

Calendar

Thursday, May 1,
National Day of Prayer
contact:
ndpvermont@gmail.com
802 999-7336

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A Totalitarian Impulse

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Legislative Action

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at camnetVT@gmail.com.

First Look At Legislation

By
Lauston Stephens

Our state legislature has been slower than usual in introducing new bills this winter. There are new legislators and new people in committee leadership positions. Also, education funding and affordable housing are demanding more attention than ever. Even so, a few bills may be “issues that affect the spiritual and moral well-being of our communities.”

H. 53 “proposes to: (1) establish a statutory requirement for public schools to adopt and enforce inclusive policies aligned with Vermont Education Quality Standards;

- (2) preemptively protect Vermont schools from implementing federally mandated policies that conflict with State standards for equity and inclusivity; and
- (3) provide authority to the Vermont Agency of Education to issue guidance and support schools in resisting discriminatory federal

mandates. An act relating to counteracting federal discriminatory mandates.”

This bill has thirteen sponsors and is in keeping with Vermont’s tradition of opposing discrimination. Do not expect it to be lost in a blizzard of other bills.



This could conflict with federal law or policy over immigrant students or gender identity. One of the sponsors, Chloe Tomlinson, is the representative for Winooski. That city has more immigrants than any other municipality in the state. There has already been discussion in Winooski about a ‘sanctuary’ policy restricting ICE agents’ access to the district.

The lead sponsor, Troy Hendrick, represents a district adjacent to

Winooski. But he also sits on the House Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel. Since the President declared on Inauguration Day, “There are only two genders,” this seems to be the area the bill intends to address.

Many people use the words “sex” and “gender” synonymously, but they have different medical and legal meanings.

The Yale School of Medicine website reports,

“In 2001, a committee convened by the Institute of Medicine ... created working definitions of “sex” — when referring to biology — and “gender” — when referring to self-representation influenced by social, cultural, and personal experience.”

Everyone confuses the two. “There are only two sexes,” agrees with the Bible and medical science, but not “There only two genders.”

On the other hand, the House panel concerns itself as much with

“gender harassment” as “sexual harassment.”

We live in a fallen world, which affects social and cultural influences, personal experiences, and decisions about self-representation.

As Christians, we can't just wish that everything that has ever been “in the closet” would just go back in. The grace of God may find some while they are “in the closet,” but the Church can not mediate God's grace until they come out.

Christians should lead our secular neighbors in accepting people as they are. We know God accepted us just as we are, but He also changes us. The State is accepting people as they are without any hope of change or any transcendent measure of how people should be ideally. Therefore, the State favors the fallen state and calls evil good.

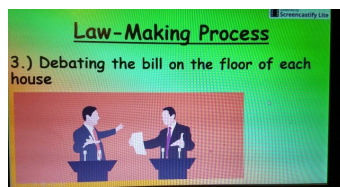
Federal policy is often extended to the states by withholding funds from states that do not conform. Vermont can expect to spend a fortune in court over compliance if H. 53 becomes law.

H. 55

Along similar lines and with many of the same sponsors, H. 55, reads,

“This bill proposes to expand access to health insurance coverage for gender-affirming health care services. It would also require health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility-related services and direct the Agency of Human Services to seek federal approval of an amendment to Vermont's Medicaid state plan to permit the Medicaid coverage. An act relating to coverage for fertility treatment and gender-affirming health care services.”

Again, this bill sets up Vermont for a conflict with the federal government and the costs that would be incurred.



H. 56

“This bill proposes to require the Department of Health to establish an emergency supply of essential medications for reproductive and gender-affirming care. An act relating to establishing an essential medication stockpile for reproductive and gender-affirming care.”

Again, some in the Legislature seemed to be fo-

cused on Vermont “going it alone” in anticipation of possible changes in federal policy.

H. 75

“This bill proposes to authorize naturopathic physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to participate in the process established in Vermont's patient choice at end-of-life laws. It would also allow naturopathic physicians to sign and issue do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders and clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment (COLST). An act relating to clinician participation in patient choice at end of life and DNR/COLST orders.”

Vermont has a shortage of primary care physicians. This bill expands the types of medical care professionals (clinicians) that can prescribe “to a patient with a terminal condition medication to be self-administered for the purpose of hastening the patient's death.” If there aren't enough people to help you live, at least there will be enough to help you die.

H. 108

“This bill proposes to repeal the criminal penalty for failure of an adult child to support the adult child's parent if that par-

ent is destitute and unable to support themselves.”

The offender “shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$300.00, or both.” This is a very old law, enacted when \$300 was serious money. The law also addresses child support, so it can't just be repealed.

With Social Security and Medicare, the government has taken responsibility for destitute parents, so giving ungrateful adult children a slap on the wrist may seem unnecessary, but is that the full reason for tweaking this law?

Whenever any existing law is changed, the legislative counsel (a panel of lawyers that draft the bills) has been quietly replacing phrases like “his or hers” with phrases like “the person's.” Not only is the State accepting people as they are without any thought of change or any transcendent measure of how people should be ideally. The State seems to be trying to remove anything that even broaches the subject of gender identity.

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland, VT.

A Totalitarian Impulse

by
Lauston Stephens

Everyone was shocked by the recent news of the conduct of the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF). The first shock may be that the DCF actions were in 2022, and it is only now coming to trial.

The allegations include that the DCF conducted an investigation beyond its jurisdiction and that the assessments were unlawfully made without the knowledge of the expectant mother. The mother was denied contact with her infant for nine months.

It is also alleged that this is not an isolated case but fits a pattern of the DCF and that they obtained a court order under false pretenses.

It is also alleged that Copley Hospital in Morrisville cooperated with the DCF. The hospital website declares, “Copley’s Birthing Center offers you the kind of personal, attentive care that only a small community-based and family-oriented facility can offer.” That sounds great. They make no mention of helping “Big Brother” keep an eye

on you. Are they alone, or do other Vermont hospitals violate your privacy?

Ukraine says nearly 20,000 children have been taken against their will or their parents’ wills to Russia in the last three years. This is a war crime, but Vladimir Putin claims Ukraine is part of Russia, so there is no crime. Why do totalitarians do this? In this case, apparently, Putin believes that the children need to be separated from their parents so they can learn to be good Russians.

In the DCF case, it is alleged that there were unfounded concerns about the expectant mother’s mental health.

Karl Marx regarded religion as the opiate of the masses and declared, “Communism begins where atheism begins.” Some psychologists regard religion as a neurosis. In Vermont, how far are we from people wanting to take your children away from you because of your faith?



Totalitarianism, however, does not so much promise an age of faith as an age of schizophrenia. A society becomes totalitarian when its structure becomes flagrantly artificial: that is, when its ruling class has lost its function but succeeds in clinging to power by force or fraud. Such a society, no matter how long it persists, can never afford to become either tolerant or intellectually stable.

George Orwell



Richard Trudell 1946—2025

“Dick” was a founding member of this ministry, contributed dozens of articles to this newsletter, and led us through many candidate surveys and guest speaker special events.

We express our condolences to Kay, his wife of over fifty three years.

We will miss our brother and friend.

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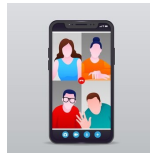
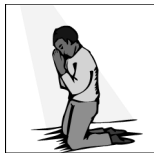
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Action Ministry Network.

here to now.

What Can I Do?



*Faith without works is dead
James 2:17*

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or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>



CAM Network, Inc.
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Next Meeting

Mar. 11, 7:00 pm
Zoom
Apr. 8, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

camnetvt@gmail.com
Email to confirm date and location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**