

The Strategic Prayer Initiative – **Pink Sheet Expander Legal Concerns**

Where Prayer Focuses Power Falls!

- ❑ 1. Praise God that board members can once again quote Scripture in school board meetings. Heather Rooks, a member of the Peoria Unified School Board in Arizona, was prohibited from referencing Scripture during school board meetings. First Liberty sued on her behalf. First Liberty attorney Andy Gould said, "...If it is okay for U.S. Presidents to quote the Bible, why can't a Peoria school board member?" (Source: www.firstliberty.org)
- ❑ 2. Pray that university students who decide to study religion will be afforded the same tuition assistance offered to everyone. Three students in Virginia were (or will be) denied tuition grants for their college studies because their majors were deemed too religious. Religious students aren't second-class citizens. No one should be denied generally available public funds simply because they want to major in a particular religious program. The Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program (VTAG) provides non-need-based grants to Virginia residents who attend private, non-profit colleges or universities. But the program excludes educational tracks that "provide religious training or theological education." (Source: www.adflegal.org)
- ❑ 3. Pray for this Fall's Supreme Court cases. Pray that outcomes enable Christians to "lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity."
- ❑ 4. Rights of Public-School Students: Pray that students and parents know and exercise their rights to opt out of activities that violate religious beliefs; to bring a bible to school; to form bible clubs; and to choose religious topics. (Source: www.christianlaw.org)
- ❑ 5. Pray that a law that forces healthcare workers to help terminally ill patients kill themselves, in violation of their faith, is overturned. On behalf of four orders of Catholic nuns and several Catholic healthcare ministries, Becket (non-profit, public-interest legal and educational institute with a mission to protect the free expression of all faiths) is asking a federal court to block the law before it takes effect on August 5, when healthcare providers who refuse to take part in assisted suicide will face crippling fines, professional sanctions, and criminal penalties. (Source: www.becketfund.org)
- ❑ 6. Pray that Christian organizations would not have their ministry activities deemed religious enough by the state. Catholic Charities Bureau provides loving support to people with disabilities, the elderly, and those in poverty throughout the Diocese of Superior. But the Wisconsin Supreme Court told Catholic Charities that its ministry to those in need was not sufficiently religious—even though Catholic Charities is directly controlled by the Bishop of Superior and tasked with carrying out the Catholic Church's religious ministry to those in need. As a result of this decision, Wisconsin required Catholic Charities to pay into the State's unemployment compensation system and denied Catholic Charities the ability to join the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops' own, more efficient, unemployment compensation system. On June 5, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Wisconsin violated the First Amendment by discriminating against Catholic Charities on account of its religious exercise. After the Court's ruling, Wisconsin state officials tried to axe the religious exemption entirely at the Wisconsin Supreme Court. On December 15, 2025, the state Supreme Court held that Catholic Charities is entitled to the exemption, preserving the protection for other religious ministries across the state. Praise God for this favorable ruling and pray that religious communities will continue to have a right to serve those in need according to the dictates of their faith. (Source: www.becketfund.org)
- ❑ 7. Pray that religious organizations would continue to be able to hire in accordance with their own beliefs. Right to Life of Michigan and Pregnancy Resource Center Grand Rapids sued Michigan after it amended its employment law to redefine "sex" discrimination to include "the termination of a pregnancy," forcing the pro-life organizations to hire employees who don't agree with their mission. Praise God that a federal district court issued an opinion Friday that blocks a Michigan law that forces pro-life organizations to recruit and hire people who oppose their fundamental mission, as well as carry insurance benefits that include abortion coverage. The court also denied the state's motion to dismiss the lawsuit. Alliance Defending Freedom represents two pro-life organizations in their legal challenge to the state law, which are now safe to operate according to their beliefs as the case proceeds. (Source: www.adflegal.org)
- ❑ 8. Christian Lawyers and Judges: Pray that God would raise up lawyers and judges who "Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute, Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3-4 NASB)
- ❑ 9. Legal Organizations: Pray for Christian legal agencies (Alliance Defending Freedom, ACLJ, Christian Legal Society, Center for Religious Expression, First Liberty, and a host of others) that provide legal advocacy for issues surrounding freedom of speech and religion around the world. Pray that leaders nurture their walks with God and that they are open to the leading of the Spirit of God, not political ideology or expediency. Pray for wisdom as they choose, advocate, and litigate cases, and for effectiveness in their work.
- ❑ 10. Praise the Lord that two bills were passed in Iowa that protect free speech for K-12 students and remove anti-religious provisions from state law: At the core of our constitutional freedoms are the rights to speak freely, exercise your religion, and live consistent with your conscience without fear of government punishment. Iowa took steps to protect these freedoms in state law. First, the MED Act provides comprehensive protections for medical conscience and freedom of speech for medical professionals throughout the state. It prevents nurses, doctors, and other health professionals from being forced to violate their beliefs and their Hippocratic oath to do no harm. Additionally, S.F. 2231 ensures that Iowa's public-school students are inspired, challenged, and encouraged to freely express their beliefs at school, protecting their voice and viewpoints from being silenced. And it repeals discriminatory provisions in Iowa law that exclude religious organizations and individuals from publicly available benefits simply because they are religious. Censorship and religious bigotry have no place in our laws. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

- ❑ 11. Legislative Branch (Congress): Pray that “Congress...make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Pray that no law be passed that would infringe on freedom of religion or speech for any citizen and that the free sharing of the Gospel will always remain legal. Pray that all life would be protected by our nation’s laws. Pray for your U.S. Senators and Congressperson to be led by God in their legislative decisions.” (Source: First Amendment U.S. Constitution)

- ❑ 12. Praise God that the City of Waco pivoted and now allows people to share their faith freely in public areas. Pastor Holmes, compelled by his Christian beliefs to share his faith with attendees at the Brazos festival hosted by the Waco Pride Network, held in Brazos Park East, a public park owned and maintained by the City of Waco, Texas. He was joined by four other members from his local church. During the event, the entire park remained free and open to the public. Everyone was free to walk in and enjoy the park just as they could at any other time of the year. At least three police officers from the Waco Police Department, one of whom was Officer Chris Sharpless, approached and halted their speech. Officer Sharpless informed Pastor Holmes that WPN’s permit allowed them to remove “unwanted activity” to a restricted zone in the park. In response, First Liberty Institute sent a letter to the City of Waco demanding that officials ensure free speech remains protected and honored in public parks. The City then dropped its speech zone policy and announced that it will allow Pastor Ronnie Holmes and fellow church members to freely engage in religious dialogue with local attendees at Brazos East Park. Pray that all people will continue to be allowed to share their faith freely in public arenas. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)

- ❑ 13. Pray that Christian students will continue to be allowed to exercise their freedom of religion and speech. In a Michigan school district, songs considered too “Christian-based” were initially barred from the elementary school talent show. Two students at an elementary school were told there was an issue with the faith-based songs they chose for an upcoming talent show. After First Liberty sent a letter to school officials, the school changed its decision in a matter of hours, allowing the students to perform their religious songs. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)

- ❑ 14. Pray that the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution would strongly protect all religious rights in the United States.

- ❑ 15. Pray that the U.S. Supreme Court would grant the petition of Alliance Defending Freedom and hear the case of Youth 71Five Ministries, an Oregon religious organization that serves at-risk youth, as it seeks to uphold its constitutional right to hire like-minded individuals and participate equally in government benefit programs. For years, 71Five received grant funds from Oregon’s Youth Community Investment Grants program and even received the distinction of a top-rated application in 2021. That changed, however, when state officials added a new eligibility rule that prohibits grantees from hiring only people who share their religious beliefs. That rule stripped 71Five of already-awarded grants and disqualified it from further grants simply because the Christian ministry requires all employees to sign a statement of faith. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

- ❑ 16. Pray that Christian organizations would not be discriminated against. For the first time since Bethany Christian Services began serving refugees in 1962 and became a contractor of the state of Michigan in 1981, the organization was denied refugee-resettlement services contracts because of their religious employment practices, even though federal law has long supported this civil right. The lawsuit states the government’s actions violate Bethany’s right to the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1871. By denying funding for Bethany’s refugee-resettlement services, Michigan officials are blocking critical social services to vulnerable children and families, and jeopardizing jobs at Bethany. “Federal law is clear, and the courts have repeatedly affirmed that faith-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, like ours, can hire staff and select leaders who share the organization’s faith mission. Federal law affirms that Muslim nonprofits can hire Muslims; Jewish nonprofits can hire people of Jewish faith; and Christian nonprofits can hire Christians. (Source: www.christianlegalsociety.org)

- ❑ 17. Judicial Branch (U. S. Supreme Court and Federal Courts): Pray that God would help each judge to make decisions that would be in keeping with the purity and character of the living Judeo/Christian God. Pray that the Lord would bring future justices of His choice onto the Court in His sovereign timing. Ask God to draw each justice to Himself. Pray that the Supreme Court’s decisions would line up with the word and will of God and that they would decide justly regardless of cost or consequence.

- ❑ 18. Pray that the Supreme Court would hear Hershey v. Bossier City filed by First Liberty. Richard Hershey, a vegetarian advocate from Missouri, was peaceably distributing religious literature at a Christian gathering in a public park. Police forced him to leave and never return. This case can ensure that government officials are held accountable when they violate your religious freedom. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)

- ❑ 19. Praise God that the Supreme Court granted First Choice Women’s Resource Centers’ petition to be heard in federal court like any other civil rights case. New Jersey had targeted them and asked for their confidential donor list, among other things. However, just one day after the Supreme Court unanimously affirmed that her office’s donor demands burden the ministry’s First Amendment rights, Attorney General Davenport requested that the state court fast-track its enforcement proceedings to preempt the federal court’s review. That move disregards the Supreme Court’s ruling and underscores the stark reality of this case: For more than two years, New Jersey state officials have targeted First Choice simply because they dislike its pro-life views. But this week, the Supreme Court sent a clear message: First Choice is entitled to its day in federal court.” Pray for the harassment to stop. (Source: www.adflegal.org)

- ❑ 20. Involvement: Ask God to direct you and other believers to legal issues that concern Christians.

- ❑ 21. Pray that women and unborn babies remain safe and that God's will will prevail in the court case where Alliance Defending Freedom is helping Rosalie (who experienced harm firsthand) and the State of Louisiana challenge the FDA's actions that make abortion drugs available via mail. Thankfully, a federal court recently upheld Louisiana's ability to sue the FDA, adding that Louisiana is likely to succeed on the merits of the case and is suffering irreparable harm. Despite these findings, the court put the case on hold while the agency conducts a purported safety study of mifepristone. So with the help of ADF, Rosalie and Louisiana appealed the ruling and are asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit to stop the mailing of abortion drugs while the case continues. Please ask for God's favor in this case. Pray that the 5th Circuit would grant Louisiana relief and allow the state to protect women like Rosalie and unborn children while the case continues. (Source: www.adflegal.org)
- ❑ 22. Pray for Pastor Howard Kaloogian of Grace New England in Weare, New Hampshire. The church meets in a barn on Pastor Howard's property, with usually no more than 30 people. Town officials ordered the church gatherings to stop, despite repeatedly allowing other secular meetings there. First Liberty has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of the church. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)
- ❑ 23. Executive Branch (President): Pray, petition and give thanks for "...all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1Timothy 2:2). Pray that the Executive Branch would create policies that would allow Christians to live in peace and share their faith freely and that would be compassionate while protecting our nation. (Psalm 82:3-4 NASB)
- ❑ 24. Frequent Legal Opponents: Many organizations (Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, American Humanists Association, American Atheists, Military Religious Freedom Foundation and others) target Christian schools, ministries, churches, and individuals in court and in legislative initiatives with the purpose of silencing or punishing believers for behaving in accordance with their religious beliefs. Pray that believers would fight with spiritual weapons and seek and obey God as they combat these onslaughts. Pray that the leadership of many of these opposing organizations would come to know the love of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and the transformation of their lives. Pray that believers show love towards these people. Luke 6:27-28 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Source: www.cpcfoundation.com)
- ❑ 25. Municipal Governments: Pray that local ordinances would not hinder the rights and activities of individual Christians or Bible-believing Churches and that the free spread of the Gospel is not hampered.
- ❑ 26. Pray for a favorable outcome to an upcoming Supreme Court case that addresses whether people can pray with others in their own home. Daniel Grand, a devout Orthodox Jew, invited around 12 friends to form a prayer group in his home. The City of University Heights, Ohio, issued a cease-and-desist letter and falsely accused Mr. Grand of starting an illegal synagogue in his living room. City officials ordered police to spy on Mr. Grand's home and encouraged neighbors to file complaints if anyone visited. The City issued legally unfounded property violations, unlawfully withheld Daniel's Certificate of Occupancy and tax abatements (costing him thousands of dollars in additional taxes), regularly failed to pick up his trash, and engaged in a broader pattern of harassing conduct that went far beyond ordinary zoning enforcement. Because Orthodox Jews are forbidden from driving on those days, there would be no traffic or parking issues. Yet the City prevented the prayer group from ever meeting at his home. You don't need a city permit to pray with your friends. Every American has the right to peacefully practice their faith in their own home—and to seek relief from federal courts when government officials interfere. (Source: adflegal.org)
- ❑ 27. Pray that our nation would value life and that the murder of the unborn, disabled, or elderly would not be tolerated or funded by our government. In June 2022, the Supreme Court overturned its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Now that each state must decide the question of the abortion issue, pray that unborn life would be preserved as states work out the details of their own statutes. (Source: www.adflegal.org)
- ❑ 28. Pray that religious expression is not suppressed on college campuses. After visiting the campus of Georgia State University, Stephen Atkerson was invited by a student to sit near the dining area to discuss his views on Christianity. After the conversation began, the student engagement coordinator and three armed police officers forced him to end the conversation and return to the "free speech" area. First Liberty sent a demand letter to the Georgia State University President demanding written assurance that Stephen Atkerson will not be prohibited from approaching or talking to students about their faith. In the letter, attorney Nate Kellum asserts that "Religious speech is constitutionally protected and conversational speech is also safeguarded. Oral dissemination of religious views falls under the Free Speech clause." After sending the demand letter, GSU acknowledged Mr. Atkerson's First Amendment right to speak with students on campus about his faith when invited to engage in conversation. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)
- ❑ 29. Praise God for a favorable outcome in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. They ruled in World Vision, Inc. v. McMahon that the ministerial exception doctrine protects the right of religious organizations to hire people who share an organization's religious beliefs when the employee performs "vital religious duties" to carry out the "core mission" of the organization. (Source: www.firstliberty.org)
- ❑ 30. Pray for this Fall's Supreme Court cases that could set precedent for Christians. Pray that outcomes enable Christians to "lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity."