and **David R Langdon** is LAW’s secretary.

Burch is the co-founder and former president of CatholicVote and currently serves as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, as of August 2025. Interestingly, and quite incestuously, Cortes was brought on as Senior Political Advisor and Spokesman for Catholic Vote in 2025—as well as maintaining his duties with LAW.

In 2023, LAW provided \$354,000 in revenue to contractors, Adar Partners, Veracruz Communications, and North Star Opinion Research. In 2024, LAW provided \$2,062,015 to four contractors, Salvo Page LLC, North Star Opinion Research, Veracruz Communications and Adar Partners.

LAW’s giving pattern presents the strong potential for conflict of interest. In 2002, Cortes founded Veracruz Communications, which received \$112,500 from LAW in 2023 and \$300,000 in 2024.

It’s questionable whether it is ethical for LAW to receive donations from donors, then funnel the contributions directly into Cortes’ own communications firm under the guise of consulting. If this unseemly action was approved by the opaque LAW board of directors, and the price charged by Veracruz Communications was competitive with industry standards, this tawdry move is probably legal.

However, the appearance of possible untoward financial shenanigans can't be ignored—especially coming from an outspoken right-wing organization that received money from a source touting its dedication to "God, family and education." This unusual financial arrangement begs the question: Is Project 2025 about molding morals or making money?

The shifty operations and murky operators at LAW extend to its incorporation and a magic money mailbox in Chicago. The group was incorporated in Ohio in March 2023; however, it receives mail at a PO Box store in Chicago, which shares an address with several sleazy "fake news" entities connected to LAW. The Intercept reported:

Its incorporation papers were filed by David Langdon, a Cincinnati-based lawyer with deep ties to conservative dark-money networks. Langdon, who did not respond to The Intercept's questions, is a "known entity in the world of dark money," according to Robert Maguire, research director at Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

Langdon, who did not respond to The Intercept's questions, is a "known entity in the world of dark money," according to Robert Maguire, research director at Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.



Additionally, Spartans Communications LLC is registered at this Chicago mailbox location and has documented financial ties to Steve Cortes and his associated political groups. On LAW's 2024 990 tax form, Spartans Communications is listed under the category "Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships", with income listed as \$800,000. (We have more on the mysterious mailbox in the "Controversies" section)

LAW lists four key areas of work. The first is trade, where they echo MAGA's obsession with "globalist powerbrokers" who are working to "push a trade agenda that rewards corrupt foreign countries, especially China, while punishing hard-working Americans."

The second issue is immigration, where the "The Globalists" are blamed for "porous borders" because they "care little about America as a sovereign nation with strong borders" and want "cheap labor".

The third area of focus is a bit of a stretch—with LAW blaming drug legalization—including marijuana—for a "degraded workforce that does not serve America's long-term interest."

The facts, however, don't back up LAW's unfounded assertions. Recreational legalization of marijuana cigarettes first occurred in the U.S. state of Colorado in 2012. In 2012, inflation-adjusted GDP per capita in the U.S. was \$55,000–\$57,000. In 2026, the inflation adjusted figures show \$70,000–\$75,000 GDP per capita. This strongly suggests that liberalization of drug laws in the U.S. did not, in fact, lead to lower work productivity.

Finally, LAW claims it supports "homemakers" who they claim, without evidence, are "always forgotten and disrespected by the credentialed class decision makers" and "deserve forceful advocacy in public life in America."

LAW's modus operandi is a strange witch's brew of crass Culture War MAGA populism and religious right pandering. That is why it combines disingenuous pro-labor rhetoric with anti-drug positions, while supposedly advocating for homemakers.



Controversies

Pink Slime Message Machine

The collapse of local news organizations, with the growth of the Internet, created an information vacuum in local media markets across the nation. Unfortunately, it was filled by dishonest charlatans that created a bad faith business model to fool people into supporting their pet political projects.

Opportunistic new companies, with hardcore right-wing agendas, invested heavily in websites that had the look and feel of real local news outlets. However, their online content would be filled with explicitly partisan news stories—while also serving as biased platforms for brutally attacking political opponents.

Poynter, a media watchdog, described the underhanded technique:

Pink slime journalism is named after a meat byproduct and describes outlets that publish poor quality reports that appear to be local news.

One such company is Metric Media, which has a network of more than 1,300 “pink slime” websites. It operates fake news outlets such as The “Waukesha Times,” which has no masthead, and many of its articles carry no individual byline.

LAW's unprincipled business model is to disseminate its conservative messages by saturating the online landscape with PR-stunt “articles” that are placed on fraudulent pink slime websites. The goal is to influence the outcome of political races, often by uplifting the candidates they support with puff pieces, while denigrating candidates they oppose with smear campaigns that look like real news articles.

The Intercept reported:

Cortes did not answer questions about his relationship with Metric Media, which goes back to his days as a Trump campaign spokesperson. In 2020, dozens of Metric Media sites published cookie-cutter opinion pieces under his byline, according to analysis by the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University.

The Intercept found posts featuring the League of American Workers on Metric Media sites targeted at the battleground states of Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Georgia.

Chicago's Magic Money Mailbox

LAW's Cortes and Pink Slime maven Metric Media share a Chicago PO box at 2045 W Grand Ave. The same mailbox is also shared by Salvo Page LLC-- which does consulting and website services—and received \$943,815 from LAW as a contractor in 2024.

Salvo Page is owned by Brian Timpone, a former TV reporter turned media entrepreneur who is the central figure behind a massive network of over 1,300 websites designed to look like local news outlets. Timpone is connected to Dan Proft's "People Who Play by the Rules" PAC, which the Chicago Sun Times reported, "spent almost \$36 million during the second half of 2022, mostly on advertising boosting Sen. Darren Bailey's gubernatorial bid and opposing Gov. J.B. Pritzker."

Another group that shares the mailbox is Spartans Communications LLC, which LAW paid \$357,050 in 2024, allegedly to enhance the organization's grassroots communications.

It appears that Chicago-area billionaire Richard Uihlein acts as the primary financial engine for the political and media network that includes Steve Cortes, Dan Proft, and Brian Timpone. The "Chicago mailbox" serves as a central clearinghouse for a network of "dark money" groups and "pink slime" media outlets.

Don't be too concerned if you're confused by this unseemly web of political alliances and shadowy financial relationships. What you need to understand is that it's a very lucrative endeavor to own a crooked pink slime company, particularly if you happen to share a particular Chicago mailbox with Steve Cortes.

On X, Cortes describes himself as a "Bad Hombre". Based on his business model and financial dealings, we can't disagree.



Racist Attacks on Kamala Harris

LAW viciously went after Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris with a series of brazenly racist attacks. The group worked with “pink slime” media outlets to place bogus “stories” where they tried to gin up anger against Harris and African Americans. On July 26, 2024, a “story” was placed in the PHX Reporter, where LAW wrote:

“How radical is Kamala?” Steve Cortes, president and founder of LAW, told PHX Reporter. “Well, if you’re a white or Hispanic person living in the Phoenix area—she is going to take your money and give it to black people.”

A similar story was placed the same day in the so-called Waukesha Times, except one of the minority groups targeted by LAW changed.

“How radical is Kamala?,” Steve Cortes, president and founder of LAW, told Waukesha Times. “Well, if you’re a white, Hispanic or Asian person living in Waukesha County, for example, she is going to take your money and give it to black people.”

This ugly and outrageous effort to use pink slime scam “publications” to flood the Internet with bigoted content, designed to pit minorities against each other and to decrease support for Harris, is beneath contempt. It shows what a slimy organization LAW is, as well as reveals Cortes’ deep character deficit.





George Soros and BLM

Cortes claimed that billionaire philanthropist George Soros was manipulating the Black Lives Matter movement to achieve the "nullification of America."

"I think this is incredibly important that we talk about George Soros and others," Cortes said on a June 9, 2020, episode of his show. "There are some very powerful, very well-financed actors, both individuals and groups, on the left, who have decided that they are going to use Black Lives Matter as their vehicle, as their vehicle to achieve—and I really don't think it's an exaggeration to say this—to achieve a nullification, really, of America, of our founding principles."

He said that the "propensity of Black people in this country to commit violent crime" meant that white criminals are actually the victims of police violence. Cortes has also referred to some Black Lives Matters protesters as "terrorists."



Quotes

2020

"I think this is incredibly important that we talk about George Soros and others. There are some very powerful, very well-financed actors, both individuals and groups, on the left, who have decided that they are going to use Black Lives Matter as their vehicle, as their vehicle to achieve—and I really don't think it's an exaggeration to say this—to achieve a nullification, really, of America, of our founding principles." — **The Steve Cortes Show**, June 9, 2020

"I mean, this country has been amazing to her, right? And the fact that she's going to use her talents and wealth, then, to spread a lie about this country that has been so amazing to her, it really strikes me as ungrateful." — **The Steve Cortes Show**, June 15, 2020

Context: A call-in segment about Oprah Winfrey's lauding of the New York Times' "1619 Project," which explores the unexamined role that slavery played in the founding of the United States

"The fact is, this country saved her. You would think that somebody like that, who was literally saved from danger and squalor, given an opportunity to be in this country, to become, again, elected to our national, our national Congress... you would think somebody like that would be patriotic." — **Cortes criticizing Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)**





2024

"I'm honored to help the crucial Project 2025 effort to fully staff up a second Trump term with the most talented and philosophically aligned public servants possible to implement an America First national renewal." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [The Intercept](#), Aug. 7, 2024**

"Patriots, I am coming to you from a crime scene: The U.S.-Mexico Border." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [The Intercept](#), Aug. 7, 2024, [He made this statement in the opening of a video bashing President Joe Biden on immigration.]**

"The border wall works and it's very popular with the American people. It should be one of the first things Congress funds in 2025." — **The League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), Dec. 10, 2024**

2025

"Why did America's first black president work constantly to divide America, making race relations way worse?" — **Steve Cortes [mini-documentary](#), "You Don't Know Barack: Exposing Obama"**

"Windmills make no economic sense, harm the environment, and pollute America's vistas. — **Steve Cortes [mini-documentary](#), "Blown Away: Exposing the Wind Scam"**

2026

"America has ALL the talent we could ever use. In our own country. But those gifts need to be cultivated! We don't need to import the rest of the world here, including to our universities — rather, just prioritize our people!" — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Chambana Sun, Feb. 9, 2026**

"This masked moron is anti-meat! Making it even worse, for 'climate' reasons. Trans-arico can never represent Texas." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 19, 2026**

Context: Cortes is commenting on a dredged up 2022 clip of Texas Senate candidate James Talarico urging voters to scale back "meat consumption".

"Ok can we please end this whole charade??? Arrest her, denaturalize her — and deport this ingrate back to Somalia." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 19, 2026**

Context: Cortes attacking Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) after she remarked on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and said, "He's always been pretty pathetic. It pains me as a Minnesotan. He's an embarrassment on the national and international stage."

"Election integrity is everything!" — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 18, 2026**

Context: Commenting on a Retweet that said, "Donald Trump Right to Hold Congress Hostage Until It Passes the SAVE America Act."





Volodymyr Zelenskyy



“Really important! Technology has NOT made schools better. Back to paper, pencils — and patriotic formation that instills our values.” — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 16, 2026**

“Filming today in the ‘villas,’ the poorest neighborhoods of Argentina. Despite the poverty, people here are super optimistic and believe in the reform agenda of Pres Milei!” — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 15, 2026**

“Zelensky is a megalomaniac. He’s not Trump’s ‘son’ — nor is he our problem. It’s time to end to [SIC] this senseless war — and no more American money to this entitled kleptocrat.” — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 14, 2026**

“I know that no person sees my reply to Vivek’s [Ramaswamy’s] fundraising text — but I nonetheless let him know! I have NO time for an anchor baby who lectures Americans about how inadequate we are.” — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 14, 2026**

“Awful news! One action item, that needs to happen immediately — stop ALL worker visas! No foreign workers...as legions of Americans get laid off, due to automation.” — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 14, 2026**

Context: Cortes reacting to massive META layoffs—temporarily forgetting that his father moved to the United States from Colombia. Steve has referred to himself as a “son of an immigrant”. How nice of him to selfishly pull up the immigration ladder behind him, so no one else can benefit from the United States like he has. Trump once [said of Cortes](#), “He happens to be Hispanic, but I’ve never quite figured it out, because he looks more like a WASP than I do.”

"Diversity is NOT our strength." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 12, 2026

"The legacy media is truly the enemy of the people." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 12, 2026

"Once war starts, we all root for the fastest and surest success of our forces, of course. But this level of bloodlust from Lindsey [Graham] just reveals a dark heart. He's miserable and trying to prove he's a man...by constantly sending others into extreme danger." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 8, 2026

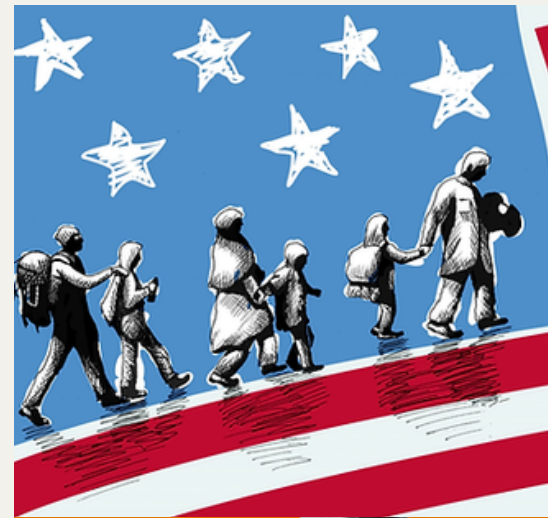
"Surrender Mike [Pence] never left Washington after the administration, and he's acted just like a typical DC sewer creature." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 3, 2026

"Birthright citizenship is an abuse of the goodwill of the American people!" — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March 2, 2026

"Pres Trump likes women. Fantastic. We need MORE masculinity in America." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), Feb. 19, 2026

"Trans-arico is disgusting and can NEVER represent Texas..." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March. 20, 2026

[Former FBI Director James] "Comey belongs in prison..." — Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, [Post on X](#), March. 20, 2026



Liberty University

Lynchburg, VA

Revenue: \$1,594,106,664

Founded in 1971 as Lynchburg Baptist College by televangelist **Jerry Falwell Sr.**, the school was created to "train champions for Christ." The idea was to build a Notre Dame for fundamentalist Christians. "We're turning out moral revolutionaries," he had told The New York Times.

The school was renamed Liberty University in 1984. The university's strict code of conduct, known as The Liberty Way, forbids students from drinking, attending dances, or being alone in a room with a member of the opposite sex. Students can be fined \$250 if they are caught attending events where alcohol is served. Liberty claims it has a "biblical worldview," including formal institutional statements about marriage being between "a natural-born man" and "a natural-born woman".

Liberty University can be divided between the roughly 16,000 on-campus students and the approximately 125,000 enrolled in online courses—for a total of more than 140,000 students. Liberty does not maintain traditional physical "branch campuses" globally; instead, it serves students from all 50 states and over 100 countries through its massive online infrastructure. While Liberty is centralized in Lynchburg, it operates or maintains a presence in 48 locations across the United States.

The school's founder has a long history of racism. In a 1958 sermon, Falwell harshly criticized the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision that sought to integrate public schools: "The facilities should be separate. When God has drawn a line of distinction, we should not attempt to cross that line," Falwell fulminated.

Falwell also rejected the separation of church and state. At a church service 1976, Falwell thundered: "The idea [that] religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to prevent Christians from running their own country."



Given its primitive outlook, it should be no surprise that in 2026 U.S. News & World Report ranked Liberty University number 395 out of 434 national universities. The college focuses more on indoctrination than education—focusing on minting good fundamentalist Christians, rather than the fundamentals of modern matriculation.

Liberty University is inextricably tied to its founder, the late Jerry Falwell Sr.—who created the Moral Majority in the late 1970's. Falwell, and his Virginia counterpart, Rev. Pat Robertson, were embraced by Ronald Reagan in his first campaign for the presidency. The Religious Right, which formerly eschewed politics, was firmly entrenched in the GOP base. By George H.W. Bush's 1992 GOP convention in Houston, the Religious Right had largely hijacked the Republican Party—and it has never recovered with 85% of white Evangelicals having voted for President Donald Trump in the 2024 election.

Falwell was a fascinating historical figure. Vanity Fair reports that religion was not part of his early years:

The Falwells descended from a long line of rabble-rousers, drunks, and nonbelievers.

His [Jerry Falwell Jr.'s] paternal great-grandfather, Hezekiah, was an avowed atheist and dairy farmer. His paternal grandfather, Carey, was a notorious bootlegger, or as Jerry put it, "the ultimate entrepreneur." Jerry's great-uncle Garland was an alcoholic and drug addict.

During Prohibition, Carey and Garland promoted cockfights and distributed illegal whiskey. The brothers later got rich owning bus lines, gas stations, a nightclub, and a hotel where they kept a bear chained up for drunk tourists to wrestle.

At the time, Jerry Sr. was on track to be another louche Falwell. "He would drink and party with his friends," Jerry told me. Vanity Fair reported that, "Falwell was a member of a teenage posse in Lynchburg called the Wall Gang and routinely got into fights with rival crews."

Falwell Sr.'s conversion to fundamentalist Christianity was opportunistic. He fell in love with Macel Pate, a devout church piano player, who he married. "My mother was the only reason my dad became puritanical," Jerry Falwell Jr. revealed.

Jerry Jr. said his dad also knew that there was a lucrative market for such beliefs. "He became a different person to build a church and a school," Jerry said. It was a point of pride for Jerry that his dad was friends with liberals like Larry Flynt, Ted Kennedy, and Jesse Jackson.

Whether he was a true believer, or a cynical opportunist who saw dollar signs, Falwell became synonymous with hyper-judgmental fundamentalist Christianity. He rose to fame with the television show, *The Old Time Gospel Hour*, started Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia and expanded to found Liberty University.

Taken together, Falwell created a cultural and political juggernaut. He was greatly aided by Richard Viguerie, often called the "godfather of direct mail". Viguerie used his massive databases, including a 1964 Barry Goldwater donor list, to launch fundraising efforts for Falwell's causes.

They formed a critical partnership in the late 1970s that effectively launched the modern Religious Right and provided the financial engine for Falwell's Lynchburg-based empire. Viguerie's techniques were not just for politics; they were essential for the survival and expansion of Liberty University. According to reporting by Facing South in 1984:

Consider the numbers: Reverend Jerry Falwell, to pick one noteworthy example, expects to raise \$100 million in 1983 through the combined techniques of aggressive direct mail and television fundraising. Along the way, the Lynchburg, Virginia, evangelist will have influenced the opinions of millions of givers and non-givers alike with an astounding barrage of correspondence. Falwell sent out over three and a half million pieces of mail in the late summer of 1983 alone, and not this time to his loyal followers. This was "prospecting" mail, as the direct mail experts call it, mail designed to attract new followers to his cause.

That pace of direct mailing is typical for Falwell and his network of Moral Majority enterprises. In early 1983, he created a new Political Action Committee (PAC), called the I Love America PAC (ILAPAC), to make direct political contributions to candidates. The director of ILAPAC, Granville Graham, promptly announced the PAC's intention to mail four to five million pieces in its first year, before the 1984 elections. Beyond this, Falwell sends massive volumes of direct mail from each of his several entities: Moral Majority, Inc., the Moral Majority Foundation, the Old Time Gospel Hour, Liberty Baptist College, and others.



Despite their different religious backgrounds (Viguerie is Catholic, Falwell was a Fundamentalist Baptist), they shared a pragmatic goal of dismantling the liberal establishment. Viguerie once stated of the evangelical leaders he recruited, "Their religion is not my religion, but I have found them to be good, decent people who are strongly anti-communist".

Falwell was infamous for his entrenched homophobia. He embraced "ex-gay" ministries and exploited fear of LGBTQ people for political gain and to scare his flock into writing checks for his ministry. Falwell was a stage horse and understood optics—exploiting LGBTQ activists to further his agenda.

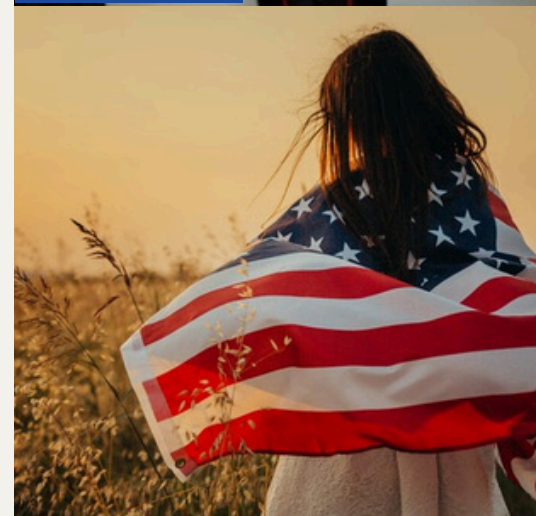
Mel White was Falwell's ghost writer before coming out as gay. He wrote that Falwell once cynically remarked, "Thank God for these gay demonstrators. If I didn't have them, I'd have to invent them. They give me all the publicity I need."

Falwell's nadir came after Al Qaeda attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. He appeared on Pat Robertson's The 700 Club and suggested that God had lifted His protection of America, stating:

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'"

Despite the preening as a beacon of morality, Liberty University has frequently degenerated into a cesspool of sin. This includes a high-level sex scandal involving Jerry Falwell Jr., whitewashing sexual abuse on campus and charges of racism.

Falwell Sr. suffered a massive heart attack on May 15, 2007, at his desk, and died at the age of 73.





Given the shenanigans that took place at Liberty University, it is outrageous that this school is on Project 2025's advisory board. It shows a total lack of awareness of how the college long ago surrendered its moral authority. Who does Liberty University think it is to tell other people how to live, when its leaders clearly don't always practice what they preach?



The current president of LU is **Dondi Costin**, who replaced **Jerry Prevo** on July 1, 2023. Costin is a retired U.S. Air Force Major General and ordained Southern Baptist minister. Before joining Liberty, he served as the president of Charleston Southern University (2018–2023).

"The more secular the culture becomes, the more of a need there will be for this kind of college. We will double down on the fact that we are unapologetically Christian", Costin said.



Under Costin's leadership, internal surveys and reports have indicated some negativity among staff regarding leadership priorities and pay, with some critics contrasting his high salary with staff financial struggles.

Controversies

Strict Rules at Liberty University

Students must sign and abide by "The Liberty Way," a code of conduct that governs social, moral, and academic life. Violations result in fines, community service, or expulsion.

- **R-Rated Movies:** The viewing of R-rated movies is traditionally banned. Historically, this carried a \$50 fine.
- **Dress Code:** For women, dresses and skirts must be no shorter than the top of the knee (though leggings are now allowed under them). No midriffs or low necklines. Swimsuits must be one-piece. For men, hairdos cannot touch the collar or ears. No earrings or body piercings. Ponytails are forbidden.
- **Curfew:** Residential students have a mandatory curfew (typically midnight on weekdays). Students must sign out if leaving for approved reasons.
- **Relationships:** Pre-marital sex is strictly forbidden. Sexual relations outside of "biblically ordained marriage" (heterosexual) are prohibited. Students of the opposite sex cannot be alone in a room together or visit each other's dorms (except for designated "open dorm" times where doors must remain open).
- **Entertainment:** Social dancing is generally prohibited unless it is a choreographed performance or part of a specific class. Music with "lewd lyrics" or "anti-Christian messages" is banned.
- **Mandatory Convocation:** Students must attend university-wide gatherings ("Convocation") several times a week. Attendance is tracked electronically; skipping results in a fine (e.g., \$15-\$50).
- **Booze:** Students can be fined \$250 if they are caught attending events where alcohol is served. Jerry Jr. revealed his father's hypocrisy to Vanity Fair, revealing that his father found a loophole to the drug and alcohol prohibition: "Sometimes he would drink a whole bottle of Nyquil. He called it Baptist wine."



SoulForce

In 1999 Mel White, Falwell's former ghost writer, began organizing a national protest against Falwell. His organization, SoulForce, which taught non-violent resistance, called for gay Christian activists to descend on Lynchburg to condemn Falwell's virulently anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

In order to head off the protest, Falwell reluctantly agreed to meet with about 200 gay rights activists at a weekend conference. They also attended services in Falwell's church.

To humiliate his LGBTQ guests, the fundamentalist reverend trotted out Michael Johnston, an "ex-gay" provocateur who was the founder of "National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day." Falwell lied and said that some of the activists were so moved by contact with Johnston that they "abandoned the lifestyle."

White and his group, Soulfence, were "infuriated" by Johnston's presence, viewing the "ex-gay" message as a form of "spiritual violence". White reportedly told Falwell's associates that if Johnston spoke at the main Sunday service, his followers would stage a walkout.

Ex-Gay Michael Johnnton

Michael Johnston of Kerusso Ministries was a top "ex-gay" activist in the late-90's and early 2000's. He was a national face of the "ex-gay" movement and was living with AIDS—which he disclosed during the notorious 1998 "Truth In Love" conversion therapy ad campaign.

He appeared in an American Family association video, "It's Not Gay". He also was the creator of National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day, which he used to mock National Coming Out Day. Johnston's efforts were directly embraced, promoted and supported by Rev. Falwell.

Falwell was embarrassed in 2003, when Johnston's charade came crashing down. Truth Wins Out's Executive Director, Wayne Besen, and Virginia attorney Michael Hamar outed Johnston for having multiple sex partners he met online, even as he publicly claimed he had "prayed away the gay".

The American Family association admitted that Johnston had a "moral fall" and the fallen "ex-gay" leader was shipped off to a sodomy addiction facility in rural Kentucky.

Accreditation Probation, Bailouts, and Moonies



In the 1990s, the university faced over \$100 million in debt and was placed on probation in 1997 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It was saved from financial collapse by life insurance mogul Arthur L. Williams Jr., who donated over \$70 million to pay off the school's debt. To honor his benevolence, Falwell named a 25,000-seat university football arena Arthur L. Williams Stadium.



Additionally, in 1994 Liberty University received a \$3.5 million grant connected to controversial cult leader Sun Myung Moon. An organization headed by Moon's wife, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), funneled \$3.5 million to the Christian Heritage Foundation, a non-profit that was buying up and forgiving Liberty University's massive debt. The Los Angeles Times reported:

Much of Moon's influence-buying is done in secret and often occurs when conservatives are vulnerable to being bought. A recent example is Christian right leader Jerry Falwell, who feared his fundamentalist Liberty University in Virginia was slipping into bankruptcy.



Desperate for an infusion of cash, Falwell and two associates made an unannounced trip to South Korea in January 1994, where they solicited help from Unification Church representatives, according to documents on file in a court case in Bedford County, Va....On Jan. 28, 1995, during his nationally televised "Old Time Gospel Hour," Falwell credited the directors of the foundation, Daniel A. Reber and Jimmy Thomas, with saving Liberty.

Falwell Jr Sex Scandal, Resignation and Lawsuit

An August 24, 2020, Reuters investigation reported that Giancarlo Granda—a pool boy at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach—revealed a multi-year sexual relationship involving Falwell’s wife Becki Falwell and claimed Jerry Jr. watched them have intercourse. The Falwells deny that Jerry was involved in sexual relations, either as an active participant or a voyeur. Vanity Fair wrote of the shocking scandal:

Granda went on a national media tour—he gave interviews to ABC News, CNN, Reuters, Politico, and The Washington Post—and said the Falwells began “grooming” him when he was 20 and bought his silence with luxury vacations, rides on Liberty’s private jet, and an ownership stake managing a Miami Beach hostel.

To bolster his claims, Granda released screenshots of Facetime calls and text conversations with Becki (“I’m not wearing any panties,” she allegedly wrote Granda in one message)...Falwell said he was the real victim of a “Fatal Attraction–type” extortion plot after Granda demanded \$2 million to keep the affair secret.

In another 2020 scandal, Falwell raised eyebrows when he posted a bizarre photo showing Falwell with his pants unzipped, belly protruding, and part of his beard painted while his arm around a young woman not his wife. The photo was taken at a “Trailer Park Boys”-themed party. The caption on the now-deleted post reads, “More vacation shots. Lots of good friends visited us on the yacht. I promise that’s just black water in my glass [not alcohol]. It was a prop only.”

Following these tawdry revelations, Falwell Jr., who took over Liberty University after his father died in 2007, resigned from the school. Shortly after he left, Liberty launched an investigation into his conduct at the university. Falwell then sued the university for defamation but dropped it months later.

Liberty then sued Falwell in 2021, arguing he had breached his contract. In 2023 Falwell filed two separate claims – one over his retirement package and the other against the university over its use of his father’s image.

Amid the dispute, Falwell and his wife were barred from entering the campus. USA Today reported that by September 2024, Falwell was allowed back on campus and attended the university's homecoming game.

In 2025, Liberty University paid Falwell Jr. \$15.3 million to settle a 2023 lawsuit claiming the school improperly denied him millions in retirement benefits. Religion Unplugged reported, the payments, which are listed near the end of Liberty’s 130-page 2023 tax filing, include \$9,784,077 in “non-qualified retirement” plan payments and \$5,550,000 in an accrued settlement.

Campus Sexual Assault and Clery Act Fine

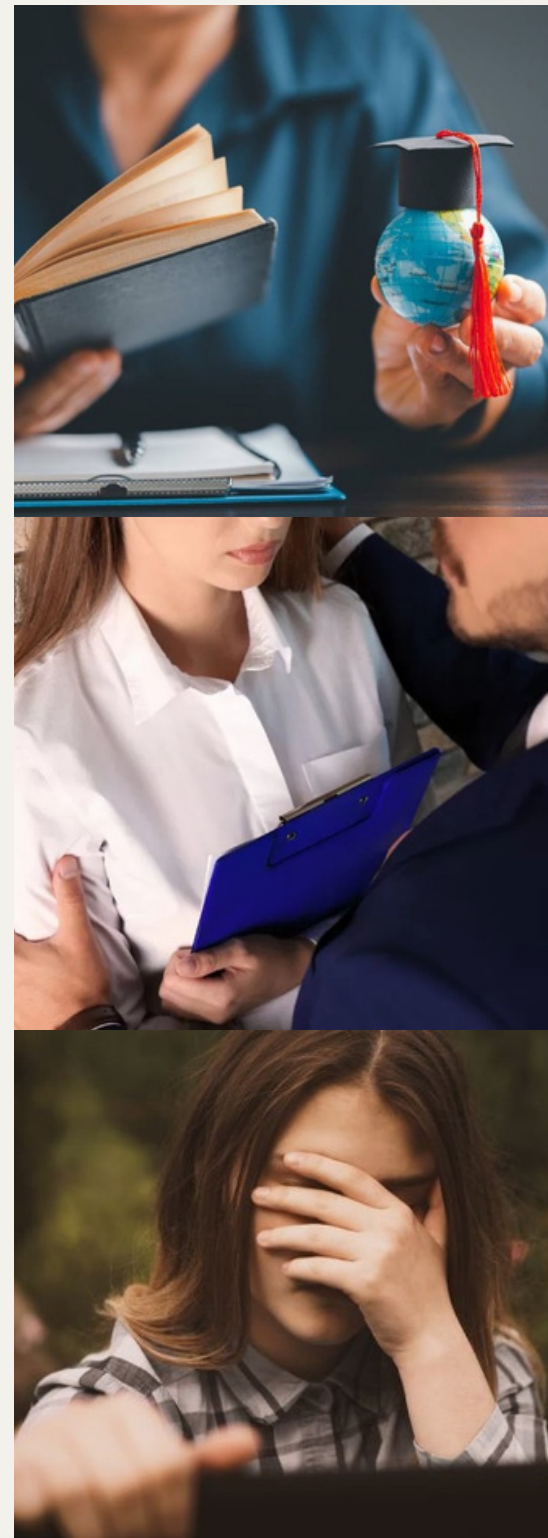
The Department of Education announced in 2024 that it had severely punished Liberty University with a historic \$14 million fine, finding that the school violated a federal statute that requires universities to disclose data related to campus sexual assaults and other crimes.

The Clery Act, which Congress enacted in 1990 after the rape and murder of college student Jeanne Clery four years earlier, mandates colleges to provide support to sexual assault survivors and detail the policies they've implemented to make campuses more secure as well. 19th News reported:

The officials found that Liberty did not disclose complete information about campus crimes, including by omitting reported crimes from its annual security reports, which it failed to put out for several years. The FSA report also found that the university neglected to maintain an up-to-date and daily crime log and failed to meet various sexual violence prevention and response requirements in compliance with the Violence Against Women Act. These requirements include notifying sexual violence survivors of their rights.

When campus crimes did occur, Liberty University did not give its community members timely warnings about offenses that constituted significant and sustained threats, the FSA found. Similarly, it did not alert campus community members about dangerous situations that may have imperiled their health or safety, according to the FSA report.

As part of the settlement announced Tuesday, Liberty agreed to spend \$2 million to improve campus safety and enhance its compliance over the next two years, the department said. An outside accounting firm will assess Liberty's progress on that front.



Sexual Assault and Victim Blaming

In 2021, Pro-Publica published a devastating article titled, "'The Liberty Way': How Liberty University Discourages and Dismisses Students' Reports of Sexual Assaults". The publication found that, "the school founded by evangelist Jerry Falwell ignored reports of rape and threatened to punish accusers for breaking its moral code. An official who says he was fired for raising concerns calls it a "conspiracy of silence." An excerpt from the disturbing article:

Interviews with more than 50 former Liberty students and staffers, as well as records from more than a dozen cases, show how an ethos of sexual purity, as embodied by the Liberty Way, has led to school officials discouraging, dismissing and even blaming female students who have tried to come forward with claims of sexual assault.

When Elizabeth Axley first told Liberty University officials she had been raped, she was confident they'd do the right thing. After all, the evangelical Christian school invoked scripture to encourage students to report abuse.

The RA, Axley said, told her not to report it, saying Axley could be found to have violated the school's prohibition against drinking and fraternizing with the opposite sex.

Instead, the RA offered to pray with Axley.

"I was really confused," recalled Axley. "They were making it seem like I had done something wrong.

Axley didn't want to pray. She wanted the school to do something about what had happened. "I didn't want to get fined or punished, but I wasn't going to let this keep me from reporting my assault."

But Elysa Bucci, the official who took the complaint, didn't seem interested, Axley recalled...Instead of considering her evidence, Axley said, Bucci started throwing questions at her: Why had Axley gone to the party? What had she had to drink? How much? "I immediately felt judged," remembered Axley. (Bucci, who is now a Title IX investigator at Baylor University, declined to comment.)

Axley went in and looked through the materials. The photos with her injuries, she recalled, were no longer there. Axley said that when she asked what had happened, Bucci told her the photos had been removed because they were too "explicit."

"I felt like I'd been punched in the stomach," Axley recalled. "I had been relying on them all these months to take my evidence into account when considering my case, and it wasn't even in my file."

During this time period, Scott Lamb was Liberty University's senior vice president of communications. He was fired for internally blowing the whistle on the university's repeated failures to respond to concerns about sexual assault.

"The emails from ProPublica were definitely ignored," said Lamb. He recalled himself and one colleague trying to make a case for the school to respond. "We said, 'Listen, the optics of this are killing us. Is there anything we can message — something? A message about empathy? Or that we're at least working to get to the bottom of this?' And then it dawned on us: They're not working to get to the bottom of this."

In 2021, a group of 12 women (known as "Jane Does") sued the university, alleging a pattern of mishandling sexual assault reports. The plaintiffs claimed the school created a "predatory environment" and that campus police ignored or discouraged their reports. In 2022, Liberty reached a confidential settlement with most of the women, though it did not admit to wrongdoing





Black Face Scandal

In May 2020, during COVID-era mask debates, Falwell Jr. posted a tweet showing a face mask printed with a photo of two men—one in blackface and one in Ku Klux Klan robes. The image referenced the earlier scandal involving Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam.

Falwell also called Northam, a Democrat, by the name "Governor Blackface."

In a letter condemning what they referred to as Falwell's "incendiary rhetoric," the 35 alumni signatories wrote:



While your tweet may have been in-jest about Virginia's Governor, it made light of our nation's painful history of slavery and racism. It is what we're called to reject as followers of Christ -- "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place..." (Ephesians 5:4, ESV). The reckless nature of this tweet is a microcosm of the past several years of divisive rhetoric that does not display the kind of Christian witness that the Gospel demands of us, nor does it represent the Christlike leadership that Liberty University deserves. It has brought further disgrace to Jesus Christ and Liberty University.



"You have belittled staff, students and parents, you have defended inappropriate behaviors of politicians, encouraged violence, and disrespected people of other faiths," they wrote, advising Falwell that "your heart is in politics more than Christian academia or ministry."

Shady Trump Endorsement

In 2015, The Falwell's were allegedly being threatened by Giancarlo Granda, the 20-year-old Florida pool boy in which Becki Falwell had an affair. Becki and Granda had made sex tapes together in a Miami hotel room. "I had a big Canon camera. A couple of times I put it on the dresser and Giancarlo agreed to it" Becki told Vanity Fair.

Additionally, there were topless pictures of Becki circulating among people who were party to a lawsuit. The photos showed Becki posing on a tractor at the Falwells' farm. Jerry told me he had taken them years earlier on his phone. "We were just playing around," he said.

Terrified that the naughty photos would become public, Jerry turned to **Michael Cohen**. At the time he was Donald Trump's fixer, before he went to prison and became one of Trump's harshest critics. Vanity Fair wrote:

After learning of the topless photos, Cohen says he began working the phone on Jerry's behalf—threatening to involve the FBI if necessary. According to him, the parties came to an understanding: the photos never saw the light of day.

At the time it was widely assumed that Falwell Jr., Liberty's powerful and influential leader, would endorse Sen. **Ted Cruz** (R-TX) who was the evangelical son of a preacher. Cruz announced his presidential run at Liberty in March 2015.

Instead, Falwell shocked the campus—and the political world--by endorsing Trump five days before the Iowa caucuses. Some people interpreted the move as payback to Cohen who had gotten the Falwell's out of a messy jam. According to Vanity Fair:

Jerry was the first major evangelical leader to throw in with Trump, which dealt a terminal blow to Cruz's campaign. When the media later reported that Cohen kept nude pictures of Becki out of the press, Jerry's endorsement looked to some like a quid pro quo. Cohen denies this, and Jerry said that wasn't the case at all.

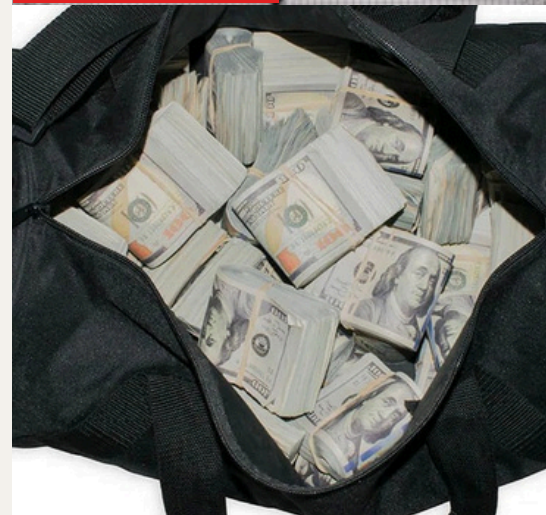


Jerry also let Liberty's IT chief, **John Gauger**, do consulting for the Trump campaign. According to The Wall Street Journal, Gauger manipulated online polls on the Drudge Report and CNBC.com to boost Trump's popularity. (Jerry said he was unaware of the specifics of Gauger's work.) Cohen reportedly paid Gauger \$12,000 in cash stuffed in a blue Walmart bag. Gauger confirmed this account to The Wall Street Journal but declined to comment further when I reached him. (Cohen told the paper he paid him with a check.)

Jerry not only endorsed Trump, he lavished him with cringeworthy praise. "Trump reminds me so much of my father," Jerry told Fox News in December 2015.

"In my opinion, Donald Trump lives a life of loving and helping others as Jesus taught," Jerry said when he introduced Trump onstage at Liberty shortly before the Iowa caucuses. (Trump then mangled a Bible verse, citing "Two Corinthians" instead of "Second Corinthians.")

Jerry even defended Trump when almost no one else would. After the Access Hollywood tape leaked, in October 2016, Jerry told a radio interviewer: "We're never going to have a perfect candidate unless Jesus Christ is on the ballot." It provided cover for evangelicals to excuse Trump's utter lack of decency or morals. "After that, Steve Bannon called me and said, 'You won the election for us,'" Jerry recalled.



Liberty's Abusive Labor Practices

In 2018 former employees told the New York Times and ProPublica that Liberty Online staffed a sales department of 300 telemarketers, who worked for low pay and got only a 45-second break between calls. They aggressively recruited students, who were often saddled with debt. According to the article:

The recruiters work under intense pressure, according to several former L.U.O. employees I spoke with. They get no more than 45 seconds between calls, and sometimes managers override even that short break. There are no formal quotas — a federal regulation that went into effect in 2011 forbids them. But as one former employee put it, the “highly motivated goal” is for each recruiter to sign up eight new students a day. Multiplied across 300 cubicles, that is 2,400 per day. Of those, only a small fraction end up paying and starting courses, but that is still an extraordinary haul for any kind of education business.

Every day, according to the former employee, managers send out a report showing the previous day's tallies. Recruiters who signed up four or fewer new students get their names in red, visible for all to see, and are sometimes subject to a disciplinary conversation. Monthly tallies are also scored as green, yellow or red. Top performers are in the running for a small raise from the base salary, which is about \$30,000. “It was that carrot and stick,” the former employee told me.

Two recruiters told me they were instructed to quote L.U.O.'s cost on a per-credit basis, rather than per-course, which makes it sound more affordable. Undergraduate courses for part-time students are \$455 per credit, or \$1,365 for a typical course; master's courses are typically about \$600 per credit. They are instructed not to press prospective applicants too hard on their academic qualifications. Applicants have to submit past transcripts, but any grade point average above 0.5 — equivalent to a D-minus — would suffice, said the former employee in the nonmilitary division. Recruiters, he told me, “would say, ‘Congratulations, you’ve been accepted.’ They’d make it seem competitive.”

The two recruiters also said they were told not to mention Liberty's Christian orientation until people agree to apply, when this fact is made clear in the user agreement they sign online. It also becomes clear at the moment that the recruiters sign up students for their first classes, typically an orientation class and three required Bible-studies classes. Students often can't transfer credits for these courses to other colleges, which deters many from dropping out: Leaving L.U.O. without signing up for more courses would mean wasting the money spent on the first four.

In some ways, this is worse than the discredited Trump University, because while TU was private, LU is a public 501 c3 nonprofit university that it is heavily subsidized by federal taxpayer dollars through student financial aid.

By 2017, Liberty students were receiving more than \$772 million annually in total aid from the Department of Education, including nearly \$100 million in Pell grants and the remainder in federal student loans. This makes their behavior all the more disturbing, because it is being subsidized with our tax dollars.

Massive Compensation for LU Leaders

The Lord may work in mysterious ways, but he also apparently pays quite well. While some call working for LU a “calling”, others might call it a “cash cow”.

The Roys Report wrote on Sept. 18, 2025:

ProPublica’s Nonprofit Explorer, shows Liberty dishing out more than \$18 million in reportable compensation to its officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest-paid staff.

That’s a staggering sum, even for a school that reported \$1.8 billion in total revenue, much of it from program services like tuition. Critics argue this generosity borders on excess, especially when directed at figures whose roles appear ceremonial or part-time, raising questions about stewardship of donor and student funds.

Take Dr. Jerry Prevo, the university’s president emeritus and trustee. The 79-year-old former Alaska pastor pulled in \$784,082 in reportable compensation—nearly \$800,000—for what sources describe as minimal on-campus involvement.





Equally eyebrow-raising is the Rev. **Jonathan Falwell's** compensation explosion. The senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church—Liberty's founding congregation—saw his university pay balloon nearly 400% from about \$209,000 in the prior fiscal year (ending June 2023, when he was listed as a trustee and campus pastor) to \$822,573 in 2024.



Current President Dondi Costin, a retired Air Force major general who took the helm in 2023. His \$556,191 salary pales next to subordinates' compensation.



Liberty's athletics director, **Ian McCaw**, raked in \$905,748, while head football coach **Jamey Chadwell** topped the list at a whopping \$5,877,112—figures more akin to Southeastern Conference powerhouses than a mid-tier Conference USA program.



Basketball coach **Ritchie McKay** earned \$1,857,202—more than three times Costin's paycheck by a nearly \$200,000 margin.

As for other employees at Liberty University, a quick survey of anonymous self-reported salaries at Glassdoor.com showed a much lower threshold. All were well below \$100,000 with IT project managers and software developers and engineers among the few exceptions.

Title IX Whistleblower Lawsuit (August 2025)

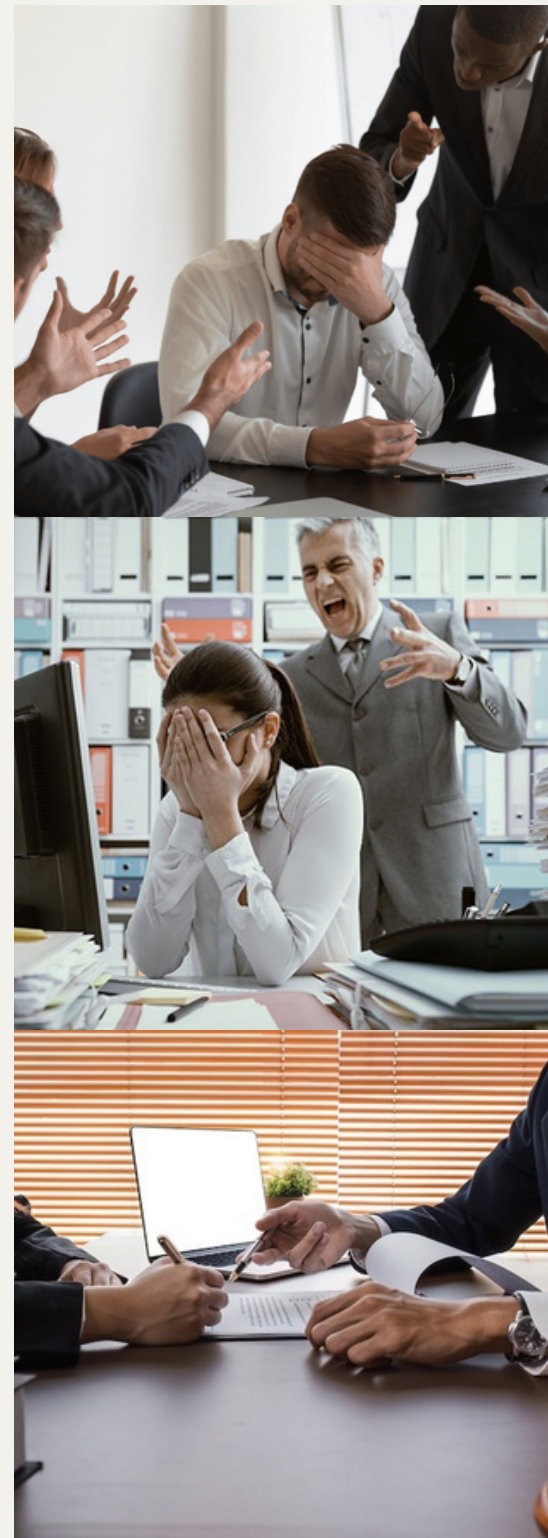
A lawsuit, filed by former Liberty University Title IX investigator Erika Woolfolk, alleges that the university engaged in a systemic pattern of racial discrimination and retaliation.

Woolfolk, who is Black, claims she was subjected to a hostile work environment and was eventually terminated for her efforts to conduct impartial investigations into sexual assault allegations, which she asserts were frequently undermined by her superiors.

According to the legal filing, university leadership allegedly interfered with Woolfolk's ability to follow federal guidelines, particularly when investigations involved high-profile individuals or conflicted with the school's "Liberty Way" honor code.

The suit claims that Woolfolk was pressured to "reach certain conclusions" and that her professional concerns regarding the mishandling of survivor reports were met with disciplinary actions rather than reform.

This litigation marks a significant challenge for President Costin's administration, as it directly contradicts the university's public commitment to "institutional reform" following a record \$14 million federal fine for campus safety failures.



Quotes

1958

"If Chief Justice Warren and his associates had known God's word and had desired to do the Lord's will, I am quite confident that the 1954 decision [Brown v. Board of Education] would never have been made. The facilities should be separate. When God has drawn a line of distinction, we should not attempt to cross that line."

— **A sermon at Thomas Road Baptist Church titled, "Segregation or Integration: Which?"**

Context: Falwell was angrily denouncing the Supreme Court's decision. At the time, Falwell referred to the Civil Rights movement as "Civil Wrongs" and operated the Lynchburg Christian Academy, founded in 1967 as a segregation academy.

2001

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'" — **Jerry Falwell Sr., 700 Club, blaming his political foes for causing 9-11**

2002

"I think Muhammad was a terrorist. I read enough of the history of his life written by both Muslims and non-Muslims, [to decide] that he was a violent man, a man of war." — **Jerry Falwell Sr., CBS's 60 Minutes interview, October 6, 2002**



2006

"Thank God for these gay demonstrators. If I didn't have them, I'd have to invent them. They give me all the publicity I need."

— **Mel White**, Falwell's ghost writer who came out as gay, writing of a cynical Falwell remark, June 30, 2006

2015

"If more good people had concealed-carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in and killed them. Let's teach them a lesson if they ever show up here." — **Jerry Falwell, Jr.**, *The Atlantic*, Dec. 6, 2015

Context: At Liberty's convocation service Falwell Jr., was commenting on a mass shooting carried out by a married Muslim couple in San Bernardino. They targeted a holiday party hosted by one of the shooter's colleagues at the Inland Regional Center, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others.

2022

"Sometimes he would drink a whole bottle of Nyquil. He called it Baptist wine." —

Jerry Falwell Jr. discussing his father, *Vanity Fair*, Jan. 24, 2022



The Malone Institute

Madison, VA

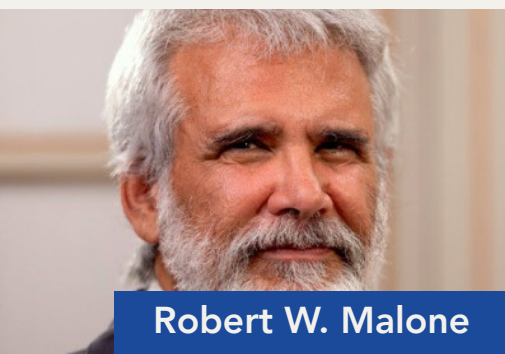
Revenue: N/A

Founded in 2022 by **Dr. Robert W. Malone** and **Dr. Jill Glasspool Malone**, The Malone Institute, based in Virginia, functions as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focusing on challenging the mainstream public health consensus. The Malones were high school sweethearts and have been married since 1979, proving the adage, the “family that spreads misinformation together, stays together.”

In a bit of gaslighting, The Malone Institute’s motto is, “The Foundation is Integrity”.

The institute aligns with the ideologies behind Project 2025, specifically through promoting anti-globalist narratives, opposing the World Economic Forum, and advocating for the restructuring of federal health agencies. Analysis of the website reveals a focus on “fifth-generation warfare,” “PsyWar,” and maintaining lists of “WEF Young Global Leaders,” while hosting controversial content regarding COVID-19 and vaccines.

- Young Global Leaders (YGL) is a non-profit community and leadership development program managed by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Fifth-Generation Warfare (5GW) refers to a “war of information and perception” fought not with guns or missiles, but through psychological manipulation, social engineering, and biology. Dr. Malone argues that this form of warfare is currently being waged by governments and global organizations (such as the WEF or WHO) against their own citizens to control behavior, suppress dissent, and enforce narratives.
- PsyWar (short for Psychological Warfare) is the title of a 2024 book co-authored by Dr. Robert W. Malone and Dr. Jill Glasspool Malone. In the context of their work and the Malone Institute, it refers to the theory that modern society is being subjected to sophisticated, large-scale psychological manipulation.





This is yet another Project 2025 “Black Box” organization. There is no coherent reason why such a small, mysterious, unaccomplished group—with zero available financial information—would be included on the high-powered Project 2025 Advisory Board. With thousands of right-wing non-profits and think tanks across America, how did this small, unfocused organization make the cut?

The most likely explanation for the elevation of The Malone Institute is that Project 2025 is comprised of right-wing religious zealots with primitive views. They were desperate for medical practitioners to give their imprimatur to Project 2025’s backward medical theories. Dr. Robert W. Malone and Dr. Jill Glasspool Malone—two quacks with unorthodox views—were happy to fill the role and masquerade as “experts”.

Robert Malone is a physician and biochemist who holds an active medical license in Maryland. He served as CEO and founder of a company contracted by the U.S. government in 2016 to assist in the development of a treatment for the Zika virus. He also did research for an Ebola vaccine.

Jill Glasspool Malone is a scientist and public policy expert. She is not a medical doctor (MD), however, with her “Dr.” title coming from a Ph.D. she received in public policy, with a specialization in biotechnology, from Union Institute & University.

Despite their impressive credentials, the Malone family is prone to spewing bizarre misinformation that endangers public health. According to a 2022 article in [The New York Times](#):

In many of his [media] appearances, Dr. Malone questions the severity of the coronavirus, which has now killed nearly one million people in the United States, and the safety of the coronavirus vaccines, which have been widely found to be safe and effective at preventing serious illness and death.

The Washington Post reported in 2022:

As Robert Malone stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before thousands of anti-vaccine and anti-mandate demonstrators Sunday, the medical doctor and infectious-disease researcher repeated the falsehoods that have garnered him legions of followers.

“Regarding the genetic covid vaccines, the science is settled,” he said in a 15-minute speech that referenced the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy. “They are not working.”

The misinformation came two days after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its first studies based on real-world data showing that coronavirus vaccines provide strong protection against hospitalization from the rapidly spreading omicron variant.

His claims and suggestions have been discredited and denounced by medical professionals as not only wrong, but also dangerous. Twitter barred him for violating the platform’s coronavirus misinformation policy, but he has found platforms elsewhere — recently appearing on an episode of Joe Rogan’s wildly popular podcast, which averages 11 million listeners per episode.

That show — along with guest spots on Fox News programming hosted by Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham — has thrust the 62-year-old into the limelight at a crucial time of the pandemic, when unvaccinated patients continue to fill ICU wards.

Critics say Malone’s story highlights the peril of offering an enormous platform to someone who once complained about being “written out of history” and is now finding celebrity.

“There is a huge market for misinformation,” said Jay Van Bavel, an assistant professor of psychology and neural science at New York University who has studied conspiracy theories and misinformation. “The way he’s framed in the conspiracy-theory world is that he’s a courageous whistleblower rather than someone who is spreading misinformation — and it’s only enhancing his profile.”



Of course, Elon Musk reinstated Dr. Malone when the billionaire purchased Twitter. Under the guise of free speech, Musk enabled the quack to spread deadly lies and peddle products to his 1.3 million followers. Malone also has a large following on Substack that includes crackpot articles such as, “The illusion of evidence-based medicine”.

Dr. Malone and his wife have made numerous stops at popular conservative conferences, like Hereticon, the Peter Thiel-backed conference in Miami for Silicon Valley’s self-proclaimed contrarians, and the “Defeat the Mandates” march in Washington.

Dr. Robert Malone’s rhetorical technique is to spout unscientific lies—they when challenged by experts with scientific data, he whines and plays victim. “Anybody who questions that narrative is to be immediately attacked,” Malone moaned during his notorious interview with podcaster Joe Rogan.

To the “good doctor”, truth is always optional and subordinate to creating a compelling narrative that plays well in right wing media. If he’s called out for disseminating disinformation that could lead to illness and death, Malone plays the cynical game of pretending the establishment is out to get him, with the goal of silencing his unverified opinions. While this dishonest method has earned him applause and a large, lucrative following from the MAGA base, it has shattered his once solid reputation in the scientific community. In short, it appears that Malone sold out for applause, cultural relevance, political connections, and money.

Tragically, Dr. Malone was a victim of his own lies. He contacted Covid and tried to treat it with an unproven heartburn medication. He ended up with long-term Covid symptoms, with the media-seeking physician forgetting that one shouldn’t always believe his or her own press clippings—particularly when they contain false information.



Here are some examples of his disinformation:

- Dr. Malone discouraged people from getting vaccinated and pushed instead for natural immunity, which can lead to life threatening illnesses.
- He was promoting the drugs hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin for treatment of Covid-19, despite several studies and scientific trials showing a lack of evidence that the drugs improved the conditions of Covid patients.

The Food and Drug Administration continues to caution against the use of hydroxychloroquine “due to risk of heart rhythm problems,” and a large study published in March found that ivermectin does not reduce the risk of Covid hospitalization. The F.D.A. has also said taking large doses of the drug is dangerous.

“Robert Malone is exploiting the fact that data-driven course correction is inherent to the scientific process to peddle disinformation,” **Dr. Angela Rasmussen**, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan said. “It’s extraordinarily dishonest and morally bankrupt.”

- A Canadian study suggesting a high rate of heart inflammation after people were given coronavirus vaccines was retracted by the study’s authors in September because of a significant mathematical error, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reported. Despite the major inaccuracy, screenshots of the preprint study spread among the anti-vaccine community. Among those who shared it was Malone, who got a huge response to the tweet but did not take it down, even though many noted that the study had been retracted.





Timothy Caulfield



Timothy Caulfield, the Canada research chair in health law and policy at the University of Alberta, said Malone injecting himself into a conversation with the kind of credentials he has, and “cherry-picking rotten data,” was “a worst-case scenario.”

“You have this individual who has all these credentials and this history in the biomedical world, so that looks impressive. And he’s referencing a study that, on the face of it, may look impressive. But you don’t know that the study is fraudulent,” Caulfield said, adding that Malone has “weaponized bad research.”

- Malone shared a deceptive video to his Twitter followers that falsely linked athlete deaths to coronavirus shots. The video suggested that coronavirus vaccination killed Jake West, a 17-year-old Indiana high school football player who died of sudden cardiac arrest.

But the vaccine played no role in West’s death. The teen died of an undiagnosed heart condition in 2013. Malone tweeted the video with three words about vaccination: “Safe and effective?”

He deleted the tweet about the same time he received a cease-and-desist letter from West’s family, according to the AP, and later noted to his followers that he didn’t know the video had been “doctored.”

The trajectory of Dr. Robert W. Malone's career makes no sense. It appears that he was seduced by money and fame, surrendering his respected, but largely nameless career, for the limelight of right-wing media, where all he had to do was exploit his medical degree to become a MAGA superstar.

With Covid largely out of the news, Dr. Malone's is trying to remain relevant by attacking the flu vaccine. In a March 26, 2026, Substack post, he wrote:

Whenever someone raises concerns about flu vaccine side effects, the response from official sources tends to follow a predictable script: the vaccine is safe and effective, serious side effects are extremely rare, and the benefits far outweigh the risks. All of that may be true in aggregate. But it tells you almost nothing useful about whether a specific person in a specific circumstance should receive a specific vaccine formulation.

In the United States, an estimated 45,000 people died during the 2024–2025 flu season. The total worldwide toll is approximately 700,000 deaths per year. Dr. Malone's latest gambit--to scare people away from the flu vaccine—is reckless and irresponsible. How many people is Dr. Malone willing to potentially harm for the sake of keeping his face on TV?



Controversies

Joe Rogan Mass Covid Misinformation



Joe Rogan

Dr. Robert Malone appeared on The Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022. He told Rogan's huge podcast audience that a third of the population was brainwashed into accepting the Covid recommendations of **Dr. Anthony S. Fauci**, the nation's top infectious-disease expert and chief medical adviser to President Biden. Malone then compared America's pandemic policies to Nazi Germany.



Anthony Fauci

"To claim that choosing not to get a vaccine and not being able to go to a movie theater is in any way comparable to Jewish people being targeted and murdered, it blows my mind," said Jonathan Laxton, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Manitoba who signed a letter from 270 medical professionals to Spotify demanding that the company do more to prevent the spread of false covid-19 information. "He devalued the impact of the Holocaust."

Dr. Van Bavel, professor of psychology and neural science at New York University added: "He used a pseudoscience term and millions of people downloaded the episode — and it took on a life of its own, even though there is no evidence supporting it."



A terrific article by Timothy Bella in The Washington Post reported that, "One person who has stood by Malone: Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who described media reports on Malone promoting misinformation as a "euphemism for any assertion that departs from government orthodoxies [whether] true or not."

“In my experience, Malone’s statements are measured and scrupulously sourced,” Kennedy said. “I know him well enough to know that he would quickly and publicly correct any statement shown to be untrue.”

Rogan’s episode drew immediate backlash, but Malone found support from Rep. Troy E. Nehls (R-Tex.), who entered a full transcript of the interview into the Congressional Record.

During the height of Covid, Dr. Malone also distorted reality and jeopardized public health by appearing on extremist shows like Fox News’ Hannity, One America News, Candace Owens’ online show, America First With Sebastian Gorka and The Joe Pags Show.

MRNA Embellishments

The New York Times reported:

Dr. Malone also routinely sells himself on the shows as the inventor of mRNA vaccines, the technology used by Pfizer and Moderna for their Covid-19 shots, and says he doesn’t get the credit he deserves for their development.

While he was involved in some early research into the technology, his role in its creation was minimal at best, say half a dozen Covid experts and researchers, including three who worked closely with Dr. Malone.

The idea that he is the inventor of mRNA vaccines is “a totally false claim,” said Dr. Gyula Acsadi, a pediatrician in Connecticut who along with Dr. Malone and five others wrote a widely cited paper in 1990 showing that injecting RNA into muscle could produce proteins.



“Some of his work was important,” said Dr. Alastair McAlpine, a pediatric infectious disease doctor based in Vancouver, British Columbia, “but that’s a long way away from claiming to have invented the technology that underpins the vaccines as we use them today.”

The vaccines “are the result of hundreds of scientists all over the world, all combining to come together to form this vaccine,” Dr. McAlpine said. “It was not one individual or the pioneering work of an individual person.”

Former colleagues said they had watched in astonishment as Dr. Malone began posting on social media about why he deserved to win the Nobel Prize.

Quack Covid/Heartburn Treatment

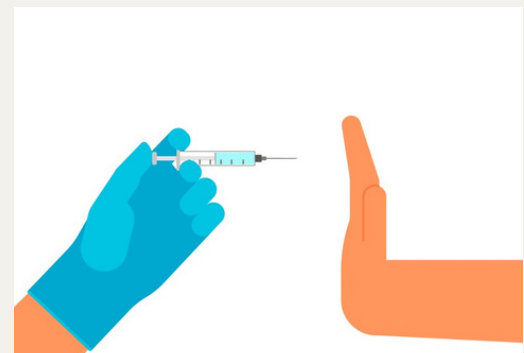
The Washington Post reported:

When Malone said he was infected with the coronavirus in February 2020, he said he turned to famotidine, the main ingredient in the over-the-counter heartburn medicine Pepcid, as a treatment. Malone, who at the time was the chief medical officer for the Florida-based pharmaceutical company Alchem Laboratories, took to his LinkedIn page to report how he had figured out the appropriate dose and became “the first to take the drug to treat my own case.”

The Trump administration funded a \$21 million study of famotidine in April 2020 that was to be done by Alchem and Northwell Health, a New York health-care provider, despite a lack of data or published studies showing it could be effective against the virus.

Malone resigned from Alchem the week the company got the contract, complaining to the Associated Press of a difficult work environment. The study eventually fizzled out amid allegations of conflicts of interest and scientific misconduct. Officials with Alchem and Northwell declined to comment.

Malone said he hoped getting vaccinated would alleviate the long-term symptoms he suffered. But he told the Atlantic that the Moderna injections made his symptoms worse, echoing similar claims from mandate opponents such as musician Eric Clapton.



Dr. Malone Harasses Whistleblower

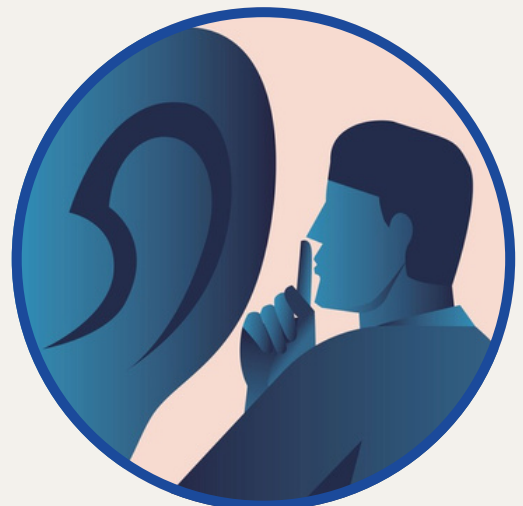
MediaWell reported:

A physician who alerted the Maryland state medical board about controversial scientist Robert Malone's alleged promotion of COVID-19 misinformation has been harassed online, faced a retaliatory complaint to his own medical board, and received complaints to his institution after Malone publicly disclosed his identity.

The medical board in Maryland, meanwhile, has opted to take no disciplinary action against Malone.

Michael Patmas, a licensed physician and medical director of utilization management and referral relationships at Maui Health in Hawaii, filed a complaint with the Maryland Board of Physicians late last year after Malone, who holds an active medical license in Maryland and has been widely criticized for spreading misinformation about the pandemic, visited Maui and spoke at rallies opposing vaccine mandates.

In an interview with The Scientist, Patmas says that he was concerned by these events and perceived a subsequent increase in vaccine hesitancy in the local community. He adds that he felt a moral duty to notify the board because he thought Malone's conduct in Maui and more generally violated guidance issued last summer by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), a nationwide nonprofit that supports state boards on licensing and regulation, about generating and spreading COVID-19 misinformation. Patmas notes that he acted in a personal capacity, not as a representative of his employer.





Covid Vaccine Causing New Form of AIDS

Dr. Robert Malone falsely claimed in a website video interview that COVID-19 vaccines are causing a form of AIDS that is not related to HIV, long established as the cause of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. On April 8, 2022, the Associated Press debunked Malone's absurd conspiracy theory:

Dr. Robert Malone, a frequent critic of COVID-19 vaccines who once researched mRNA vaccine technology, made the claim that the vaccines are "damaging T cell responses" and "causing a form of AIDS."

"People think, when they hear AIDS, they hear HIV. No, the vaccines aren't causing you to be infected with the HIV virus," said Malone, during a taped interview with a website that focuses on COVID-19. "They are causing a form of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, that's what AIDS stands for."

In the interview, published April 1, Malone claimed that "lots of scientific data" support his claim, but cited no evidence. The claims are unfounded. As The Associated Press previously reported, there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines damage the immune system or cause AIDS, and there is also no evidence that the vaccines are causing a form of AIDS that doesn't stem from HIV, experts tell the AP.

Removal from Kennedy Jr. Advisory Committee

In June 2025, Health and Human Services Director, **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, appointed Dr. Robert Malone to a much-maligned CDC vaccine advisory panel. Kennedy made the announcement on the social media platform X, two days after he fired all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. On June 11, 2025, The New York Times reported:

By far the most contentious pick, and the one with the highest profile, is Dr. Robert Malone. He played an early role in mRNA research and has claimed to be the inventor of the technology. He became a right-wing star after a 2021 appearance on "The Joe Rogan Experience" that exposed both him and Mr. Rogan to criticism that they had spread misinformation. Dr. Malone was a vocal critic of the Biden administration's Covid response.

"Malone has a well-documented history of promoting conspiracy theories and unproven treatments like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19," said Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner, an epidemiologist and infectious disease expert at the University of Southern California.

In March 2025, Malone was expunged from the panel as a result of the lawsuit American Academy of Pediatrics v. Kennedy. Judge Brian Murphy ruled that the entire panel's nominations violated federal law. Malone was admonished by Murphy in the ruling, along with two other members, because they "appear to lack the qualifications and experience to constitute expertise in vaccines and immunization."

This was a rebuke and humiliation for both Kennedy and Malone, two dangerous quacks who pose as experts, while the evidence proves they are radical extremists. Malone angrily responded to Murphy by calling him a "rogue judge" and falsely claimed that the judge "slandered me".



The Department of Health and Human Services indicated that it would appeal the ruling. Dr. Malone indicated that he would not rejoin the committee even if the ruling were to be overturned. On March 24, 2026, The New York Times reported:

“If offered the opportunity to participate in a relaunched A.C.I.P., I will respectfully decline,” Dr. Malone said in a text message. “This was not an impulsive decision,” he said.

“Hundreds of hours of uncompensated labor, incredible hate from many quarters, hostile press, internal bickering, weaponized leaking, sabotage,” he added. “I have better things to do.”

The panel under Kennedy and Malone was already considered politicized and unscientific. Dr. Malone said that the committee had invited Dr. Paul Offit and Dr. Peter Hotez, two prominent vaccine experts, to present at a meeting on changing life-saving rules regarding Hepatitis B vaccinations for children.

Both men declined, with Dr. Offit, a pediatrician at the University of Pennsylvania, declaring the panel was offering misleading information to parents. “This is a political group, not a scientific group,” he said in a message to The New York Times. “I don’t want any part of that.”

Dr. Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, said. “I declined because A.C.I.P. seems to have shifted its mission away from science and evidence-based medicine. I’m always happy to discuss the science of vaccines with individuals or groups who are committed to truth and genuine intellectual inquiry.”

Malone’s Lies Spread to Europe

In March 2025, far-right politicians, anti-vaxxers and alternative health practitioners launched Make Europe Healthy Again (MEHA) at the European Parliament in Brussels. Dr. Malone is on the MEHA steering committee. The reckless European effort is modeled on HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr’s discredited Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) campaign.

Since RFK was sworn in, measles has increased 700–800%. Other infectious diseases rising on Kennedy’s watch include tuberculosis, whooping cough, and influenza. It’s unclear how MAHA is improving America’s health and well-being. Europe will surely follow in our deadly footsteps if they adopt MAHA’s medical model.

Quotes

2022

"It was mass formation psychosis and that is what has happened here... A third of the population [is] basically being hypnotized."

— **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

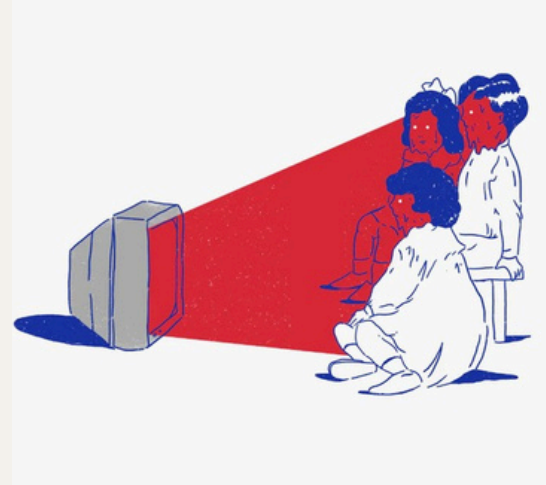
"It was from, basically, European intellectual inquiry into what the heck happened in Germany in the '20s and '30s. Very intelligent, highly educated population, and they went barking mad. And how did that happen? The answer is mass formation psychosis. When you have a society that has become decoupled from each other, and has free-floating anxiety, in a sense that things don't make sense. We can't understand it. And then their attention gets focused by a leader or series of events on one small point, just like hypnosis. They literally become hypnotized and can be led anywhere."

— **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

"But the point is if I'm not — if it's not okay for me to be part of the conversation, even though I'm pointing out scientific facts that may be inconvenient, then who can be allowed?" — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

"People think, when they hear AIDS, they hear HIV. No, the vaccines aren't causing you to be infected with the HIV virus. They are causing a form of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, that's what AIDS stands for." — **Dr. Robert Malone, Malone Institute**

Context: Dr. Malone falsely, and bizarrely, claimed that COVID-19 vaccines are causing a form of AIDS that is not related to HIV.





"Many who have followed this coronavirus 'public health crisis' and the non-sensical response provided by most of the western nations (including the USA) have been perplexed by two big questions - how was this done (in such a globally coordinated fashion), and why was it done?" — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Substack, "Uncovering the Corona Narrative?", March 25, 2022**

2026

"Whenever someone raises concerns about flu vaccine side effects, the response from official sources tends to follow a predictable script: the vaccine is safe and effective, serious side effects are extremely rare, and the benefits far outweigh the risks. All of that may be true in aggregate. But it tells you almost nothing useful about whether a specific person in a specific circumstance should receive a specific vaccine formulation."

— **Dr. Robert Malone, Substack post, March 26, 2026**



"If offered the opportunity to participate in a relaunched A.C.I.P., I will respectfully decline. Hundreds of hours of uncompensated labor, incredible hate from many quarters, hostile press, internal bickering, weaponized leaking, sabotage," he added. "I have better things to do." — **Dr. Malone, New York Times, March 24, 2026**



Context: Dr. Robert Malone, vice chair of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP, angrily resigned from the committee. Malone also complained to Roll Call, "I am done with the CDC and ACIP. That was the last straw." As usual, he played victim and took no personal responsibility for his fabrications and falsehoods that provoked the "hate" and "bickering" he cited.

“Leaders from the developing world have a different take on global climate change policies. They state that they are being forced to use green energy, which will make it even harder for billions to escape poverty. The term being used for this is GREEN IMPERIALISM, otherwise known as Green Colonialism. If wealthy nations truly want to help nations with high poverty rates, they would get out of their way. They would help them develop their liquid petroleum resources and technologies. This means installing clean energy plants. Eventually, the transition to nuclear has to be considered. Newly designed nuclear plants will be fueling the energy of the future.” — **The Malone Institute’s website, Green Imperialism section**

Context: Like most Project 2025 organizations, TMI is predictably against green energy and shills for petroleum and nuclear reactors. The promotion of toxic fuels is inexcusable coming from a supposed medical organization. Pollution kills more than 100,000 Americans each year, with about half of all air pollution-related deaths from fine particulate matter resulting from burning fossil fuels. Approximately, 3,600 Americans die from asthma each year, while 25 million Americans suffer from it. Pollution contributes to hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks annually. But, hey, what’s a little suffering and death if it keeps Dr. Malone’s mug in the media?

“Who are the globalist members of the trade organization known as The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the operatives that they have trained, why should you care, and what can you do about it?” — **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

“The WEF [World Economic Forum] is the organization which has masterminded the globally harmonized planning, development and implementation of the lockdowns, mandates, authoritarian vaccine campaigns, suppression of early treatment options, global targeting of dissenting physicians, censorship, propaganda, information and thought control programs which we have all experienced since late 2019.” — **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

“‘Davos Man’ is a term coined by former Harvard University Director of the Center for International Affairs, Professor Dr. Samuel Huntington (1927-2008), to define what was then an emerging group of economic elites who are members of a social caste which has ‘little need for national loyalty, view national boundaries as obstacles that are thankfully vanishing, and see national governments as residues from the past whose only useful function is to facilitate the elite’s global operations.’ Davos Man fits the definition of megalomania and has acquired what he believes are sufficient financial and political resources to try to force his obsession and grand schemes on the world, and to force you, your family, and the world to comply with his vision and belief systems.” — **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

Middle East Forum

Philadelphia, PA

Revenue: \$3,886,827

The Middle East Forum (MEF), a conservative think tank founded in 1994 by **Daniel Pipes**, has been involved in several controversies over the years, particularly due to its positions on Islam, Middle Eastern politics, and its involvement in domestic U.S. policy debates. Pipes is the author of a dozen books including, "The Long Shadow: Culture and Politics in the Middle East" (1988) and most recently, "Israel Victory: How Zionists Win Acceptance and Palestinians Get Liberated" (2024).

For a Project 2025 organization, MEF is relatively mainstream. Its primary inclusion as an Advisory Board group appears to be its support for the Trump Administration's positions on Israel. According to the group's website:

The Middle East Forum promotes American interests in the Middle East and protects the Constitutional order from Middle Eastern threats.

The Forum sees the region — with its profusion of dictatorships, radical ideologies, existential conflicts, border disagreements, corruption, political violence, and weapons of mass destruction — as a major source of problems for the United States. Accordingly, it urges active measures to protect Americans and their allies.

U.S. interests in the Middle East include fighting radical Islam; working for Palestinian acceptance of Israel; robustly asserting U.S. interests vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia; developing strategies to deal with Iraq and contain Iran; and monitoring the advance of Islamism in Turkey.

Domestically, the Forum combats lawful Islamism; protects the freedom of public speech of anti-Islamist authors, activists, and publishers; and works to improve Middle East studies in North America.



Civil rights groups have labeled MEF or its members as part of the "Islamophobia industry". Here is a snapshot of their critiques:

- Center for American Progress: "The Middle East Forum is at the center of the Islamophobia network."
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR): Daniel Pipes is "considered by many Muslims to be America's leading Islamophobe."
- The Southern Poverty Law Center: Daniel Pipes is "at the center of what is a large and evolving network of Islam-bashing activists."

MEF defends its positions by distinguishing between Islam as a religion and Islamism as a political ideology, claiming its critics conflate the two. The group writes:

Far from being biased against Muslims, MEF challenges a radical ideology responsible for unfathomable Muslim suffering, and one which most Muslims reject.

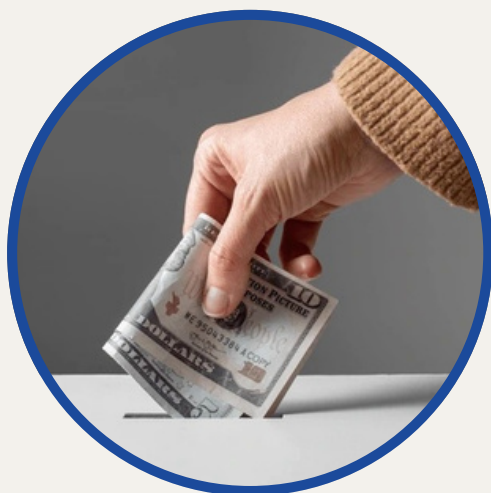
The "Islamophobia" accusations they level at MEF and others are designed to conflate Islamism and Islam, claiming an attack on one is an attack on the other.

This conflation also attempts to delegitimize non-Islamist Muslims working to free their faith from the grip of extremists, and it is no coincidence that Muslim reformers are often viciously attacked.





Chip Roy



MEF has actively lobbied against U.S. foreign aid to Palestinian organizations and governments, often linking aid to alleged terrorism or incitement. MEF's Lawfare Project and other legal arms have filed lawsuits or petitions to cut off funding to groups seen as sympathetic to Palestinians.

The organization is promoting H.R. 8236 - the Designating Hamas Affiliates in America Act of 2026. Introduced by Rep. **Chip Roy** (R-Texas), the bill directs the federal government to list the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity. MEF asks member and supporters to, "urge your representatives to support this legislation—the strongest effort to date to designate CAIR, a terrorist-supporting front organization."

MEF publishes the journal Middle East Quarterly and runs projects like Campus Watch (to critique Middle East studies in universities), the Israel Victory Project, the Legal Project (to "defend writers on radical Islam"), and Islamist Watch (to track "lawful Islamism" in US institutions). MEF receives millions of dollars in donations from foundations and donor-advised funds, including Donors Capital Fund, William Rosenwald Family Fund, Middle Road Foundation and Abstraction Fund. MEF also operates an Education Fund distributing roughly \$2-3 million annually to aligned projects and researchers.

Controversies

2019 workplace Accusations

Director and Chief Operating Officer, **Gregg Roman** was sued by a former employee, Marnie O'Brien, for sexual harassment, with allegations that he made explicitly sexist and xenophobic remarks ("non-Jewish women were made for sex"). Roman allegedly "inquired into her dating life" and "discussed his marital problems and his sex life".

On August 6, 2021, a Philadelphia jury in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania decided, after a seven-day trial, that O'Brien didn't present enough evidence, Bloomberg Law reported. Roman assumed the position of MEF Executive Director in February 2025, after Daniel Pipes stepped down to serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Campus Watch

In late 2002, MEF launched the Campus Watch website listing eight scholars "hostile to America". This drew intense criticism from about 100 academics who labeled the effort "McCarthyesque" intimidation. (MEF later removed individual names from the site.) Campus Watch continues under MEF oversight; its director, Winfield Myers, is a longtime MEF fellow.

UC Berkeley professor Judith Butler said, "If a group establishes a Web site and says, 'We are watching you,' that has a very chilling impact on academic freedom. The more people who actively volunteer themselves for such a list, the less that power of intimidation works."

Daniel Pipes Nomination

In 2003, Pipes was nominated by George W. Bush to serve as a director on the board of the US Institute of Peace, a government-funded think tank set up in 1984 to "promote the prevention, management, and peaceful resolution of international conflicts." The nomination caused controversy in the Senate after Muslim groups strenuously objected. Ultimately, Bush made a recess appointment that offered a limited term lasting only until the end of 2004.



Quotes

1990

"Fears of a Muslim influx have more substance than the worry about jihad. Western European societies are unprepared for the massive immigration of brown-skinned peoples cooking strange foods and maintaining different standards of hygiene. Muslim immigrants bring with them a chauvinism that augurs badly for their integration into the mainstream of the European societies. Put differently, Iranian zealots threaten more within the gates of Vienna than outside them." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, National Review**

"The movement of Muslims to Western Europe creates a great number of painful but finite challenges; there is no reason to see it as leading to a cataclysmic battle. If handled properly, the immigrants can even bring much of value, including new energy, to their host societies." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, National Review**

"The key issue is whether the Muslims will modernize. And the answer lies not in the Koran but in the attitudes and actions of nearly a billion Muslims. Should they fail to modernize, their stubborn record of illiteracy, poverty, intolerance, and autocracy will continue, and perhaps worsen. Military and cultural tensions with the West might well become more acute. But if Muslims do modernize, things will turn out differently. Then they have a good chance to become literate, affluent, and politically stable. They will no longer need to train terrorists or build missiles for use against the West; to emigrate to Europe and America; or, once having moved, to resist integration in Western societies." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, National Review**



2002

"We are all ill-served by the mistakes, intolerance, the extremism, the duplicity, that one finds in Middle Eastern studies. Middle Eastern studies is in an Enron- type crisis...We are putting a spotlight on what we consider to be a problem." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, San Francisco Chronicle**

2026

"If Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's regime continues escalating against Israel, then the Jewish state should answer with statecraft: recognize the right to self-determination of the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia; recognize that Ceuta and Melilla do not fall under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Article 5 umbrella; impose an arms embargo on Spain; restrict Spanish access to Israeli technology; and cultivate direct ties with conservative pro-Israel forces inside Spain, rather than with actors who now serve Sánchez's anti-Israel crusade." — **Website article, Jose lev Alvarez Gomez, "If Sanchez Keeps Targeting Israel, Jerusalem Should Raise Spain's Costs", March 17, 2026**

"The self-determination question strikes even deeper. Sánchez' regime champions Palestinian Islamism abroad while denying comparable moral language to nations under its own flag. Thus, if Madrid insists on weaponizing self-determination against Israel, Jerusalem should answer by affirming that Catalans, Galicians, and Basques possess the right to determine their own political future. That would not amount to immediate recognition of statehood. It would be something more measured and more devastating: ending Israel's automatic silence on Spain's internal contradictions." — **Website article, Jose lev Alvarez Gomez, "If Sanchez Keeps Targeting Israel, Jerusalem Should Raise Spain's Costs", March 17, 2026**

National Association of Scholars

New York, NY

Revenue: \$2,967,555

The National Association of Scholars (NAS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1987 by **Herbert London** and **Stephen Balch**. It is primarily known for its far-right wing stance on higher education reform. The association is a membership group of about 3,500 mostly academics.

The NAS seeks to counter what it perceives as the decline of American undergraduate education, advocating for the preservation of Western intellectual traditions, rigorous academic standards, and “academic freedom”. The organization opposes multiculturalism, affirmative action, and diversity initiatives, arguing that they undermine the study of Western civilization and intellectual merit.

In reality, NAS is a right-wing Republican front group masquerading as a legitimate science-based organization. It is part of U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon’s Orwellian America 250 Civics Coalition, which promotes “patriotic civics education”.

This creepy program is not about educating schoolchildren to become better citizens. Instead, it consists of far-right extremist groups—many of whom supported President Donald Trump’s January 6 insurrection--and is eerily reminiscent of what President Vladimir Putin has installed in Russian schools.

Peter Wood is the President of the National Association of Scholars. Dr. Wood is an anthropologist and former provost. He was appointed president of the NAS in January 2009.

Dr. Wood is the author of Wrath: America Enraged (Encounter Books, 2021), 1620: A Critical Response to the 1619 Project (Encounter Books, 2020), A Bee in the Mouth: Anger in America Now (Encounter Books, 2007), and of Diversity: The Invention of a Concept (Encounter Books, 2003)



Wood told Mass Live that higher education, as it stands, attempts to “commandeer higher education into a path of indoctrinating young people into a false set of beliefs about the country and our broader civilization.”

In 2025, Wood signed NAS onto an inflammatory document called “The Manhattan Statement on Higher Education”. Billed as a new “contract”, it offered radical ideas and loaded language:

- “Beginning with the George Floyd riots and culminating in the celebration of the Hamas terror campaign, the institutions of higher education finally ripped off the mask and revealed their animating spirit: racialism, ideology, chaos.”
- “The universities have contributed to a new kind of tyranny, with publicly funded initiatives designed to advance the cause of digital censorship, public health lockdowns, child sex-trait modification, race-based redistribution, and other infringements on America’s long-standing rights.”
- American higher education has “long been the bright lights of our civilization” but that for the past 50 years, universities and colleges have “discarded their founding principles and burned down their accumulated prestige, all in pursuit of ideologies that corrupt knowledge and point the nation toward nihilism.”





Jon Fansmith

Jon Fansmith, of the American Council on Education, said if the Trump administration implements The Manhattan Statement, it would be “bad for democracy” and “deeply concerning.” He said it would likely wind up in court, as it is “illegal.”

The NAS board has included controversial figures. Alchetron writes:

The advisory board of the NAS has included several notable conservatives, such as **Jeane Kirkpatrick**, a U.S. ambassador and adviser to Ronald Reagan. Chester Finn helped to form the conservative movement's education policies. **Irving Kristol**, founder of the neoconservative movement, "characterized multiculturalism as 'a desperate strategy for coping with the educational deficiencies and associated social pathologies of young blacks.'"



Jeane Kirkpatrick

William A. Donohue, former NAS board member and leader of the politically conservative Catholic League, writes in *American Conservatism: an Encyclopedia* (2006) that the NAS wishes "to foster renewed respect for the proposition that rational discourse and scholarship are the basis of academic life" and to emphasize "the Western commitment to freedom and democracy." On the other hand, Jacob Weisberg stated in 1991 that NAS is "prone to conflating its admirable ideals with far less compelling political prejudices."



Irving Kristol



William A. Donohue

Over the years, NAS has been funded by the usual right-wing suspects: Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), Sarah Scaife Foundation, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Castle Rock Foundation, Donor'sTrust, John Templeton Foundation, Adolph Coors Foundation and the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation.

Controversies

Blocking Efforts to Curtail Campus Harassment

In 1990, NAS faculty at the University of Texas, Austin, blocked the inclusion of civil rights readings in an English course proposed to address racial and sexual harassment on campus. They also supported a campaign to defund the university's Chicano newspaper.

Divisive at Duke

At Duke University in 1990, the formation of an NAS chapter led to heated debates about the organization's stances on race and gender issues. The New York Times reported:

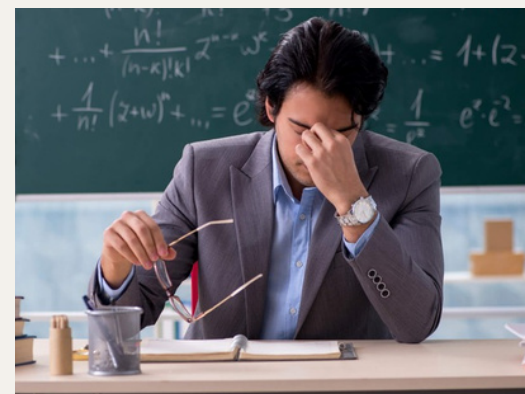
The group's literature says that it supports the study of other cultures, but that issues of race and sex are introduced in the curriculum primarily for political reasons. Part of an association statement reads that "an examination of many women's studies and minorities studies courses and programs discloses little study of other cultures and much excoriation of our society for its alleged oppression of women, blacks and others."

Stanley Fish, chairman of Duke's English department, attacked the group in a Sept. 14 letter to the student newspaper, The Chronicle.

The association "is widely known to be racist, sexist and homophobic," said Professor Fish. The professor, who frequently notes that he teaches only traditional literature, said the old curriculum reflected a white European male political bias.

Corrosive in Colorado

A 2001 NAS report criticizing diversity curricula at Colorado universities led to backlash. The report recommended suspending certain education programs, prompting accusations of bias against women and minorities. A dean resigned in protest, describing NAS's actions as "teacher-bashing".



Climate Denial

NAS amplified the "Climategate" controversy, a debunked scandal involving hacked emails from climate scientists. NAS exploited this incident to discredit climate science broadly, undermining its credibility as an organization dedicated to intellectual inquiry.

In 2018, the publication Undark wrote:

The organization regularly publishes articles assailing mainstream climate science. NAS President Peter Wood, an anthropologist by training, has written about "the bogus 'global warming consensus,'" and in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Monday and linked to the report, he and Randall describe "the whole discipline of climate science" as "a farrago of unreliable statistics, arbitrary research techniques, and politicized groupthink."

The organization has received donations from the Charles Koch Foundation, one of the country's most prominent anti-climate funders. It receives a sizable portion of its annual budget from the Sarah Scaife Foundation, which climate change activists have identified as a major backer of attacks on climate science.

In a 2010 article published on the NAS website, Kerry Emanuel, a climate scientist at MIT and former member of NAS, called the work of NAS, "patently disingenuous."

He left the organization soon afterward.

"It sort of revealed them not to be what they claimed to be — people who stood for scientific truth and scientific integrity. It was just another organization that used that as a front," Emanuel said. "They're basically a political organization posing as an organization dedicated to free inquiry," he added.



DEI Fight at Texas Tech

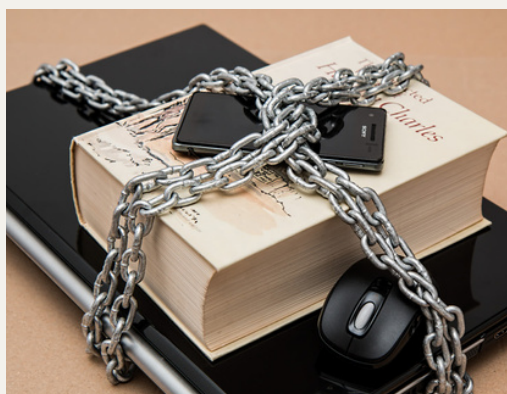
In 2023, the National Association of Scholars found that the biology department at Texas Tech University was asking faculty candidates in 2021 to submit statements on their commitment to DEI. CNN reported that candidates received negative notes if their answers were deemed insufficient, such as not knowing the difference between “equality” and “equity.” According to CNN:

Steve Balch is a former Texas Tech professor and founder of the National Association of Scholars, which has done considerable research on DEI efforts in universities to illustrate what it sees as an impediment to academic freedom.

“My quarrel isn’t with people who think diversity, equity and inclusion are good things,” he told CNN. “My argument and the argument of the NAS is turning them into dogma and then using them to vet faculty members, graduate students, undergraduate students – creating aversive environment in which you feel you have to swear fealty to a particular creed. I think that’s wrong.”

NAS released DEI-specific notes and documents from the biology department’s hiring process through open records requests. The group published the roughly 100 documents online, along with an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal, called “How ‘Diversity’ Policing Fails Science.” According to the WSJ op-ed:

At Texas Tech University, a candidate for a faculty job in the department of biological sciences was flagged by the department’s search committee for not knowing the difference between “equality” and “equity.” Another was flagged for his repeated use of the pronoun “he” when referring to professors. Still another was praised for having made a “land acknowledgment” during the interview process. A land acknowledgment is a statement noting that Native Americans once lived in what is now the United States.



Report Savaged As Misleading

In Academic Blog, NAS's 2012 report on California Universities was torn to shreds. The author, **John K. Wilson**, wrote of the "academic" report:

"A Crisis of Competence: The Corrupting Effect of Political Activism in the University of California" is a new report issued from the California Association of Scholars and the National Association of Scholars' Center for the Study of the Curriculum.

[It is] factually defective, intellectually embarrassing, and ideologically frightening in its call for a new wave of campus repression based on political ideology, this report marks a disturbing low point for the National Association of Scholars and its embrace of right-wing politics rather than any principles of intellectual freedom or academic integrity.

What the NAS calls for is a kind of a new McCarthyism, where Regents and administrators ban the use of funds for events deemed "political," force the hiring of unqualified conservative professors, and silence professors as "political" if they criticize the government in class or stray from the preferred conservative ideology of the NAS.

Alleged Misuse of Public Funds

In 2001, questions were raised about why Colorado's Commission on Higher Education paid \$25,000 to NAS for a report critical of diversity curricula instead of contracting an organization with expertise in teacher education.

William Stanley, the dean of the University of Colorado Boulder's School of Education, resigned in protest, calling the report a "scandalous attack" and "teacher-bashing". Colorado regent Bob Sievers deplored NAS's report for "anti-teaching, anti-C.U./Boulder, anti-women and anti-minority bias."



Bowdoin Report

The New York Times reported:

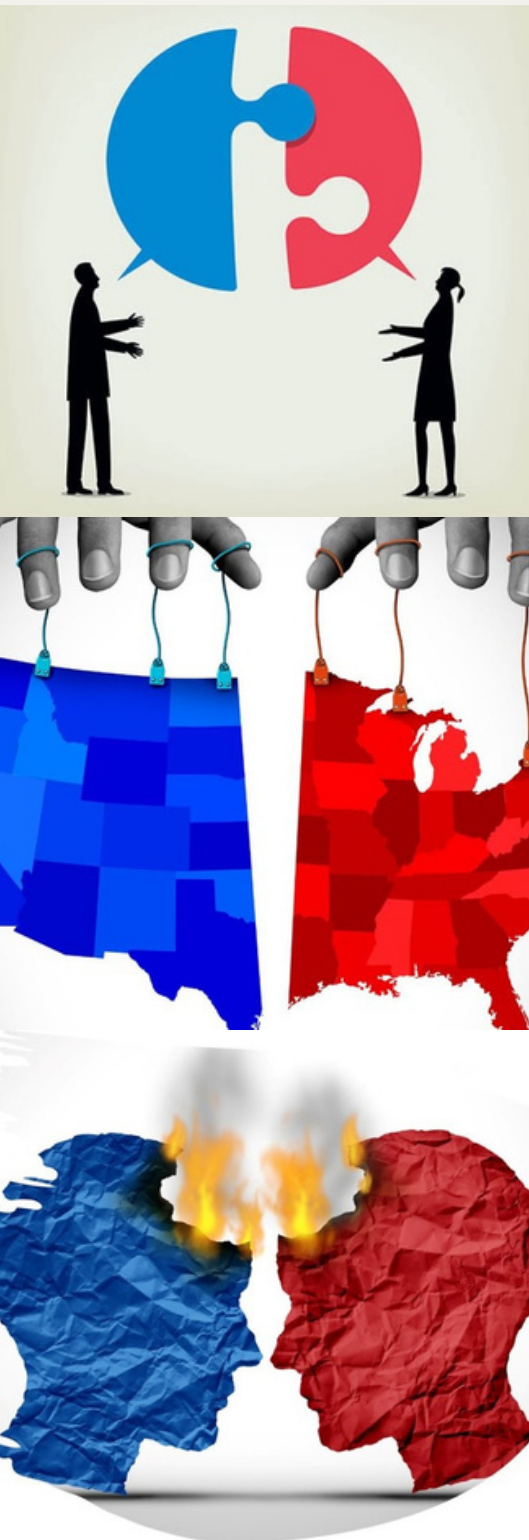
In 2013, with President Barack Obama in the White House and racial tensions simmering, the conservative-leaning National Association of Scholars published a 376-page report on Bowdoin that was unsparing in its criticism, accusing the college of promoting “closed-minded orthodoxies” — including Africana studies — in the name of diversity and inclusivity. The report estimated that there were only four or five conservatives out of approximately 182 full-time faculty members.

The findings became irresistible fodder for conservative news media. They seized on offerings in Bowdoin’s course book, including a seminar called “Queer Gardens,” which was described as an examination of “how marginal identities find expression in specific garden spaces.” (The course was canceled for lack of student interest, the report noted.)

Peter Wood, who wrote the report for the National Association of Scholars and is the organization’s president, said Bowdoin was hardly an isolated example of the academic culture the report described.

“We found ourselves in a college and university system in which voices of dissent from the prevailing views were becoming weaker and weaker,” Mr. Wood said.

Professors and students said the report did not describe the Bowdoin that they knew. Mr. Mills, then the college president, said the authors exaggerated and misrepresented student life and culture, calling it “meanspirited and personal.”



Anti-Communist Education in Florida

Communism certainly doesn't have a good track record. However, new education standards in Florida, backed by NAS, seem more like the state-sponsored indoctrination in communist countries, rather than the accurate history lessons one would expect in U.S. schools. Truth Out reports:

Beginning in the fall of 2026, all Florida middle and high school students will be required to take a yearly social studies class on the history of communism.

The curriculum has already received the stamp of approval from the conservative Heritage Foundation (the group behind Project 2025), a right-wing nonprofit organization called the National Association of Scholars (NAS) and a NAS spinoff called the Civics Alliance, and it follows on the heels of the state's 2022 imposition of Victims of Communism Day, which is now held every November 7 to mark the start of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

The annual commemoration requires schools to provide a minimum of 45 minutes of instruction on "the horrors of communism" and the "destructiveness of Marxism-Leninism." Programming is also expected to inculcate "an appreciation for the founding principles of the American republic." What these principles are is not specified.





Quotes

2006

“In one field after another, passion and venting have come to define the nature of what academics do. Ethnic studies, women’s studies, queer studies — they’re all about vindicating the grievances of some particular group. That’s not what the academy should be about.” — **Stephen H. Balch, president of the National Association of Scholars, New York Times, Nov. 26, 2006**

“Obviously in the classroom you can look at issues of right and wrong and justice and injustice. But if the purpose is to vindicate fatness, to make fatness seem better in the eyes of society, then that purpose begs a fundamental intellectual question.” — **Stephen H. Balch, president of the National Association of Scholars, New York Times, Nov. 26, 2006**

2019

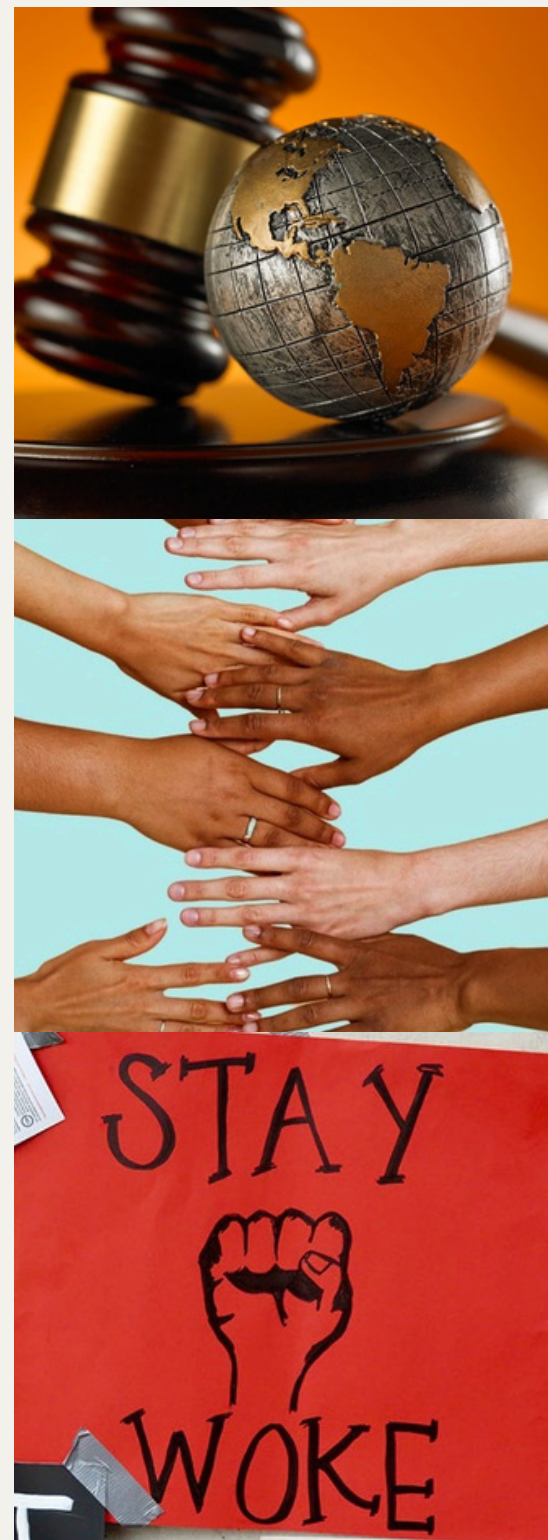
“Spurred by the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and a growing Civil Rights Movement, colleges and universities led a good-faith effort to achieve racial integration. Today, that ideal on campus is dead. Universities promote the benefits of diversity while actively constructing ethnic enclaves, promoting racial resentment, and founding organizational structures based on group grievance.” — **NAS report, *Separate but Equal, Again*, Dion J. Pierre**

2021

"It's not true that students learn better when supported and in an environment of respect. Students learn more when they're challenged, and students learn more when they are exposed to ideas that are not their own, that they find controversial, even offensive." — **Bruce Gilley, professor of political science at Portland State University, Board of the National Association of Scholars**

"DEI is precisely what you would not want to do if you want to build a civilized campus environment, because DEI teaches people to hate one another based on their skin color or their genitalia. Well, to divide the world into oppressor or oppressed categories."
— **Bruce Gilley, professor of political science at Portland State University, Board of the National Association of Scholars**

"Far-left social justice ideology—'wokeism,' as many are calling it—is now so widespread within American higher education that its presence is the norm, not the exception. We must assume that, at every level (undergraduate, graduate, professoriate) wokeism has infected the very core of every department (humanities, STEM, arts, professional studies, etc.), not only in admissions and hiring but also in the research product of the fields themselves." — **NAS Counter Current, July 25th Edition, David Acevedo**



2025

“Academia has long failed to teach civics, history, and military history effectively, eroding patriotism at every level of education. In honor of our military, I’d like to explore this decline—along with the rise of woke ideology in our service academies—and discuss what can be done to reverse it...When we lose this, we see the invasion of far-left ideology and those who desire the fall of Western civilization into not only higher education, but our military academies themselves.” — **NAS Counter Current, Nov. 10th Edition, Kali Jerrard**

“It’s been my long-term goal — that and also the goal of the National Association of Scholars — to try to win the attention of political leaders to the problem that higher education has betrayed its fundamental commitment to intellectual freedom and pursuit of truth and the upholding of important standards. For the most part, that complaint has gone unheeded.” — **Peter Wood, President of the National Association of Scholars, Interview with Mass Live**

“I think when Donald Trump was elected to his second term, he got the message that higher education, and not just higher education, but K-12 education as well, have been corrupted, and that it is a pretty strong imperative that he do something about it.” — **Peter Wood, President of the National Association of Scholars, Interview with Mass Live**

2026

“We have this revival of faith that seems to be happening, especially in the aftermath of what happened to Charlie Kirk.” — **NAS post on X, March 7, 2026**

“The University of Toronto is openly barring white men from a new data science professorship, citing ‘systemic barriers’ as the reason for the exclusion. Another example of identity politics officially replacing merit in the academy.” — **NAS post on X, March 6, 2026**

Issue-Based Quotes

To make our report easier to navigate, we've grouped the statements of each organization by issue area. This section allows readers to quickly locate and compare quotes on the topics that matter most to them, without having to read through each organizational profile.

Abortion and IVF

Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

"Do we as Christians need to be liked so badly that we choose to remain silent in response to the killing of babies, the spreading of homosexual propaganda to our children, the distribution of condoms and immoral advice to our teenagers, and the undermining of marriage as an institution? Would Jesus have ignored these wicked activities?" — **Christianity Today, "Why I Use Fighting Words", June 19, 1995**

"There have been times of despair, real despair, and disappointment along the way. At last, the tide has changed, and the legality of abortion has been given to the people to decide — where it belonged in the first place." — **James Dobson Newsletter, July 13, 2022**

"The pro-life movement is built on everyday heroes who simply show up and stand for godly principles." — **JDFI, post on X, Feb. 10, 2026**

High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS)

"We have been hard at work fighting to keep our state as the #1 Pro Life State in America. We look forward to continuing to work with like-minded organizations across our state to save lives by funding our vital Pregnancy Resource Centers!" — **Post on X by Arkansas Chapter, Feb. 15, 2023**

"We will always stand by the belief that every human has the right to life, and will uphold that against such inhumane practices. We wish to protect those who are unborn and not allow their lives to be cut short. We firmly advocate for policies that empower prospective mothers with the resources and support they need in order to defend the right to life for our weakest." — **Post on X, Jan. 23, 2023**

Independent Women's Forum

"The absurdity of women, under the banner of feminism, who want to be seen as independent as they try to force other people to pay for their choices and lifestyle." — **IWF's then-managing director Carrie Lukas.**

Context: During the 2012 furor over law student Sandra Fluke's congressional testimony on birth-control coverage, IWF attacked Fluke after Rush Limbaugh infamously called her a "slut." Lukas argued that painting oneself as a victim for having to buy one's own contraception..."is pretty difficult to mesh with the idea of true independence."

Institute for Women's Health

"Women's health is being subjugated to an ideological agenda with little concern for women themselves. In Ecuador, those who would impose their own ideological colonization on Ecuadorian women by insisting upon abortion as a human right have lost." — **Valerie Huber, Post on X, 2022**

"The Geneva Consensus Declaration would not have survived without Hungary's steadfast leadership as Secretariat since 2023. When others faltered, Hungary stepped up. Today we honor their courage and dedication to the sustenance and growth of the GCD." — **Valerie Huber, President, The Institute for Women's Health**

"With America back and new nations joining, the Geneva Consensus Declaration's momentum is undeniable. The future has never been brighter for our coalition." — **Hungarian Minister Péter Szijjártó**

"The Geneva Consensus Declaration affirms basic principles that all life is sacred and there is no international right to abortion. The GCD has continued to grow, with 40 signatories all committed to upholding the protection of families and the unborn. I am thrilled that President Trump rejoined the GCD within the first week of his presidency and look forward to the day that all nations come together to recognize these fundamental truths." — **Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), leader on every Senate pro-GCD resolution.**

"We are very grateful for today's announcement of the expanded Mexico City policy, and its implications for protecting life around the world. This action represents exactly how American foreign policy should function: through humanitarian and health partnerships with countries built on mutual respect, not the imposition of ideologies with U.S. dollars." — **Valerie Huber, President and CEO of the Institute for Women's Health**

"Today marks the end of abortion-centered US foreign aid and ideological colonialism. Now 40 nations strong, and representing 2.5 billion voices, the GCD reinforces this approach. The Institute for Women's Health works to advance real women's health and family strength worldwide." — **IWH Post on X, Jan. 23, 2026**

"U.S. taxpayer dollars should never fund abortion or ideological coercion abroad. President Trump's Mexico City Policy and Geneva Consensus Declaration lead by principled example. @IWH4Womenchampions this approach, supporting global partners in defending life, faith, and sovereignty, because when women and families thrive, nations thrive." — **IWH Post on X, Jan. 23, 2026**

Context: In January 2026, President Trump's reinstated the Mexico City Policy, (aka the "Global Gag Rule"). This U.S. government policy prohibits foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from receiving U.S. global health assistance if they provide, counsel, or refer patients for abortion services.

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

"It's already been three and a half years since the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade and the purported constitutional right to abortion. After decades of effort by the pro-life movement, the end of Roe marked a major victory. While the abortion debate has continued at the state level, Christians who fought for unborn lives rightly celebrated the Dobbs decision." — **ISI's Intercollegiate Review, "Roe's Religious Roots", Dec. 1, 2025**

Liberty University

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'" — **Jerry Falwell Sr., 700 Club, blaming his political foes for causing 9-11**

Media Research Center

"'If you don't let me have an abortion, I'll kill myself' - that's all you need to say and just like that it becomes an 'emergency' and justifies abortion."

Context: In a social media post on X, Bozell criticized the use of mental health crises as justification for abortion, implying that such claims could be manipulated to obtain the procedure under the guise of an emergency."

“Black babies are the target of abortion. That's the dirty secret pro-abortion leftists won't tell you. They are walking in the footsteps of Margaret Sanger.”

Context: Brent Bozell asserted that abortion disproportionately affects Black communities, referencing Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, who has been criticized for her association with eugenics.

Chrisitan Nationalism and White Supremacy

Media Research Center

Slamming PBS for reporting on Elon Musk's Nazi salute: "Taxpayer-funded hypocrites."

Context: In a post for the social media site X, David Bozell was responding to a Media Research Center post that said, "PBS was the first to cover Elon Musk's Nazi salute and they failed to cover Cory Booker making the exact same gesture." Both Bozell and MRC were serving as apologists for Musk's obvious Nazi salute.

Christian Persecution Complex

Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

"Join us in praying for Cities Church and Christians across the U.S. as churches are now targeted as battlegrounds in what is clearly spiritual warfare." — **JDFI, post on X, Jan. 24, 2026**

Church & State

Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

"We believe, as did our founder, Dr. James Dobson, that America's only hope for the future is that we turn our hearts back to God." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**

"When you read their stirring words [America's Founding Fathers], it is absolutely clear how strong a role the Christian faith played in the creation of our great country. Sadly, the educational establishment and radical secularist groups have convinced millions of Americans that religion was meant to be excluded from America's 'public square' and the halls of government. Nothing could be further from the truth." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**

"The James Dobson Family Institute is excited to join with the White House and Congress to celebrate and rededicate America to be 'One Nation Under God.'" — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "Redirecting America to God", Feb. 13, 2026**

"The Church, not the government, holds the real answer to helping those in need. Today on Family Talk, Star Parker explains why welfare programs have devastated black families, and how Christians can become the true safety net for struggling families." — **JDFI, post on X, Feb. 3, 2026**

Climate Change and Energy

Independent Women's Forum

Climate Change disinformation campaign: In 2010 the group launched a “Balanced Education for Everyone” initiative to stop “alarmist” global-warming curricula. IWF argued it wanted “another perspective” taught because it “thinks global warming is ‘junk science’ and that teaching it is unnecessarily scaring schoolchildren.” The campaign described standard climate science education as “alarmist global warming indoctrination.”

In a related press release timed for Earth Day, then-IWF President Michelle Bernard warned that children were being subjected to “terrifying lectures on global warming” presented as settled science. “That’s just not the case,” she said, calling Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* and similar films erroneous and alarmist. Bernard argued it was “wrong for schools to try to scare our children” without offering climate-change skeptics’ views. (2010)

Institute for Energy Research

“Wind power is not only bird-killing, noise-polluting, eyesore-causing, cost-prohibiting and vegetative-decreasing, but its intermittency leads to periods of overproduction or power shortages that necessitate reliance on traditional technologies as back-up or on costly storage technologies.” — **IER Report, Wind Turbines Reduce the Productivity of Surrounding Vegetation**

“Both before and after the unveiling of the Green New Deal, the climate warriors have frontally attacked the very economic system and electorates that reject energy self-immolation.” — **IER article, “Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal”**

“The Green New Deal (GND) has brought the specter of full-blown government central planning into full view. But far from hedging, the Progressive Left has doubled down by declaring war on market capitalism, not just oil, coal and natural gas.” — **IER article, “Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal”**

“Free speech, not only economic freedom, is at the crossroads to those who insist on climate peril and forced energy transformation.” — **IER article, “Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal”**

"The energy/climate revolution must dispense with wrong thinking, this mindset believes. Expect the skeptic books to be lit on fire on the climate road to serfdom."

— IER article, **"Authoritarian Roots of the Green New Deal"**

"Expect a Green New Deal aiming to outlaw fossil-fuel usage to be a police state too, with self-interested actions towards cheaper, more reliable energies thwarting the central planners from Washington, D.C." — IER article, **What Was the Energy New Deal Anyway?"**

"It's slow-motion attack on wealth creation to subsidize the inefficient and a growing class of cronies would spiral the United States toward a present-day Venezuela. Indeed, the same intellectuals and politicians behind the Green New Deal are predisposed to a new social order that was supposed to come with Chavez/Maduro. A basic understanding of economics and history should lead to a rejection of both the actual New Deal and a prospective Green New Deal." — IER article, **What Was the Energy New Deal Anyway?"**

"Governor Spanberger's choice to rejoin RGGI is putting a short-term budgetary gain ahead of the long-term impact the compact has on electricity prices and Virginia's economic competitiveness. The idea that RGGI-funded government subsidies for wind, solar, battery storage, and load-reducing programs will cover the costs of taxing fossil fuels doesn't stand up to scrutiny." — IER article, **Virginia Rejoins the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

"One year since President Trump took office, his administration, along with Congress, have taken over 250 actions to unleash America's energy potential." — IER **post on X**

"I wonder if [@GavinNewsom](#) signed any more 'bilateral' climate agreements with foreign nations while he was in Davos? How many is he up to now? Who is going to tell him he has no authority to set international climate policy?" — IER **President Tom Pyle, post on X.**

Recent analysis from the Institute for Energy Research and Always On Energy Research finds that states with electricity prices above the national average are disproportionately Democratic-led states that rely on aggressive energy mandates. — IER **President Tom Pyle, op-ed in Boston Herald**

Energy affordability is sacrificed to advance climate policy. For most people, this debate comes down to one thing: what they pay each month to keep the lights on. Until more states move away from policies that treat expensive electricity as an acceptable tradeoff, millions of households and businesses will continue to pay the price for high energy costs as a deliberate political choice. — IER **President Tom Pyle, op-ed in Boston Herald**

"Yes, we're always looking for converts, but it's a shame that Western governments (and private citizens) have diverted trillions in taxpayer resources away from alleviating poverty and human suffering in the name of curbing emissions." — **IER President, Tom Pyle, post on X**

James Madison Institute

"Individuals and companies have had it with blue state taxes, wild spending, suffocating regulations and draconian environmental policies that stifle innovation and entrepreneurship. They are moving to red states like Florida and Texas that value capital, markets, free exchange and opportunity." — **Dr. Robert McClure is the President and CEO of The James Madison Institute, Fox News op-ed, Feb. 11, 2026**

"The point I would make is the controversial nature of it. As you guys know, solar polls very well...To the degree that we can use a little bit of political jiu-jitsu and take what they're kind of pinning us on and use it to our benefit either in policy, in legislation or in constitutional referendums—if that's the direction you want to take—use the language of promoting solar, and kind of put in these protections for consumers that choose not to install solar." — **Vice President of Policy, Sal Nuzzo, The James Madison Institute**

Job Creators Network

"The spike in gas prices due to the Iran War would have been much worse without the Trump administration's drill-baby-drill energy policies that has dramatically increased domestic energy supply." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X, March 11, 2026**

"Trump ended costly Biden-era appliance mandates that drove up prices. He scrapped the electric vehicle quota that would have forced two-thirds of new cars to be electric within several years — a regulation that's forced the big three automakers to take a \$52 billion write down so far, costing thousands of jobs. Trump restored predictability for small businesses that were tired of bracing for the next wave of federal mandates."
— **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X praising Trump's State of the Union Speech, Feb. 24, 2026**

League of American Workers

"Windmills make no economic sense, harm the environment, and pollute America's vistas." — **Steve Cortes mini-documentary, "Blown Away: Exposing the Wind Scam"**

"This masked moron is anti-meat! Making it even worse, for 'climate' reasons. Talarico can never represent Texas." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 19, 2026**

Context: Cortes is commenting on a dredged up 2022 clip of Texas Senate candidate James Talarico urging voters to scale back "meat consumption".

Malone Institute

"Leaders from the developing world have a different take on global climate change policies. They state that they are being forced to use green energy, which will make it even harder for billions to escape poverty. The term being used for this is GREEN IMPERIALISM, otherwise known as Green Colonialism. If wealthy nations truly want to help nations with high poverty rates, they would get out of their way. They would help them develop their liquid petroleum resources and technologies. This means installing clean energy plants. Eventually, the transition to nuclear has to be considered. Newly designed nuclear plants will be fueling the energy of the future." — **The Malone Institute's website, Green Imperialism section**

Context: Like most Project 2025 organizations, TMI is predictably against green energy and shills for petroleum and nuclear reactors. The promotion of toxic fuels is inexcusable coming from a supposed medical organization. Pollution kills more than 100,000 Americans each year, with about half of all air pollution-related deaths from fine particulate matter resulting from burning fossil fuels. Approximately, 3,600 Americans die from asthma each year, while 25 million Americans suffer from it. Pollution contributes to hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks annually. But, hey, what's a little suffering and death if it keeps Dr. Malone's mug in the media?

Democracy

Honest Election Project (aka The 85 Fund and the Judicial Education Project)

"Hotel check-in: 'Here's my ID.' Voting check-in: 'ID? That's disenfranchisement!'"
— **Post on X, Aug. 14, 2025**

"The claim that requiring Voter ID for mail-in ballots violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is absurd and disrespectful to voters. It's insulting to suggest people are capable of registering and mailing a ballot but somehow incapable of obtaining a state ID or Social Security card." — **Post on X, Aug. 6, 2025**

"Voters deserve final results on Election Day. Allowing ballots to be counted weeks after doesn't save anyone from disenfranchisement. It only creates more room for abuse, fraud, and cheating". — **Post on X, Aug. 1, 2025**

Institute for Women's Health

"The Geneva Consensus Declaration would not have survived without Hungary's steadfast leadership as Secretariat since 2023. When others faltered, Hungary stepped up. Today we honor their courage and dedication to the sustenance and growth of the GCD." — **Valerie Huber, President, The Institute for Women's Health**

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

"Your relationship with the state is intermediated through your church and basically your minister can drug test you. He can assign you work. He can put an air tag on you. He can tell you where to go, where not to go." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Curits Yarvin suggesting that the government control people**

"Let's sort ourselves...If you don't like what's happening...we are a society in which you can move." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Patrick Deneen calling for Americans to sort themselves politically by state, and those who don't like it can leave**

Job Creator's Network

"MLB robbed the small businesses of Atlanta – many of them minority-owned – of \$100 million, we want the game back where it belongs. This was a knee-jerk, hypocritical and illegal reaction to misinformation about Georgia's new voting law which includes Voter-ID. Major League Baseball itself requests ID at will-call ticket windows at Yankee Stadium in New York, Busch Stadium in St. Louis and at ballparks all across the country."
— **Statement from Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network. ABC News, May 31, 2021**

League of American Workers

"Election integrity is everything!" — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 18, 2026**

Context: Commenting on a Retweet that said, "Donald Trump Right to Hold Congress Hostage Until It Passes the SAVE America Act."

"The legacy media is truly the enemy of the people." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 12, 2026**

"Surrender Mike [Pence] never left Washington after the administration, and he's acted just like a typical DC sewer creature." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 3, 2026**

[Former FBI Director James] "Comey belongs in prison..." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March. 20, 2026**

Media Research Center

"I think we're heading for an all-out war. As much as they like Kumbaya, this isn't gonna be Kumbaya."

Context: Brent Bozell was speaking about perceived liberal bias in the tech industry, referring to censorship concerns on social media and digital platforms.

Education

High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS)

"This past week, the High School Republicans celebrated National School Choice Week. We continuously work to increase awareness and implement greater school choice freedom for all students." — **Post on X, New Jersey Chapter, Jan. 28, 2023**

Hillsdale College

"The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country."
— **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

"In colleges, what you hire now is administrators... Now, because they are appointing all these diversity officers, what are their degrees in? Education. It's easy. You don't have to know anything." — **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

"You will see how education destroys generations of people. It's devastating. It's like the plague." — **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

"Here's a key thing that we're going to try to do. We are going to try to demonstrate that you don't have to be an expert to educate a child because basically anybody can do it." — **Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn**

Context: In June 2022, Arnn made these comment at a private event in Tennessee with Governor Bill Lee.

"In our conversation, [Larry Arnn with Michael Knowles] [we] explored the promising signs among Gen Z, who, contrary to prevailing cultural currents, are eager to root themselves in tradition and the permanent things. We observed that this young generation's hunger for truth and order suggests a welcome return to the foundations that sustain and must sustain civilization." — **Post on X, July 15, 2025**

Institute for Education Reform

The Legislatures need to be made to vote on controversial bills that separate the sheep from the goats. In Tennessee, the school choice bill had gone down to defeat in earlier years. But names were taken and the actions of those siding with the radical teachers' union were exposed to the public, leading to many replacements.

In the 2025 sessions of Legislatures we have pushed for real reforms that take power away from teachers' union bosses. We have sided with those that want to see real reform, not phony pretend changes on the margins.

And this is what we have learned. Until the RINOs, and teachers' union advocates in GOP-clothes are replaced, nothing serious will happen. Only the aggressive actions like the steadfast leaders in Utah and Tennessee can bring about real change for the better and that can only happen by kicking [SIC] hornet's nest every day. — **March 14, 2025, op-ed in the Tennessee Star by the organization's Chair, Kurt Christensen**

"You can take action by signing the petition to stop Government Teacher Unions from hijacking our political process." — **IER Petition**

"Government unions should not be taking hard earned money out of teachers [SIC] paychecks to pay for their political elections. Government unions should not be putting one party's political priorities ahead of what is best for your children." — **IER Petition**

"We believe that taxpayer money should be directed towards improving the quality of education for our students, not funding teachers' unions," said a spokesperson for IER. — **Press Release, Jan. 10, 2023**

"Oklahoma teacher unions shocked to consider that public schools exist for more than dues collection and member recruitment." — **(X post, April 15)**

"Once again, teacher unions ignore parents to push radical social agendas. It's about power, not education." — **(X post, Feb. 27)**

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

"If this building [DOE] is still standing physically at the end of this president's term, uh, you know, we haven't achieved the objective...just level the building." — **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo on Ending the Department of Education**

"The single biggest problem facing America today, which is being nurtured in higher education, and K through 12 as well, is the identity politics, innocent victimhood frame of mind. It has utterly poisoned higher education. I think it's poisoning our young people, because there is no way we can build a civilization if we are simply saying this group is innocent and this group is a transgressor. We have got to get rid of these scapegoat words which have dominated the left and dominated our higher education for the last 10 or 15 years. There can be no pursuit of knowledge unless we get rid of all that." — **ISI Interview, posted on X, with Dr. Joshua Mitchell, Professor of Political Theory, Feb. 6, 2026**

"I just had the opportunity to go by a school here in DC, Dunbar, which was a school where doctors, lawyers, academics, it was a great place. People from all across America would send their black kids, their children, to this school. And now, after the Brown vs. the Board of Education, the school started to slide backwards. That school now has failing students who can't read, can't do math, but they still have a 70% graduation rate." — **ISI interview, posted on X, with Pastor Corey Booker, Project HOOD, February 2, 2026**

Job Creators Network

"This bailout is going to affect everyone in this country because of the mass size of the program. And everyone should have the opportunity to provide their views to the government. These universities need to be held accountable for this student debt crisis." — **Elaine Parker, President, Job Creators Network Foundation, PBS, Oct. 10, 2022, opposing President Joe Biden's student debt relief**

"Conservative students face constant abuse from their peers. Their grades get docked by leftist professors. Their rights get violated by spineless school administrators. Liberals must answer not only for the pie-throwing and the riots. They must also answer for the culture of bullying and intimidation they've created on college campuses."

— **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

League of American Workers

"Really important! Technology has NOT made schools better. Back to paper, pencils — and patriotic formation that instills our values." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 16, 2026**

Middle East Forum

"We are all ill-served by the mistakes, intolerance, the extremism, the duplicity, that one finds in Middle Eastern studies. Middle Eastern studies is in an Enron- type crisis...We are putting a spotlight on what we consider to be a problem." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, San Francisco Chronicle**

National Association of Scholars

"In one field after another, passion and venting have come to define the nature of what academics do. Ethnic studies, women's studies, queer studies — they're all about vindicating the grievances of some particular group. That's not what the academy should be about." — **Stephen H. Balch, president of the National Association of Scholars, New York Times, Nov. 26, 2006**

"Obviously in the classroom you can look at issues of right and wrong and justice and injustice. But if the purpose is to vindicate fatness, to make fatness seem better in the eyes of society, then that purpose begs a fundamental intellectual question." — **Stephen H. Balch, president of the National Association of Scholars, New York Times, Nov. 26, 2006**

"It's not true that students learn better when supported and in an environment of respect. Students learn more when they're challenged, and students learn more when they are exposed to ideas that are not their own, that they find controversial, even offensive. — **Bruce Gilley, professor of political science at Portland State University, Board of the National Association of Scholars**

"DEI is precisely what you would not want to do if you want to build a civilized campus environment, because DEI teaches people to hate one another based on their skin color or their genitalia. Well, to divide the world into oppressor or oppressed categories." — **Bruce Gilley, professor of political science at Portland State University, Board of the National Association of Scholars**

"Far-left social justice ideology—'wokeism,' as many are calling it—is now so widespread within American higher education that its presence is the norm, not the exception. We must assume that, at every level (undergraduate, graduate, professoriate) wokeism has infected the very core of every department (humanities, STEM, arts, professional studies, etc.), not only in admissions and hiring but also in the research product of the fields themselves." — **NAS Counter Current, July 25th Edition, David Acevedo**

Family

Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

"The wages of sin is death and children have the right to understand that fact. The family was designed for a purpose and if you go tampering with it, the whole thing crumbles." — **Dobson, CNN, (2002)**

"The Super Bowl is viewed as 'family entertainment'. This halftime show was anything but. Sadly, Bad Bunny's show went largely as expected. Dancers performed provocative moves simulating sex acts, both heterosexual and homosexual, while the background imagery and scenes were saturated with anti-American messaging." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

Institute For Women's Health

"I think that in virtually every country in the world, they're being confronted by radical ideologies that were either brought to the country from other external sources, whether it's a foundation, another government, or an international organization, or that are being fomented within the government. But at the core, we have to recognise the importance of the family, as critical to the survival of a nation, and in all of these ideological debates, we have to protect the sovereignty of the country because it's up to the country and its people to decide rather than be forced upon them by external forces." — **Valerie Huber, President of IWH, Interview with the Hungarian Conservative**

Note: This quote is a classic example of projection. Huber is an American who is globetrotting with her U.S. non-profit to change foreign laws and impose American evangelical values. While she decries liberals, what Huber is pushing can only be described as leveraging American money and power to coerce weaker countries to adopt her brand of "right wing woke" policies and politics.

Gay and Lesbian

James Dobson Policy Institute

"Do we as Christians need to be liked so badly that we choose to remain silent in response to the killing of babies, the spreading of homosexual propaganda to our children, the distribution of condoms and immoral advice to our teenagers, and the undermining of marriage as an institution? Would Jesus have ignored these wicked activities?" — **Christianity Today, "Why I Use Fighting Words", June 19, 1995**

"Homosexuals are not monogamous. They want to destroy the institution of marriage. It will destroy marriage. It will destroy the Earth." — **James Dobson on marriage equality, Daily Oklahoman, Oct. 23, 2004**

"The LGBTQ movement is closing in on the God-inspired and established institution of the family." — **Dobson Newsletter, September 1, 2019**

"The NFL had an excellent opportunity to bring Americans together with a halftime show that celebrated our shared values, especially this year as we celebrate America's 250th birthday. Instead, the NFL's woke leadership chose to divide the country by selecting Bad Bunny—a cross-dressing, Puerto Rican rapper—as the main performer for the halftime show." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

"The Super Bowl is viewed as 'family entertainment'. This halftime show was anything but. Sadly, Bad Bunny's show went largely as expected. Dancers performed provocative moves simulating sex acts, both heterosexual and homosexual, while the background imagery and scenes were saturated with anti-American messaging." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI [blog post](#), "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

League of American Workers

"Diversity is NOT our strength." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 12, 2026**

"Pres. Trump likes women. Fantastic. We need MORE masculinity in America."
— **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, Feb. 19, 2026**

Liberty University

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'" — **Jerry Falwell Sr., 700 Club, blaming his political foes for causing 9-11**

"Thank God for these gay demonstrators. If I didn't have them, I'd have to invent them. They give me all the publicity I need." — **Mel White, Falwell's ghost writer who came out as gay, writing of a cynical Falwell remark, June 30, 2006**

Malone Institute

"People think, when they hear AIDS, they hear HIV. No, the vaccines aren't causing you to be infected with the HIV virus. They are causing a form of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, that's what AIDS stands for." — **Dr. Robert Malone, Malone Institute**

Context: Dr. Malone falsely, and bizarrely, claimed that COVID-19 vaccines are causing a form of AIDS that is not related to HIV.

Media Research Center

"The media have declared war on traditional marriage and sided with the 'marriage equality' crowd. You would think they were part of the gay rights movement."

Context: Brent Bozell criticized mainstream media coverage of same-sex marriage, accusing journalists of advocacy instead of neutrality.

Mocking Pride Month: "Pride flag".

Context: On X, David Bozell reposted a picture from For America of a bald eagle and an American flag, under the words "Pride Flag". He did so on June 1, to disrespect LGBTQ Pride Month, and to insinuate that the LGBTQ movement somehow conflicts with American patriotism. Meanwhile, his brother Leo assaulted law enforcement and damaged government property, as part of Trump's January 6 failed coup against democracy.

National Association of Scholars

“In one field after another, passion and venting have come to define the nature of what academics do. Ethnic studies, women’s studies, queer studies — they’re all about vindicating the grievances of some particular group. That’s not what the academy should be about.” — **Stephen H. Balch, president of the National Association of Scholars, New York Times, Nov. 26, 2006**

Government Purge and Surge

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

“Even if you think about Watergate, there is a lot more to the story than meets the eye. He [Nixon] says he’s going after the Deep State. He doesn’t quite do it. In fact, they use him to expand much of the Deep State. But if he’s saying it enough and he’s not actually doing it, it made him a bit of a sitting duck for exploitation. And I think the lesson for today is we can’t just talk about gutting the bureaucracy or draining the swamp. You got to go in and do it. And, if not, you’re in some ways the worst position of all. You’ve put the enemy, that machine on notice, that you might have some risk for the machine, when the machine just crushes you, like they have to the citizens of this country for a long time.” — **ISI interview posted on X, Vivek Ramaswamy peddling the conspiracy that President Richard Nixon was sabotaged by the Deep State, Feb. 13, 2026**

“If this building [DOE] is still standing physically at the end of this president's term, uh, you know, we haven't achieved the objective...just level the building.”

— **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo on Ending the Department of Education**

Leadership Institute

“Personnel is policy.” — **Morton Blackwell, Founder, Leadership Institute, “The Laws of the Public Policy Process”**

Grifters and Goons

Independent Women's Forum

A disingenuous organization reveals its true colors: "Our value here and what is needed in the Republican conservative arsenal is a group that can talk to those cohorts [women who are not Republican conservatives] that would not otherwise listen but can do it in a way that is taking a conservative message and packaging it in a way that will be acceptable." — **Heather Richardson Higgins, Board Chair of the Independent Women's Forum**

Guns

Independent Women's Forum

Pro-Ar-15 and against gun control: In Senate testimony (Jan 2013) amid gun violence debates, IWF senior fellow Gayle Trotter testified that an AR-15 rifle in the hands of a mother defending her home offers “peace of mind.” The AR-15, Trotter told the panel, is “a defense weapon” for women. She further claimed, “guns make women safer,” calling firearms “the great equalizer” and suggesting bans on high-capacity magazines would especially disadvantage women

Liberty University

“If more good people had concealed-carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in and killed them. Let’s teach them a lesson if they ever show up here.” — **Jerry Falwell, Jr., The Atlantic, Dec. 6, 2015**

Context: At Liberty’s convocation service Falwell Jr., was commenting on a mass shooting carried out by a married Muslim couple in San Bernardino They targeted a holiday party hosted by one of the shooter’s colleagues at the Inland Regional Center, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others.

Immigration

James Dobson Policy Institute

"Millions of illegal immigrants will continue flooding into this great land from around the world. Many of them have no marketable skills. They are illiterate and unhealthy. Some are violent criminals. Their numbers will soon overwhelm the culture as we have known it, and it could bankrupt the nation." — **Dr. Dobson after visiting a migrant detention center in McAllen, Texas, 2019**

"Days before the Super Bowl, Bad Bunny was on Saturday Night Live. Many Americans were insulted when he told us we needed to learn Spanish to understand his halftime performance. America is a multilingual society, but English is our national unifying language." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

League of American Workers

"Patriots, I am coming to you from a crime scene: The U.S.-Mexico Border." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, The Intercept, Aug. 7, 2024, [He made this statement in the opening of a video bashing President Joe Biden on immigration.]**

"The border wall works and it's very popular with the American people. It should be one of the first things Congress funds in 2025." — **The League of American Workers, Post on X, Dec. 10, 2024**

"America has ALL the talent we could ever use. In our own country. But those gifts need to be cultivated! We don't need to import the rest of the world here, including to our universities — rather, just prioritize our people!" — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Chambana Sun, Feb. 9, 2026**

"Ok can we please end this whole charade??? Arrest her, denaturalize her — and deport this ingrate back to Somalia." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 19, 2026**

Context: Cortes attacking Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) after she remarked on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and said, "He's always been pretty pathetic. It pains me as a Minnesotan. He's an embarrassment on the national and international stage."

"I know that no person sees my reply to Vivek's [Ramaswamy's] fundraising text — but I nonetheless let him know! I have NO time for an anchor baby who lectures Americans about how inadequate we are." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 14, 2026**

"Awful news! One action item, that needs to happen immediately — stop ALL worker visas! No foreign workers...as legions of Americans get laid off, due to automation." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 14, 2026**

Context: Cortes reacting to massive META layoffs—temporarily forgetting that his father moved to the United States from Colombia. Steve has referred to himself as a "son of an immigrant". How nice of him to selfishly pull up the immigration ladder behind him, so no one else can benefit from the United States like he has. Trump once said of Cortes, "He happens to be Hispanic, but I've never quite figured it out, because he looks more like a WASP than I do."

"Diversity is NOT our strength." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 12, 2026**

"Birthright citizenship is an abuse of the goodwill of the American people!" — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 2, 2026**

Media Research Center

For America Grossly Distorting the words of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass: "'We'll burn your cities down if you try to enforce federal law'" is terrorism. Violence to a political end. The United States does not negotiate with terrorists."

Insulting the California Governor for opposing Trump's authoritarianism: "Gavin Newsom is a traitor."

Context: Mayor Bass said, "We need to stop the raids. This was chaos that was started by Washington, D.C." She was correctly referring to Donald Trump sending the National Guard and later the Marines to Los Angeles to intimidate mostly peaceful protesters. Trump made the order despite not being asked for help by Mayor Bass or Gov. Gavin Newsom. Newsom sued the Trump administration for deploying the National Guard. For America repeatedly created or retweeted divisive and inaccurate posts falsely portraying Los Angeles as under siege and in desperate need of a martial response from President Trump.

Middle East Forum

“Fears of a Muslim influx have more substance than the worry about jihad. Western European societies are unprepared for the massive immigration of brown-skinned peoples cooking strange foods and maintaining different standards of hygiene. Muslim immigrants bring with them a chauvinism that augurs badly for their integration into the mainstream of the European societies. Put differently, Iranian zealots threaten more within the gates of Vienna than outside them.” — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, National Review**

Islamophobia

Liberty University

"I think Muhammad was a terrorist. I read enough of the history of his life written by both Muslims and non-Muslims, [to decide] that he was a violent man, a man of war." — **Jerry Falwell Sr., CBS's 60 Minutes interview, October 6, 2002**

"If more good people had concealed-carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in and killed them. Let's teach them a lesson if they ever show up here." — **Jerry Falwell, Jr., The Atlantic, Dec. 6, 2015**

Context: At Liberty's convocation service Falwell Jr., was commenting on a mass shooting carried out by a married Muslim couple in San Bernardino. They targeted a holiday party hosted by one of the shooter's colleagues at the Inland Regional Center, killing 14 people and wounding 22 others.

Middle East Forum

"Fears of a Muslim influx have more substance than the worry about jihad. Western European societies are unprepared for the massive immigration of brown-skinned peoples cooking strange foods and maintaining different standards of hygiene. Muslim immigrants bring with them a chauvinism that augurs badly for their integration into the mainstream of the European societies. Put differently, Iranian zealots threaten more within the gates of Vienna than outside them." — **Daniel Pipes, Founder, Middle East Forum, National Review**

Left Wing

James Dobson Policy Institute

“Left-wing activists typically hate committed Christians and the Christian faith. It begins with resentment for everything we stand for, especially our belief in immutable standards of right and wrong that are based on biblical truth. They despise this belief system because it threatens their godless worldview.” — **A newsletter to Dobson’s followers, 2019**

“The Left constantly claims that ‘right-wing Christians’ are the ones starting the culture wars and stoking division among Americans. That’s a complete lie. It’s the godless, globalist, secular Left that started the culture wars and constantly stokes division in our country.” — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, “The Culture War”, Feb. 23, 2026**

High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS)

“It’s about the American Dream, it’s about putting hard work into what you earn. It’s about actually earning something. And today’s Democrat Party doesn’t really resemble those values. You see it all the time with the Democrat Party pushing for handouts to people who don’t have jobs. We need to get more people back in the workforce and less people on their couch eating potato chips.”

— **Giuseppe Schiano Di Cola, then-chairman of the Pennsylvania High School Republicans**

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

“Liberals on campus respect a variety of viewpoints—as long as they’re not conservative views. As a student on a liberal campus, I’ve had to deal with the chilling effect that radical students and a hostile administration can have on open discourse.”

— **“Liberal Tyranny on College Campuses”, an article written by David Ortiz for ISI’s Intercollegiate Review**

“It’s a liberal plot, to get you off social media.” — **Ann Coulter speaking at an ISI event, Feb. 11, 2025**

James Madison Institute

"The Amazon pullout is a perfect example of what we've been saying: socialism takes and capitalism creates. The economic consequences of the HQ2 termination gives America a small taste of the harm that is to come if Ocasio-Cortez's anti-business canon comes to fruition and is made federal policy." — **Alfredo Ortiz, JCN president and CEO, FOX Business, Feb. 20, 2019**

Leadership Institute

"Conservatives from nearly a dozen countries arrived in Washington, DC this week to learn how to effectively defeat the radical Left. Travelling from as far away as Ghana, Venezuela, and the Netherlands, these students attended the Leadership Institute's International Seminar, a power-packed training which gives foreign conservatives an opportunity to learn from their American counterparts." — **Leadership Institute-trained freedom fighters gather in Washington, DC, Jan. 22, 2010**

"Conservative students face constant abuse from their peers. Their grades get docked by leftist professors. Their rights get violated by spineless school administrators. Liberals must answer not only for the pie-throwing and the riots. They must also answer for the culture of bullying and intimidation they've created on college campuses."

— **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

"The time has come to expose leftist thugs and their attacks on freedom."

— **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

Through powerful journalism, advocacy, and grassroots training efforts all across America, the Leadership Institute's Campus Reform exposes leftist bias, abuse, and indoctrination on college campuses for all America to see — and equips conservative students to fight back!

— **Leadership Institute, Fundraising Letter, "Fight the radical campus left and stand up for conservative students"**

League of American Workers

"I think this is incredibly important that we talk about George Soros and others. There are some very powerful, very well-financed actors, both individuals and groups, on the left, who have decided that they are going to use Black Lives Matter as their vehicle, as their vehicle to achieve—and I really don't think it's an exaggeration to say this—to achieve a nullification, really, of America, of our founding principles." — **The Steve Cortes Show, June 9, 2020**

Media Research Center

Criticizing NPR on X: “Don’t fall for NPR’s silly talking point that they provide local news. They beam their feeds from blue liberal bastions.”

Context: David Bozell advocating for the defunding of National Public Radio

National Association of Scholars

“Far-left social justice ideology—‘wokeism,’ as many are calling it—is now so widespread within American higher education that its presence is the norm, not the exception. We must assume that, at every level (undergraduate, graduate, professoriate) wokeism has infected the very core of every department (humanities, STEM, arts, professional studies, etc.), not only in admissions and hiring but also in the research product of the fields themselves.” — **NAS Counter Current, July 25th Edition, David Acevedo**

Military

League of American Voters

"Zelensky is a megalomaniac. He's not Trump's 'son' — nor is he our problem. It's time to end to [SIC] this senseless war — and no more American money to this entitled kleptocrat." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 14, 2026**

Racism

James Dobson Policy Institute

"The Church, not the government, holds the real answer to helping those in need. Today on Family Talk, Star Parker explains why welfare programs have devastated black families, and how Christians can become the true safety net for struggling families."
— JDFI, post on X, Feb. 3, 2026

Hillsdale College

"The state of Michigan sent a group of people down to my campus, with clipboards... to look at the colors of people's faces and write down what they saw. We don't keep records of that information. What were they looking for besides dark ones?" — Hillsdale College, President Larry Arnn

Context: During a 2013 legislative hearing in Michigan, while criticizing state evaluations of diversity. Michigan House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel condemned Arnn's remarks, calling them "offensive," "inflammatory," and "bigoted," and demanded an apology.

"Cracker Barrel just offended its massive core customer base. Why?" — Retweet on X, Aug. 21, 2025

Context: Cracker Barrel suffered a \$94 million loss in value after a rebrand sparked outrage among Donald Trump's MAGA base. The new logo, which removed the iconic seated man in overalls, was widely criticized by supporters as "woke" and "boring". Prominent MAGA figures, including Congressman Byron Donalds and Donald Trump Jr., publicly condemned the change, associating it with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

"Over the past several years, the DEI counter-revolution has won key legal victories for meritocracy over explicit race-and gender-based discrimination. Yet even as many of the hiring and promotion practices that became common over the last decade are being rolled back, their demographic impact remains." — ISI's Intercollegiate Review, "Systemic Discrimination Against White Men", Dec. 1, 2025

"I just had the opportunity to go by a school here in DC, Dunbar, which was a school where doctors, lawyers, academics, it was a great place. People from all across America would send their black kids, their children, to this school. And now, after the Brown vs. the Board of Education, the school started to slide backwards. That school now has failing students who can't read, can't do math, but they still have a 70% graduation rate." — **ISI interview, posted on X, with Pastor Corey Booker, Project HOOD, February 2, 2026**

League of American Workers

"I think this is incredibly important that we talk about George Soros and others. There are some very powerful, very well-financed actors, both individuals and groups, on the left, who have decided that they are going to use Black Lives Matter as their vehicle, as their vehicle to achieve—and I really don't think it's an exaggeration to say this—to achieve a nullification, really, of America, of our founding principles." — **The Steve Cortes Show, June 9, 2020**

"I mean, this country has been amazing to her, right? And the fact that she's going to use her talents and wealth, then, to spread a lie about this country that has been so amazing to her, it really strikes me as ungrateful." — **The Steve Cortes Show, June 15, 2020**

Context: A call-in segment about Oprah Winfrey's lauding of the New York Times' "1619 Project," which explores the unexamined role that slavery played in the founding of the United States.

"The fact is, this country saved her. You would think that somebody like that, who was literally saved from danger and squalor, given an opportunity to be in this country, to become, again, elected to our national, our national Congress... you would think somebody like that would be patriotic." — **Cortes criticizing Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)**

"Why did America's first black president work constantly to divide America, making race relations way worse." — **Steve Cortes mini-documentary, "You Don't Know Barack: Exposing Obama"**

"Ok can we please end this whole charade??? Arrest her, denaturalize her — and deport this ingrate back to Somalia." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 19, 2026**

Context: Cortes attacking Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) after she remarked on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and said, "He's always been pretty pathetic. It pains me as a Minnesotan. He's an embarrassment on the national and international stage."

"I know that no person sees my reply to Vivek's [Ramaswamy's] fundraising text — but I nonetheless let him know! I have NO time for an anchor baby who lectures Americans about how inadequate we are." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 14, 2026**

"Diversity is NOT our strength." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March 12, 2026**

Liberty University

"If Chief Justice Warren and his associates had known God's word and had desired to do the Lord's will, I am quite confident that the 1954 decision [Brown v. Board of Education] would never have been made. The facilities should be separate. When God has drawn a line of distinction, we should not attempt to cross that line." — **A sermon at Thomas Road Baptist Church titled, "Segregation or Integration: Which?"**

Context: Falwell was angrily denouncing the Supreme Court's decision. At the time, Falwell referred to the Civil Rights movement as "Civil Wrongs" and operated the Lynchburg Christian Academy, founded in 1967 as a segregation academy.

Media Research Center

"If someone said that Barack Obama does look like a skinny ghetto crackhead — which, by the way, you might want to say that — you're not allowed to say it, but you might want to say it."

Context: Brent Bozell made this comment during a December 2011 appearance on Fox News' Hannity, criticizing a remark about a Republican candidate's appearance.

"Black babies are the target of abortion. That's the dirty secret pro-abortion leftists won't tell you. They are walking in the footsteps of Margaret Sanger."

Context: Brent Bozell asserted that abortion disproportionately affects Black communities, referencing Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, who has been criticized for her association with eugenics.

National Association of Scholars

“Spurred by the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and a growing Civil Rights Movement, colleges and universities led a good-faith effort to achieve racial integration. Today, that ideal on campus is dead. Universities promote the benefits of diversity while actively constructing ethnic enclaves, promoting racial resentment, and founding organizational structures based on group grievance.” — **NAS report, *Separate but Equal, Again*, Dion J. Pierre**

“DEI is precisely what you would not want to do if you want to build a civilized campus environment, because DEI teaches people to hate one another based on their skin color or their genitalia. Well, to divide the world into oppressor or oppressed categories.”
— **Bruce Gilley, professor of political science at Portland State University, Board of the National Association of Scholars**

Sex Education

James Dobson Policy Institute

"Do we as Christians need to be liked so badly that we choose to remain silent in response to the killing of babies, the spreading of homosexual propaganda to our children, the distribution of condoms and immoral advice to our teenagers, and the undermining of marriage as an institution? Would Jesus have ignored these wicked activities?" — **Christianity Today, "Why I Use Fighting Words", June 19, 1995**

Institute for Women's Health

"The healthiest message for youth is one that gives youth the skills and information to avoid the risks of teen sex, not merely reduce them. This is the kind of message we give to youth when we encourage them not to smoke, to exercise more, and to avoid underage drinking." — **Valerie Huber, President of the Institute for Women's Health**

Note: This quote is a classic example of projection. Huber is an American who is globetrotting with her U.S. non-profit to change foreign laws and impose American evangelical values. While she decries liberals, what Huber is pushing can only be described as leveraging American money and power to coerce weaker countries to adopt her brand of "right wing woke" policies and politics.

Sexism

James Dobson Policy Institute

"Briefly stated, love is linked to self-esteem in women. For a man, romantic experiences with his wife are warm, enjoyable, and memorable—but not necessary. For a woman, they are her lifeblood. Her confidence, her sexual response, and her zest for living are often directly related to those tender moments when she feels deeply loved and appreciated by her man. That is why flowers and candy and cards are more meaningful to her than to him. This is why she is continually trying to pull him away from the television set or his computer, and not vice versa. This is why the anniversary is critically important to her and why she never forgets it. That is why he had better not forget it!"
— **Sexist blog Post on JDFI website, Feb. 1, 2025. Quote from Dr. James Dobson's book, Love For A Lifetime**

"Men and women were designed with highly specific but very different psychological needs. Each is vulnerable to the other in unique ways. Indeed, the Creator observed Adam's loneliness in the Garden of Eden and said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone' (Genesis 2:18)." — **JDFI, post on X, Feb. 4, 2026**

Independent Women's Forum

IWF staunchly fought against the "Violence Against Women Act," (1994) maintaining that, "wives instigate violence, including severe violence, against husbands more often than husbands do against wives."

In 2012, when Congress was debating the Paycheck Fairness Act, which sought to ban discriminatory pay discrepancies between men and women, IWF opposed it. The group wrote, "Americans should reject more than just unnecessary, big government proposals like the Paycheck Fairness Act, but the entire War on Women mantra."

"Like so many projects of the feminist agenda, the battered women's movement has outlived its useful beginnings." — **A 1997 IWF Women's Quarterly article, "It's Always His Fault", by Sally Satel on domestic abuse**

Opposition to the Violence Against Women's Act: It would, "do nothing to protect women from crime" but would "perpetuate false information, waste money and urge vulnerable women to mistrust all men."

Context: The IWF made these inflammatory and false statements in an article on its website entitled, "Violence Against Taxpayers"

Women Leaving the Traditional Workforce Is Not Necessarily a Bad Thing "Women's lives go through many phases: The career phase should not be what solely defines us."
— IWF post on X, Aug. 29, 2025

Trade, Economics, and Consumers

Job Creators Network

"Since President Trump took office, he has cut 350,000 government jobs, a remarkable achievement." — **JCN statement praising mass layoffs through the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network**

"Trump's tariffs achieved what they intended: rebalancing global trade in favor of American manufacturers and small businesses...they set the stage for a significant increase in economic growth and living standards in 2026." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, praising Trump's controversial tariffs**

"Trump ended costly Biden-era appliance mandates that drove up prices. He scrapped the electric vehicle quota that would have forced two-thirds of new cars to be electric within several years — a regulation that's forced the big three automakers to take a \$52 billion write down so far, costing thousands of jobs. Trump restored predictability for small businesses that were tired of bracing for the next wave of federal mandates." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X praising Trump's State of the Union Speech, Feb. 24, 2026**

"President Trump and Congressional Republicans are setting the stage for an economic golden age." — **Alfredo Ortiz, CEO, Job Creators Network, Post on X, Feb. 13, 2026**

Leadership Institute

"I want to eliminate the IRS, but most voters don't. But if you say, 'Do you want tax reform?' voters are completely in favor of it." — **David Blair, Then-Director of the Youth Leadership School at the Leadership Institute, Open Democracy, Oct. 31, 2020**

Malone Institute

"Who are the globalist members of the trade organization known as The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the operatives that they have trained, why should you care, and what can you do about it?" — **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

“The WEF [World Economic Forum] is the organization which has masterminded the globally harmonized planning, development and implementation of the lockdowns, mandates, authoritarian vaccine campaigns, suppression of early treatment options, global targeting of dissenting physicians, censorship, propaganda, information and thought control programs which we have all experienced since late 2019.”

— **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

“‘Davos Man’ is a term coined by former Harvard University Director of the Center for International Affairs Professor Dr. Samuel Huntington (1927-2008) to define what was then an emerging group of economic elites who are members of a social caste which has ‘little need for national loyalty, view national boundaries as obstacles that are thankfully vanishing, and see national governments as residues from the past whose only useful function is to facilitate the elite’s global operations.’ Davos Man fits the definition of megalomania and has acquired what he believes are sufficient financial and political resources to try to force his obsession and grand schemes on the world, and to force you, your family, and the world to comply with his vision and belief systems.”

— **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

Transgender

James Dobson Policy Institute

"The LGBTQ movement is closing in on the God-inspired and established institution of the family." — **Dobson Newsletter, September 1, 2019**

"The NFL had an excellent opportunity to bring Americans together with a halftime show that celebrated our shared values, especially this year as we celebrate America's 250th birthday. Instead, the NFL's woke leadership chose to divide the country by selecting Bad Bunny—a cross-dressing, Puerto Rican rapper—as the main performer for the halftime show." — **Gary Bauer, JDFI blog post, "The Culture War", Feb. 23, 2026**

"In today's culture, kids as young as kindergarten age are being targeted with confusing messages about gender identity. Today on Family Talk hear how parents can equip children to embrace their God-given design with confidence and biblical truth."
— **JDFI, post on X, Nov. 24, 2025**

High School Republican National Federation (HSREPS)

"Biological men should not be allowed in women's sports!" — **Post on X, March 14, 2024**

"Our schools shouldn't be teaching us that men can get pregnant. RT if you agree!"
— **Post on X, April 19, 2023**

"Today I'm here testifying in favor of LB575, which prevents males and females from participating in sports of the opposite sex...I believe allowing males into the females' locker room and females in the males' locker room will lead to large amounts of emotional and physical harm, such as sexual assault or sexual harassment to all those involved." — **Patrick Medinger, Nebraska High School Republicans testifying before the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee, Feb. 13, 2023**

Independent Women's Forum

"All issues are women's issues, and women know that this election will impact ... whether women will be able to have women-only sports, opportunities, and female-only spaces of their own." — **Carrie Lukas, president of IWF**

"This is not a vibes election. This election is the difference between whether children get to grow up as innocent children, or be baptized by the government in gender ideology in schools, sports, hospitals, and therapy sessions. ... They deserve single-sex spaces." — **May Mailman, director of Independent Women's Law Center**

"The report is part of the organization's multi-faceted state sunlight project designed to highlight how New Mexico policies clash with public opinion and are actively undermining parental rights and harming children. New Mexican elected officials are pushing radical gender ideology on minors—saying that they can change sexes, encouraging drugs and surgery in the service of this lie, and leading them to irreversible physical and psychological consequences." — **From the IWF report, "Identity Crisis: The Disjointed Reality in New Mexico"**

"Children deserve to grow up intact. Transition abuse for minors is leaving a generation of young people with irreversible harm. Independent Women Ambassador Soren Aldaco is fighting for change." — **Post on X, Aug. 28, 2025**

Institute for Women's Health

"Transgenderism wasn't that much, but still, LGBTQ and abortion, those were the major ones. They were redefining gender, but there wasn't so much transgenderism, that was pretty new. It was a part, but not like it is today. — **Valerie Huber, President of IWH, Interview with the Hungarian Conservative**

Context: The Hungarian Conservative, a loyalist "news" outlet, that promotes dictator Viktor Orban, asked Huber, "What were those 'correct positions', were they this new gender theory and transgenderism?"

Intercollegiate Studies Institute

The trans community is not a community in the traditional sense of the word."
— **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo**

"We're going to reduce the cost of transgender surgeries for minors and save taxpayer money, you know, with a pile of, uh, you know, you know, teenage genitalia this high."
— **ISI Project Cosmos video, Christopher Rufo, during a debate on the effectiveness of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**

League of American Workers

"Trans-arico is disgusting and can NEVER represent Texas..." — **Steve Cortes, President, League of American Workers, Post on X, March. 20, 2026**

Vaccines and COVID

Job Creator's Network

"Doctors who think hydroxychloroquine needs to be approved to fight coronavirus need to make their voice heard NOW. Please sign our petition which will go directly to President Trump." — **JCN Facebook ad, March 23-26, 2020**

Malone Institute

"It was mass formation psychosis and that is what has happened here... A third of the population [is] basically being hypnotized." — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

"It was from, basically, European intellectual inquiry into what the heck happened in Germany in the '20s and '30s. Very intelligent, highly educated population, and they went barking mad. And how did that happen? The answer is mass formation psychosis. When you have a society that has become decoupled from each other, and has free-floating anxiety, in a sense that things don't make sense. We can't understand it. And then their attention gets focused by a leader or series of events on one small point, just like hypnosis. They literally become hypnotized and can be led anywhere." — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

"But the point is if I'm not — if it's not okay for me to be part of the conversation, even though I'm pointing out scientific facts that may be inconvenient, then who is who can be allowed?" — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Joe Rogan Experience, Dec. 31, 2022**

"People think, when they hear AIDS, they hear HIV. No, the vaccines aren't causing you to be infected with the HIV virus. They are causing a form of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, that's what AIDS stands for." — **Dr. Robert Malone, Malone Institute**

Context: Dr. Malone falsely, and bizarrely, claimed that COVID-19 vaccines are causing a form of AIDS that is not related to HIV.

"Many who have followed this coronavirus 'public health crisis' and the non-sensical response provided by most of the western nations (including the USA) have been perplexed by two big questions - how was this done (in such a globally coordinated fashion), and why was it done?" — **Dr. Robert W. Malone, Substack, "Uncovering the Corona Narrative?", March 25, 2022**

“Whenever someone raises concerns about flu vaccine side effects, the response from official sources tends to follow a predictable script: the vaccine is safe and effective, serious side effects are extremely rare, and the benefits far outweigh the risks. All of that may be true in aggregate. But it tells you almost nothing useful about whether a specific person in a specific circumstance should receive a specific vaccine formulation.” — **Dr. Robert Malone, Substack post, March 26, 2026**

“If offered the opportunity to participate in a relaunched A.C.I.P., I will respectfully decline. Hundreds of hours of uncompensated labor, incredible hate from many quarters, hostile press, internal bickering, weaponized leaking, sabotage,” he added. “I have better things to do.” — **Dr. Malone, New York Times, March 24, 2026**

Context: Dr. Robert Malone, vice chair of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP, angrily resigned from the committee. Malone also complained to Roll Call, “I am done with the CDC and ACIP. That was the last straw.” As usual, he played victim and took no personal responsibility for his fabrications and falsehoods that provoked the “hate” and “bickering” he cited.

“The WEF [World Economic Forum] is the organization which has masterminded the globally harmonized planning, development and implementation of the lockdowns, mandates, authoritarian vaccine campaigns, suppression of early treatment options, global targeting of dissenting physicians, censorship, propaganda, information and thought control programs which we have all experienced since late 2019.”

— **TMI website, WEF Project Section**

Workers and Unions

Institute for Education Reform

The Legislatures need to be made to vote on controversial bills that separate the sheep from the goats. In Tennessee, the school choice bill had gone down to defeat in earlier years. But names were taken and the actions of those siding with the radical teachers' union were exposed to the public, leading to many replacements.

In the 2025 sessions of Legislatures we have pushed for real reforms that take power away from teachers' union bosses. We have sided with those that want to see real reform, not phony pretend changes on the margins.

And this is what we have learned. Until the RINOs, and teachers' union advocates in GOP-clothes are replaced, nothing serious will happen. Only the aggressive actions like the steadfast leaders in Utah and Tennessee can bring about real change for the better and that can only happen by kicking [SIC] hornet's nest every day. — **March 14, 2025, op-ed in the Tennessee Star by the organization's Chair, Kurt Christensen**

"You can take action by signing the petition to stop Government Teacher Unions from hijacking our political process." — **IER Petition**

"Government unions should not be taking hard earned money out of teachers [SIC] paychecks to pay for their political elections. Government unions should not be putting one party's political priorities ahead of what is best for your children." — **IER Petition**

"The institute strives for the outright banning of all public sector employee collective bargaining and thus the ensuing collection of compulsory dues that warp the fabric of government by shutting out taxpayers from decision-making." — **IER Website**

"GOVERNMENT UNIONS SHOULD NOT EXIST. Public service should focus on serving the public good and those that enter it should be in the business of serving. Government jobs were never meant to hold the public – its families, children, and society hostage." — **IER Website**

"Americans should get an accountable and manageable government workforce, not one that teaches kids how to hate themselves while bankrupting our government to ensure they are never fired for bad work. — **IER Website**

"We believe that taxpayer money should be directed towards improving the quality of education for our students, not funding teachers' unions," said a spokesperson for IER. — **Press Release, Jan. 10, 2023**

Oklahoma teacher unions shocked to consider that public schools exist for more than dues collection and member recruitment. — (X post, April 15)

Once again, teacher unions ignore parents to push radical social agendas. It's about power, not education. — (X post, Feb. 27)

"They divide kids & parents" - How teachers unions destroyed the school system. — (X Retweet of PBD Podcast. Feb. 22)

Institute for the American Worker

"The core principle of the federal labor law is to provide employees with the freedom to choose whether they wish to be part of a union, devoid of any fear of retaliation or coercion. Neutrality agreements and especially card check deny employees that freedom." — **RealClear Markets, F. Vincent Vernuccio**

"When the Teamsters labor union declined on Sept. 18 to endorse a presidential candidate, the media quickly spun it as a loss for Vice President Kamala Harris. But the bigger losers are Teamsters members, the majority of whom have now been ignored by union leaders who claim to represent them. Republicans should seize this opportunity to strengthen outreach to union members, who are more aligned with the GOP than many realize." — **Washington Examiner op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**

"Labor Day is the traditional start of the campaign season, which means labor unions will soon hold get-out-the-vote efforts among their members. Yet a new study from the Institute for the American Worker finds that 95.1% of private-sector union members never voted to join their union. Worse, unions are getting more unrepresentative. Based on one estimate, the percentage of private-sector union members who have voted in a unionization election at their workplace has declined by 2 points since 2009.

The lack of workplace democracy isn't an accident. As unions have acknowledged, they have sought to organize more workers through card check, a process by which they can pressure workers into supporting unionization. Card check—a public form of signature gathering—deprives employees of secret-ballot elections, which would allow them to express their preferences without fear of being ostracized." — **Wall Street Journal op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**

"What's happening at Starbucks shows the end game is to give unions more power. Yet while unions win, workers lose — and so do the investors whose money is being used for political purposes." — **New York Post op-ed, F. Vincent Vernuccio**

"President Biden has put special-interest goals ahead of investors' retirement goals, none more so than labor unions'. The unions that back him want to keep using other people's money for their own purposes. Since Biden won't protect workers or investors, the next president must." — **New York Post** op-ed, **F. Vincent Vernuccio**

"Card check is a mechanism of union organizing where a union collects cards to unionize employees. It bypasses the protections of a secret ballot election and can lead to coercion and deception of workers." — **Vincent Vernuccio, Statement before the House Committee on Education and Workforce**

"Each of the 75,000 federal workers who took President Donald Trump's buyout offer had a reason for accepting it. But instead of defending their interests, the unions tried to stifle their freedom." — **Vincent Vernuccio, USA Today** op-ed

"The unions claim to represent workers' interests and by law are given a monopoly to represent everyone on a job, but as my organization showed in a report last month, they're bargaining over many things that frankly don't matter to government employees and certainly are not an effective and efficient use of taxpayer resources." — **F. Vincent Vernuccio, USA Today** op-ed

"We believe that workers and families are best served by government policies that promote ample work opportunities and rising incomes without distorting labor markets through burdensome mandates and regulations." — **I4AW website**

"Workers should have the right to vote in secret ballot elections so that they can express their true preference without outside influence. There should be free and robust debate during union organizing campaigns and workers should hear from both sides so that they can make informed decisions." — **I4AW website**

"Government contracts should be granted based on efficiency, and selecting companies that provide the best product at the lowest cost, regardless of whether the company is unionized or not." — **I4AW website**

About the Author

Wayne Besen is an activist, author, and journalist who has spent his career calling out extremism and defending LGBTQ equality. As the founder of Truth Wins Out, he has led campaigns against conversion therapy, exposed disinformation, and stood up to some of the most powerful figures in the culture wars. His books, "Anything But Straight" and "Lies with a Straight Face", remain landmark exposés on the ex-gay industry.

His writing and media appearances have reached national audiences through The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Advocate, and broadcasts on NBC, ABC, CNN, and MSNBC. Through fearless advocacy and sharp commentary, Besen continues to spotlight the fight against extremism and amplify the push for accountability.

