



Colorado Homeschool Freedom Team

2018 End-of-Session Report

CHEC envisions families honoring Jesus Christ by embracing home discipleship that is Christ centered, parent led, and free from government control.

CHEC's Colorado Home School Freedom Team diligently watches the bills presented in the Colorado Assembly and actively engages in protecting the rights of Coloradans in the areas of home education, parental authority, and religious liberty.

There is a very real spiritual battle for the hearts and minds of our children. The battlefield is any where you find followers of Jesus Christ who seek to follow His commands and teach their children to do the same. We know the education system, the entertainment industry, and the media have all been heavily influenced by a worldview antithetical to the Word of God. The same is happening in the arena of government, whether it is our law makers or those that make the regulations we must live by. Yet, God gave us a Constitutional Republic, where it is we, the people, who are the government and we will be held responsible for the government we allow.

It is time for us to stand up for truth and liberty, to make our voice known, and to vote wisely.

Found in the following pages are the bills that are of special concern to Christian homeschoolers. Pay close attention to how your legislators vote on these crucial issues.

CHEC.org

Christian Home Educators of Colorado



Home Education

In the Senate Finance Committee on February 6, 2018, opposition testimony on SB18-083 from a former state employee: *"You hear that this gives parents a choice...but when you really look behind that, what you really find is the bigotry and snobbery of those parents who don't want their kids to have to go to a public school where there are students from other racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds ... perpetuating a racial and ethnic caste system in the state of Colorado."* [1]

SB18-083 Education Income Tax Credits for Nonpublic Schools (Support★) (Failed)

Provides a tax credit for students moving from a public school to either a private or home school, or a student entering a private or home school during their kindergarten year.

Parental Rights

Parents have the fundamental, unalienable right to direct the upbringing, care and control of their children.

HB18-1006 Infant Newborn Screening (Amend/Support★) (Passed)

Currently, parents can take an exemption for any and all newborn testing, but families are being told these tests are mandatory.

This bill amended the law to make it clearer that any newborn screening tests are voluntary. The final bill made current law stronger. As parents, it is important that we know our rights - pass the word on that these screening tests are voluntary.

HB18-1177 Youth Suicide Prevention (Oppose☹️) (Failed)

One of the things this bill would do is to ***lower the age of consent for minors to age 12***. Twelve-year old children would be allowed to secure mental health services without parental knowledge or consent. In addition, it would set up a suicide training program, approved by a state department, that clergy, camp counselors, athletic coaches, caregivers, youth leaders, and parents would be able to access. These programs are godless and promote abhorrent life styles. The bill only recommended access, but the concern is that at some point the state will try to mandate this training.

Thankfully, this bill was stopped in the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

HB18-1245 Prohibit Conversion Therapy Mental Health Provider (Oppose☹️) (Failed)

In this bill, conversion therapy is defined as therapy that includes "efforts to change behavior or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same sex" for children under the age of eighteen. If this bill were to pass, parents will have little to no access to mental health services that do not normalize, and even encourage, homosexual and gender dysphoria behaviors.

This is the fourth time this bill has been brought before the CO legislature. The wording of this bill is the same as a law that passed in California in 2012. This year, the CA assembly, using the prior law as a basis, tried to outlaw any materials that promote Biblical sexuality or binary gender choices.[2] As a precaution, Summit Ministries canceled their worldview conference in CA.[3]

Once again, the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee stood strong against this intrusion into parental rights! Thank you Senators Marble, Sonnenberg, and Hill.

HB18-1348 Child Welfare Information and Services (Amend/Mixed bag😊) (Passed)

One section of the bill specifies that the names, phone numbers, and addresses of families who have been falsely accused of abusing or neglecting their children could be given to community-based agencies and public health agencies who implement child abuse and neglect prevention programs. *Thankfully, this bill was amended, and the egregious section of the bill was removed!*

Thank you, Representatives Singer and Landgraf for amending your bill and to Representatives Beckman and Ransom for continuing to push the issue during the committee hearing.

Despite the good this bill does in giving foster parents access to education and medical records of the children they care for, it also gives foster parents preference for federal child care dollars over other low-income families.

Religious Liberty

In the House Judiciary Committee on March 27, 2018, HB18-1206 was heard. **Representative Herod** commented: *“This bill is offensive to me; this bill hurts me personally; this bill reminds me of the times my mom was made to go to the back of the bus because she was black...This is scary. To think that we could go back to a time where LGBT people are openly discriminated against, when they’ve been beaten, when they’ve been forced out of housing, when they’ve been homeless.”*

Representative Salazar commented: *“Religion has been used in this country in such horrible ways. Some of the greatest woes of humanity have been at the spear tip of religion...this bill is dangerous...”*

Representative Lee commented: *“This is in the wrong direction...to allow a person to use their conscience, their moral beliefs, in the public sector to prevent people from obtaining services is a breach of the relationship that businesses have with the community...you have to retain your conscience for your private beliefs but to act on it publicly in a discriminatory manner...is inconsistent with the goals of our state.”* [4]

HB18-1206 Live and Let Live Act (Support★) (Failed)

This bill would not allow the state government to discriminate against people holding the following beliefs: marriage is between a man and a woman and gender is determined by biology at birth.

This bill failed to make it past the House Judiciary Committee.

HB18-1256 Civil Rights Division Sunset Review (Amend/Oppose final version☺) (Passed)

The legislature had the opportunity to review the effectiveness of the Civil Rights Division/Commission (CCRD/C) – the very one that prosecuted Jack Phillips for not baking a same sex wedding cake. In the end, they made some amendments but none that would protect the due process rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

In the Supreme Court’s opinion regarding the Masterpiece Cakeshop case they found that “the Commission’s treatment of Phillips’ case violated the State’s duty under the First Amendment not to

base laws or regulations on hostility to a religion or religious viewpoint.”[6] While SCOTUS found the CCRC to be hostile to Jack Phillip’s religion, they did not acknowledge Mr Phillip’s unalienable right of conscience leaving the question open as to whether a Christian business owner can operate according to his beliefs.

More work still needs to be done to ensure the Constitutional right to a trial by jury and the unalienable right to act according to your conscience are protected in Colorado.

SB18-201 Religious Organization Child Care Licensing Exemptions (Support★) (Failed)

Current law allows churches to offer child care for three hours per day without requiring each worker to be licensed to take care of a child. This bill would have extended that time to six hours.

SB18-241 Colorado Children First Act (Support★) (Failed)

In October 2017, the Department of Human Services (DHS) changed the rules for adoption and foster care agencies.[5] One of the changes impacts faith-based agencies and their ability to place children only in intact traditional families. This bill would have protected those agencies. As it stands, they are at risk for discrimination suits.

References

[1] <http://leg.colorado.gov/committee/granicus/1220096>

[2] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2943

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/california-bill-threatens-christian-books-and-booksellers/>

[3] <https://www.summit.org/programs/student-conferences/2018-california-update/>

[4] <http://leg.colorado.gov/committee/granicus/1220651>

[5] <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/eDocketDetails.do?trackingNum=2017-00193>

[6] https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-111_j4el.pdf

Use the following link to find out information on bills, who your legislators are, and listen to floor debates, as well as, committee hearings.

www.leg.colorado.gov

	SB18-083	SB18-201	SB18-241	HB18-1006	HB18-1177	HB18-1206	HB18-1245	HB18-1256	HB18-1348		SB18-083	SB18-201	SB18-241	HB18-1006	HB18-1177	HB18-1206	HB18-1245	HB18-1256	HB18-1348
HOUSE										HOUSE cont'd									
Arndt				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Singer				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Becker J.				☹️	★		★	★	😊	Thurlow				★	★		☹️	☹️	😊
Becker K.				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Valdez				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Beckman		★		★	★		★	★	😊	Van Winkle				☹️	★		★	★	😊
Benavidez				★	E	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	Weissman				★	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊
Bridges	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	E	Willett				★	★	★	★	☹️	😊
Buck				☹️	★		★	★	★	Williams D.				☹️	★		E	★	😊
Buckner	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Wilson	★			★	★		★	★	😊
Carver				☹️	★		★	☹️	😊	Winkler		★		☹️	★		★	★	😊
Catlin		★		★	☹️		★	★	E	Winter				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Coleman				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Wist				☹️	★		★	☹️	😊
Covarrubias				☹️	E		★	★	😊	Young		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Danielson		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	SENATE									
Duran				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Aguilar	☹️	E	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Esgar				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Baumgardner	★	★	★	E				☹️	😊
Everett	★	E		☹️	★		★	★	★	Cooke	★	★	★	★	★			☹️	😊
Exum	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Coram	★	★	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Foote				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Court	☹️	☹️	☹️	★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Garnett	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Crowder	★	★	★	★				☹️	😊
Ginal		☹️		★	E		☹️	☹️	😊	Donovan	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Gray				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Fenberg	☹️	☹️	☹️	★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊
Hamner				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Fields	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Hansen				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Garcia	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Herod				★	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	Gardner	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Hooton		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Grantham	★	★	★	★				☹️	😊
Humphrey				☹️	★	★	★	★	★	Guzman	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Jackson				★	☹️		E	☹️	😊	Hill	★	★	★	★			★	★	😊
Kennedy				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Holbert	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Kraft-Tharp				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Jahn	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Landgraf		★		★	★		★	☹️	😊	Jones	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Lawrence				★	★		★	☹️	😊	Kagan	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Lee	☹️			★	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	Kefalas	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Leonard	★			☹️	★		★	★	😊	Kerr	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Lewis				☹️	★		★	E	★	Lambert	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Liston				★	★		★	★	😊	Lundberg	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Lontine		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Marble	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	😊
Lundeen	★			☹️	★	★	★	★	😊	Martinez Humenik	★	★	☹️	★				☹️	😊
McKean				★	★		★	☹️	😊	Merrifield	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
McLachlan	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Moreno	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Melton				★	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	Neville T.	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Michaelson Jenet		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Priola	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Neville P.				☹️	★		★	★	😊	Scott	★	★	★	★				☹️	😊
Pabon				★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Smallwood	★	★	★	★				★	😊
Pettersen	☹️			★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊	Sonnenberg	★	★	★	★	★		★	☹️	😊
Rankin				★	★		★	★	😊	Tate	★	★	★	★				☹️	😊
Ransom		★		☹️	★		★	★	★	Todd	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Reyher	★			☹️	★		★	★	😊	Williams A.	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Roberts				★	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	Zenzinger	☹️	☹️	☹️	★				☹️	😊
Rosenthal		☹️		★	☹️		☹️	☹️	😊										
Saine				☹️	★		E	★	😊	☹️	Opposed CHEC position								
Salazar				★	E	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	😊	Bill is a mixed bag								
Sandridge				☹️	★	★	★	★	★	★	Supported CHEC position								
Sias	★			★	★		★	★	😊	E	Excused from voting								