



Biblical Citizenship Briefing September 2020

This briefing is strictly for your information. It is a summary of some current public policy issues, including pending legislation, that involve moral and biblical principles. While suggested action may be included from time to time, no specific position by EFCC is implied. If you do not wish to receive further briefings of this nature, please unsubscribe as shown at the bottom of this document.

In California

Bills Await Gov. Newsom's Action – The California legislative session ended on August 31 with a long weekend of in-person and remote decision-making by lawmakers. In an unusual end to an unusual session, all Republican state senators but Sen. Jim Nielsen (R-Chico) cast votes remotely via teleconference in the final days. Sen. Brian Jones (R-El Cajon) tested positive for COVID and had been in a caucus lunch with all other GOP senators except Sen. Nielsen. Although they tested negative, only Sen. Nielsen was allowed in the Senate chamber for the session's end. Gov. Newsom now has until September 30 to sign or veto bills. If he does not veto a bill, however, it will become law on September 30 without his signature.

If you would like to contact Gov. Newsom about any bills before him, call his office at (916) 445-2841 or visit govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/ and send a message. Click “have a comment,” fill in your information and choose the subject by scrolling down the list until you find the bill number. AB 2218, for example, will be AB02218. Keep scrolling for Senate bills. Then click Con or Pro, type your message and send.

Transgender Bills on Governor's Desk – The two bills we have been tracking regarding transgender prisoners ([SB 132](#)) and the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund ([AB 2218](#)) are now awaiting the governor's action. SB 132 will allow transgender persons to be housed in the facility of their choice “with or without a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or any other physical or mental health diagnosis, and regardless of anatomy...”

AB 2218 will establish the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund distributing an unspecified amount of taxpayer funds to organizations serving transgender and intersex adults and children for various services including “gender-affirming health care services, such as hormone therapy or gender reassignment surgery.” Dr. James Dobson weighed in on this bill in an article [here](#).

In a recent [poll](#), more than 64 percent of voters participating somewhat or strongly disapproved of AB 2218. Regarding SB 132, 46 percent of those polled at least somewhat disagreed that persons born male should serve their sentence in a women's prison. On a related topic, more than 75 percent opposed biological males competing in girls' and women's sports. Read more [here](#).

If SB 132 or AB 2218 concern you, you may wish to contact the governor with your views. See the contact information above.

Governor Signs Bill Lowering Penalties for Sex Offenders – Many believe that current law does not adequately protect minors 14 and up (who cannot actually legally *consent* to sexual relations) from opposite-sex offenders. Convicted predators up to *ten years older* than the minor are not *required* to be listed on the sex offender registry that employers and youth sports programs check before hiring, although a judge *can* place them on the registry as part of the punishment for their crimes. Rather than correct the current law, [SB 145](#), sponsored by Equality California and signed by Gov. Newsom on Sept. 11, compounds the error by creating “equality” for predators who commit same-sex acts with minors. The result may well be more children harmed. Sen. Brian Jones (R-El Cajon) believes the next step may have to be a ballot measure, saying, “The legislators will not do it, so it is up to the people of California to make it happen.” The situation is more complicated when those involved are close in age, so a nuanced approach to change the law may be needed. Read more [here](#).

The Election

Pray the Vote – More than 80,000 Americans have already signed up to pray daily as we approach the November election. This nation has seen division, violence, fire, floods, and a pandemic this year. We need Jesus! The Presidential Prayer Team has launched [Pray the Vote](#) to help focus on the needs of our country as this very significant election looms. Let's raise our voices to heaven, whether it is through a website like this or your own personal prayer time. Let's humble ourselves, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. He hears us. He sees our needs – our nation's needs. Pray that He will heal our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Watch Your Email and Our Website – Vote-by-mail ballots will be sent to all California registered voters on or about October 5th for the November 3rd election only, due to the COVID pandemic. By that time, we will have resources for you to use to research your choices. *Please don't rush to return your ballot.* These are vitally important decisions to our cities, county, state and nation. Pray, learn, and pray some more before you mail back your ballot, take it to a collection site, or a polling place.

In the News

What Would You Say? – Did you know that we have a [list of valuable resources](#) you may wish to review on our [Biblical Citizenship page](#)? Yes, we do! In fact, we just added a new one. The Colson Center for Christian Worldview has launched a video series titled “What Would You Say?” Ever had someone make a comment about a current cultural issue and your brain is scrambling for a way to respond? Well, these short videos provide some useful talking points – and there are more all the time. Some of those coming soon will involve topics surrounding the November election. Watch them [here](#). Most of the links on our resource page offer periodic emails subscriptions to help you stay informed about those topic areas.

Live Action Asks FDA to Pull Abortion Pill – Since it was first approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000, the abortion pill (not to be confused with the morning after pill) has killed nearly 4 million preborn children in this nation. In addition, 24 mothers have died. The “pill” is really a combination of mifepristone and misoprostol and intended to only be used up to ten weeks gestation. The first drug kills the child and the other drug, taken 24 to 48 hours later, induces a very painful miscarriage.

Because of the potential dangers associated with the drug from severe bleeding, an ectopic pregnancy or miscalculation of gestation, the FDA established requirements, known as Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS), that it only be dispensed in clinics, medical offices and hospitals. Women must also sign a form acknowledging they have been informed of the risks. In a clinical setting, a pelvic ultrasound can be done to determine the location and estimated gestation of the child. Because of COVID, the FDA is being pressured to allow over-the-counter and telemedicine availability. In fact, back in June, a federal district court judge enjoined the FDA and the Dept. of Health and Human Services from enforcing safety regulations as an “undue burden” – a move supported by pro-abortion groups. On August 26, the Justice Department filed an emergency motion at the Supreme Court to halt the district court’s injunction. The high court may respond soon. In the meantime, Lila Rose’s pro-life organization Live Action and 21 senators have taken the issue one step further and asked that the abortion pill be removed from the market. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

How Did We Get Here? – John Stonestreet and Maria Baer of Colson Center’s “Breakpoint” ask this question regarding the disturbing and tragic issue of trafficking children. The sad reality is that trafficking is more common in our own communities than we think – and children as young as three are its victims (some would say even younger). How *did* we get to this reality? How did we get to the point where Netflix would be airing a film about sexual exploitation of children and exploiting them in the process?

As the authors put it, there is “culture-wide disconnect between the overt sexualization of young children and sex trafficking. The same culture that celebrates when kids are rescued from sex slavery promotes a movie about young girls twerking. A few years back, just two weeks after we celebrated the greatest exploiter of young women in our lifetime, Hugh Hefner, we arrested Harvey Weinstein for exploiting young women. We agree, at least for now, that young kids can’t actually consent to sex, while the [American Academy of Pediatrics suggests](#) that children barely out of toddlerhood should determine their own gender.” Read more [here](#).

Pray that our most vulnerable populations, our precious children, would be protected from the evil of exploitation and trafficking. Ask the Lord to guard the innocence of our youth through the watchful eyes of parents, teachers, youth leaders, law enforcement and others. Revive our land and help us to return to Your truth, Lord. Stop the enemy in his tracks. (Deuteronomy 33:12)

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