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National Association of Christian Lawmakers Hosts Fifth National Meeting of Elected Officials and NACL Members

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers hosted their 2023 National Policy Conference at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

Lynchburg, VA, June 11, 2023 – The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of its highly anticipated 2023 NACL National Policy Conference. The event was held on the beautiful campus of Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, June 8-10, 2023, and brought together esteemed speakers, elected officials, and thought leaders from 25 states across the United States who shared their insights and expertise on critical issues facing Christian lawmakers and the nation. The NACL has been cited in national publications as being “tied to top Christian spiritual and political leaders” across the United States.

As it has done every year since its inception, the NACL conference featured an impressive lineup of national leaders and speakers who captivated the audience with their knowledge and dedication to promoting Christian values in public service. Among the prominent speakers highlighted throughout the event were Kristan Hawkins - Founder and President of Students for Life, Mat Staver - Founder & President of Liberty Counsel, Dr. John Lennox - world renown Christian apologist from Oxford University, Congressman Bob Good - U.S. Representative for the 5th Congressional District of Virginia, Former Congressman Dave Brat (VA) - Dean of Liberty University Business School, Ryan Helfenbein - Executive Director of the Standing For Freedom Center and Vice President of Communications at Liberty University, William J. Federer - author, historian and national speaker, Allan Parker - Founder & President of The Justice Foundation, Michael Farris - Co-Founder of the Convention of States, and Gordon Chang - attorney, author and expert on the threats of Communist China.

Former Arkansas State Senator Jason Rapert, the Founder & President of NACL, and host of the radio and television program “Save the Nation with Jason Rapert” served as emcee throughout the event, and State Representative Mary Bentley (AR), the Chair of NACL-National



Legislative Council, led the committee proceedings as the organization debated and passed seven new model laws, one new model resolution, and two important NACL resolutions.

"I am in awe of the blessing that is obviously upon the members of the NACL as the organization is continuing to grow and become more influential as a result of their bold stands on some of the most important issues facing our country," said Rapert. "They fear no one and they are willing to speak the truth when too many others in elected offices across the country are weak and refuse to lead with courage. While some national leaders, including President Joe Biden, basically hold up Sodom and Gomorrah as a goal to be achieved, the leaders and members of the NACL are willing to call out evil as sin and confront it."

The NACL is the only working faith based para-legislative organization in the country with seven working committees to address any issue that comes before it. The NACL-National Legislative Council Executive Committee announced the adoption of new model bills designed to equip Christian lawmakers with effective legislation that upholds Christian principles nationwide. During the meeting the members of the NACL passed serious policy recommendations dealing with faith, family, and freedom. They addressed transgender issues in schools, abolishing abortion in our country, religious persecution, human trafficking, encouraged policy to educate children and prevent drownings, and announced many new topics for their future meetings. The NACL notably became the first para-legislative organization in the country to pass model policies to equip citizens and elected officials with the tools to remove obscene materials from public and school library shelves, and a model bill protecting the lives of unborn children banning all abortion except when the life of a mother is in danger due to a medical emergency. Some of the model bills include legislation prohibiting compelled speech in relation to a student's pronouns, a resolution congratulating Israel on its 75th Anniversary, legislation strengthening Medical Malpractice in Gender Transition in Minors, a resolution reaffirming Biblical Marriages between one man and one woman, the Conscience Protection Act, Adoption and Foster Care Protection Act, legislation prohibiting libraries from providing Harmful Materials to Minors, and legislation creating the Unborn Child Protection Act, which seeks to protect life from the moment of conception. The NACL has now officially passed 15 model laws, ordinances, or resolution recommendations since its inception in August of 2020 - many of those model laws have been filed in various jurisdictions around the country or influenced policy discussions in state capitols around the nation.

Noted for being an event where the importance of mind, body, and spirit are highlighted, the conference was further enriched by the exceptional gospel music provided by Pastor Steve McCuin, setting a soulful tone for the conference. William J. Federer, author, historian, and NACL National Advisory Board Member, delivered a compelling address on the importance of historical understanding in shaping policy decisions.

Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America, shared his unique insights into international affairs and religious freedom in special remarks. Representatives of Ambassador Ibrahim had requested an opportunity for the ambassador to address the NACL members with a message to build better relations with the Christian community in the United States. The NACL had also planned to hear from



Ambassador H.E. Lilit Makunts, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, but her office had to postpone her appearance and reschedule for a future NACL conference. The NACL is a champion of religious liberty and religious freedom around the world and welcomes anyone to engage in dialogue with the same values. The NACL is becoming highly engaged in defending those who endure persecution for their religious beliefs.

The NACL bestowed four awards during the conference. During the first banquet of the event, Dr. John Lennox, renowned Christian apologist from Oxford University, engaged the audience with his thought-provoking discourse on the intersection of faith and reason. He received the NACL George Washington Lifetime Christian Leadership Award, becoming the first English citizen to receive an award from the NACL. Kristan Hawkins, President of Students for Life of America, and member of the NACL National Board of Advisors, inspired attendees with her commitment to advocating for the sanctity of life. She received the NACL American Patriot Award for Christian Honor and Courage.

During the second banquet of the event, Gordon Chang, an attorney and U.S. citizen who has become internationally known as an expert on Chinese political affairs, delivered sobering remarks on the growing threat of Communist China and warned they are preparing for war against the United States. Among many examples he provided listeners were documented accounts of religious persecution occurring within Communist China. He received the NACL American Patriot Award for Christian Honor and Courage. Mat Staver, attorney, national religious liberty advocate, Founder & President of Liberty Counsel, and member of the NACL National Board of Advisors, delivered remarks on important United States Supreme Court cases and other important decisions impacting Christians, religious freedom, and the sanctity of life. Staver received the NACL George Washington Lifetime Christian Leadership Award for his exemplary service.

The Honorable Robert Sprague, Ohio State Treasurer and NACL member, skillfully moderated a panel of notable speakers who included The Honorable Todd Russ, Oklahoma State Treasurer and NACL member; Justin Danhof, Head of Corporate Governance at Strive Asset Management; Rod Martin, Founder & CEO of The Martin Organization and NACL National Board of Advisors member; and Kevin Freeman, Host of Economic War Room. They dealt with a myriad of economic issues that are impacting American families and businesses including DEI, ESG, gold and the U.S. dollar.

Other notable speakers included NACL-National Legislative Council Vice Chairs Rep. John McCravy (SC), Sen. Dennis Baxley (FL), and Rep. Sarah Vance (AK); The Honorable Matt Krause of First Liberty; Rep. Scott Hill (KS); The Honorable Dr. Dave Brat, former U.S. Congressman and Dean of the School of Business at Liberty University; Steve Noble, energetic radio host and teacher; The Honorable Tom Newell, representing yes.every.kid.foundation; Shannon Royce, CEO of Christian Employers Alliance; Pastor Rob Pacienza, Senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and President and CEO of D. James Kennedy Ministries; Anne Basham, an expert on human trafficking; Lt. Ryan Browning of the Homer Alaska Police Department, on youth suicide in the digital age; Dr. William Lile, Founder and President of



ProLife Doc; Dr. Morse Tan, Dean of Liberty University School of Law; and Dr. Mercy Connors and Dr. Shannae Anderson of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

"The 2023 NACL National Policy Conference was a resounding success and serious model laws were passed that will influence legislation across the nation," said NACL-National Legislative Council Chair Rep. Mary Bentley (AR). "We are grateful for the exceptional speakers and attendees who contributed to insightful discussions and provided valuable tools to Christian lawmakers across the nation. This conference further solidified our commitment to championing Christian values and advancing our mission. We believe we are here for such a time as this."

New NACL State Chairs and State Vice Chairs were installed during the meeting including: State Senator Shannon Grove, California State Chair; State Representative Scott Dyk, North Dakota State Chair; State Senator Jeff Raatz, Indiana State Chair; State Senator Kim Hammer, Arkansas State Chair; State Representative Richard McGrew, Arkansas State Vice Chair; State Senator Frank Carroll, Arizona State Vice Chair; State Senator Rick Brattin, Missouri State Vice Chair.

Former State Senator Bob Ballinger of Arkansas, who served as the charter state chair for Arkansas, now serves as the NACL Director of Law and Policy and administers the NACL-National Legislative Council. Senator Ballinger is well known for his strong defense of liberty and freedom during his tenure in the Arkansas legislature passing significant legislation dealing with religious freedom, the abolition of abortion, 2nd Amendment rights, and tax reform. A licensed attorney, Ballinger is also representing a preacher in the state of Arkansas who was arrested, charged, and is being prosecuted for preaching on a public sidewalk in Batesville, Arkansas. The NACL is absolutely committed to the defense of religious liberty and religious freedom in the United States.

Sponsors of the NACL conference included: Liberty University, Standing for Freedom Center, Pensmore Foundation and Mr. Steve Huff, American Family Association Action, Hunter Lundy of Louisiana, yes.every.kid.foundation., Alliance of Health Care Sharing Ministries, First Liberty, Patriot Mobile, The D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship, Christian Care Ministry, Alliance Defending Freedom, Samaritan Ministries, Convention of States Action, State Senator Ted and Patti Alexander of North Carolina, and State Representative John McCravy and Danna McCravy of South Carolina.

About the National Association of Christian Lawmakers

The mission of the National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) is to unite federal, state, and local elected officials together by meeting regularly to discuss major policy issues, propose model statutes, ordinances, laws, and resolutions to address major policy concerns from a Biblical world view. Since their charter meeting in 2020, the NACL has established state chairs in 33 states and counts members and supporters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. According to historians the NACL is the first national association of Christian elected officials in the history of the United States.

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