



The Liberty Bell

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MT GOP Sues Itself

When Child Protective Services Comes for Your Child

What a parent needs to know

America has watched with astonishment at the meteoric pace of all-women's safe spaces, universities, and sports opened their doors to any man who chooses to identify as a woman. Most Americans are also astonished that this has happened without a thoughtful and deliberate public debate or carefully consideration of a safety plan to protect women and girls in what was their own private and safe space.

These rapid changes are happening at the same time new laws proliferated mandating ignoring biological sex with gender identity and speech laws regarding the use of pronouns and a near-tyrannical assault on those who would not use them including against five-year olds.

People who speak openly about these changes can find themselves, their families, and their livelihoods and lives threatened—as have the Kolstads. The Kolstads are going through a personal nightmare complicated by shifting cultural norms, a lot of which have come down the pipeline through legislation, as well as, bureaucratic educational systems, and also through lobbying efforts

of deep pocket groups such as the Ford Foundation which is making sweeping commitments to support LGBTQ+ communities by doubling donations for trans organizations.

These elements, along with media saturation of the issue, had me wondering: Is the removal of the Kolstads' daughter really a physical safety issue that is part of a civil rights issue for a tiny part of the population with body dysphoria, or is there a bigger agenda with moneyed interests that we are not seeing? This article can only begin to graze the surface of this question, but considering transgenderism has basically exploded in media and has caused the denial of parental rights across the nation, there is value in beginning this examination.

The Klostads are Christian parents of a teenager going through puberty while having to endure years of bullying at her previous public school in Flathead County. As a result, the family decided to move and build their dream home with greenhouses and gardens across the state where Todd was born and raised in Valley County. However, things did not improve for their daughter at her new school. The abuse from her peers led their daughter to fabricate things, tell lies, whatever she felt would help her survive; not realizing she was making



things worse for herself and making it difficult for her parents to help her.

The Kolstad's daughter was pained and confused over who she was and how to navigate in a world where her peers were cruel to her. On top of this, she believed her parents didn't or wouldn't understand her pain, and she sought refuge in the idea that her problems may be because she was incorrectly born a girl. The Kolstads' religious beliefs would not allow them to allow their daughter to transition and deep down they felt they understood the issues of awkwardness their daughter was experiencing and felt that over time the cloudiness of her understanding of who she was would clear.

Little did the Kolstads know how insidiously the culture of transgenderism would consume

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The Money Behind the Transgender Agenda

**Portions Reprinted with
Permission Federalist Article
by Jennifer Bilak: “Who is
Funding the Transgender
Movement**

According to a Federalist article, by Jennifer Bilak, **“Who Is Funding the Transgender Movement?”**

Transgender Movement: She discovered, "...exceedingly rich, white men with enormous cultural influence are funding the transgender lobby and various transgender organizations. These include but are not limited to Jennifer Pritzker (a male who identifies as transgender); George Soros; Martine Rothblatt (a male who identifies as transgender and transhumanist); Tim Gill (a gay man); Drummond Pike; Warren and Peter Buffett; Jon Stryker (a



gay man); Mark Bonham (a gay man); and Ric Weiland (a deceased gay man whose philanthropy is still LGBT-oriented). Most of these billionaires fund the transgender

lobby and organizations through their own organizations, including corporations.”

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Propaganda and Censorship Agency Shut Down

US shuts down its 'propaganda and censorship' agency but still controls the stories you read in the press through other means

The Global Engagement Center was described by Elon Musk as a “threat to democracy”



by the end of that day. “*The State Department has consulted with Congress regarding next steps,*” the statement added.

The organization employed around 120 people and had an annual budget of \$61 million. Established in 2016, its stated goal was to “recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts.”

In practice, the GEC spearheaded complex propaganda campaigns of its own. During the coronavirus pandemic, the GEC funneled money to a range of NGOs which then compiled lists of social media accounts supposedly spreading “*dis-information*” about the virus and its origins, which were then presented to the platforms to be banned or removed. Many of the accounts belonged to what Twitter’s former trust and safety chief, Yoel Roth, called “*ordinary Americans*,” raising concerns among conservatives that the GEC was violating its prohibition on operating within the US.

In 2023, the GEC was forced to cut

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The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. —*Luke:12-2*

The Truth about Beef Price Fixing, the JBS \$52.5 Million Settlement, and Justice

By Jim Mundorf-Lonesome Lands, REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

On Thursday the worlds largest meat packer JBS announced that it was paying \$52.5 million to settle a price fixing lawsuit...and that's all that was reported. I read all the articles I could about it, and that's really all the information that was given. There was no mention of who was actually suing them, no specifics about the allegations, no mention of evidence included in the complaint, and because of the lack of details given, many people, publications, and organizations, have simply been making things up.

THE COMPLAINT

The original lawsuit that JBS is settling was filed on October 10, 2019, by Pacific Agri-Products against the big 4 beef packers, JBS, Tyson Foods, Cargill and National Beef. Pacific Agri-Products is a wholesale food distributor that, in this case, buys beef direct from the packer and distributes to retailers and other wholesalers. After filing, five other wholesalers joined the class action. The evidence used in the complaint is pretty much, word for word, the same as a lawsuit filed in April of that year by the cattlemen's organization R-calf, and a number of cattle producers. It seems like the lawyers just copied and pasted R-calf's lawsuit onto their own and sued for price fixing of beef instead of for the cattle. This works because what they are accusing beef packers of doing, impacts prices for both cattle and beef.

THE ALLEGATIONS

The lawsuit states that Tyson, Cargill, National, and JBS worked together, starting in 2015, to reduce the number of cattle slaughtered which created, "artificial Beef supply restraints." Reducing the slaughter numbers works to fill packer pockets on both ends. They are able to put the squeeze on cattle feeders because there are too many cattle. The feeders can't feed them forever and have to take what they can get. The packers are then able to charge more for beef, because wholesalers, like Pacific-Agri Products,



are under supplied and have to pay through the nose for the beef they can get.

THE EVIDENCE

There are pages and pages of evidence provided to show how beef packers did this and the obvious results of lower cattle prices and higher beef prices. The most damning evidence given is the testimony of a packing plant employee. The witness was the Head Quality Assurance Officer at one of the major packing plants for 10 years. The witness, "reports having multiple discussions with the Fabrication Manager during which the Fabrication Manager explained that all of the Defendants(Packers) agreed to reduce their purchase of fed cattle and slaughter volume. For example, during one conversation, the Fabrication manager specifically admitted that the Defendants had an "agreement" to reduce their purchase and slaughter volumes in response to what they perceived to be high fed cattle prices." The witness specifically recalls a conversation with the plants fabrication manager where he was told, "We have had that agreement that we don't kill while prices are up for a while." The witness also explains that the plants in on the, "agreement" were, Tyson Amarillo, Texas; JBS Cactus, Texas; Cargill Friona, Texas; and National Beef, Liberal, Kansas. Last summer the packers lawyers tried to have the case thrown

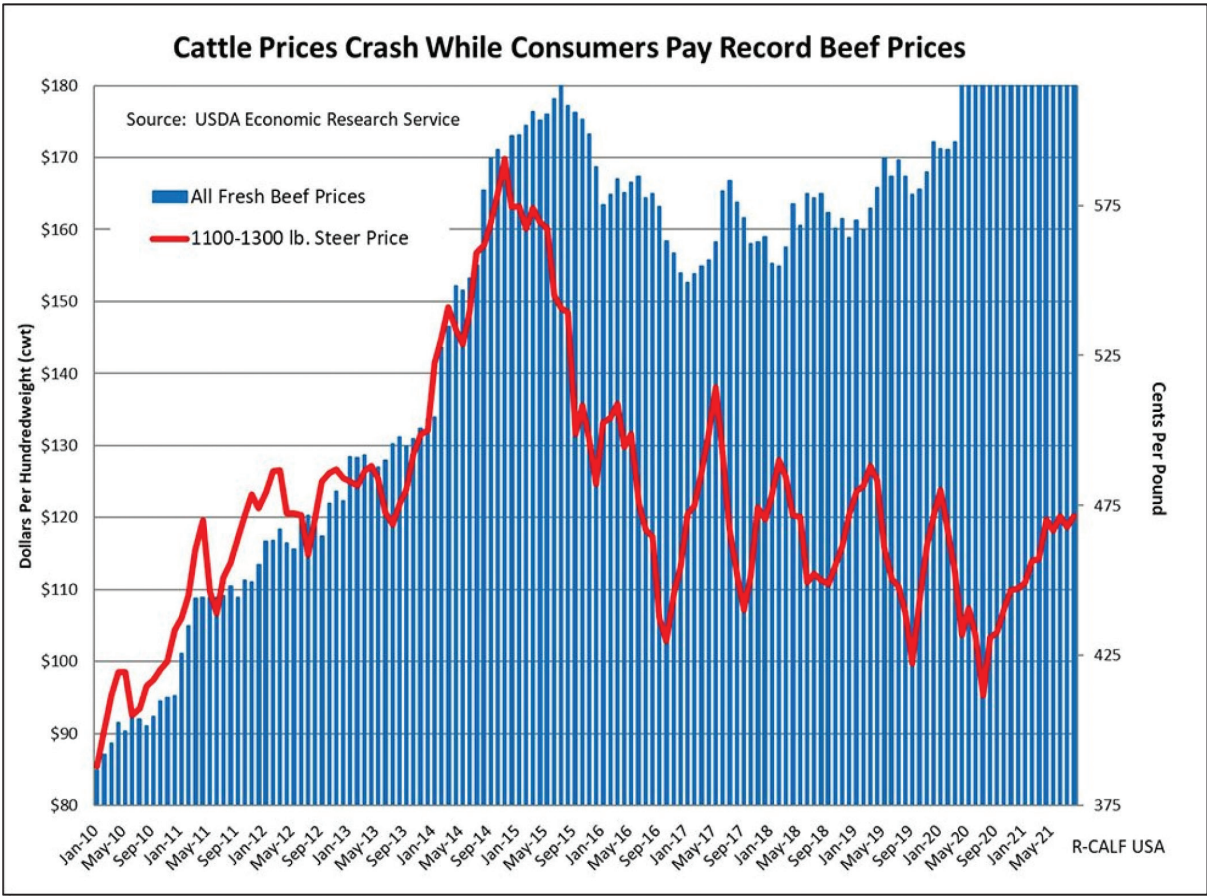
out because they said that the witness was unreliable. The Judge looked into the witness and denied their request. Another part of the evidence was simply listing the packing plants that the four packers shut down. In around 30 months they shut down a total of 12 different packing plants. The suit states that if you combine that with the slowing down of other plants this, "stripped out approximately two million head from the industry's annual slaughter capacity." Quite possibly the most eye popping evidence given is simply showing the results of what happened to prices when the packers colluded to slow production.

SETTLEMENTS VS. JUSTICE

So JBS is paying \$52.5 Million to get out of the beef wholesalers' lawsuit. Cargill, Tyson, and National are still involved and probably negotiating their way out right now. All four are still being sued by R-calf and the Cattlemen. I get that some people in the cattle industry are happy or satisfied to hear that JBS is paying \$52.5 million to settle. I'm not. I want this to go to court and I want the packers to lose. The truth is if the USDA had any courage and wasn't controlled by the packers' lobby they would be the ones prosecuting these charges. There are laws about price fixing and manipulating markets. These corporations have broken those laws, and the people tasked with enforcing those laws, the USDA, have refused to do their job. If this goes to court and the packers lose, the USDA could finally be forced to take some real action. Settlements are about money, they are not about justice. The people raising cattle deserve justice. Justice for the past seven years of struggle. Justice for those who've been forced to constantly ask themselves if it's even worth it anymore. Justice for the liquidations of farms, and ranches, that just could not continue to lose money. Justice for the farmers and ranchers who have had to sell out, and watch, with tears in their eyes, as their last loads of cattle go down the road. Justice for the kids growing up on those farms and ranches, who just wanted the chance to raise cattle like Dad and Grandpa. Justice for the Dads and Moms who have had to tell their kids that the cattle have to go, because it just isn't worth it anymore. That is what these illegal activities have forced on a lot of families in the the past few years. Settlements aren't going to fix that. Only a guilty verdict could have the possibility of fixing that. Never settle.

The most up to date version of the chart used in both original lawsuits. The red line is cattle prices and the blue columns are beef prices. The in between is beef packer profit margin.

The red line is cattle prices and the blue columns are beef prices. When the red and blue are moving together it shows a market functioning properly. When demand for beef went up, the price and demand for cattle went up with it. When beef packers all slowed production in 2015 it increased the supply of cattle causing the cattle price to go down while at the same time decreasing the amount of beef available, driving the demand, and price, up. The difference between the red and the blue is the beef packer profit margin and for the past two years it is literally off the charts. 🚩



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(Child Protective Services from page 1A)
their daughter. It is the narrative being pushed by billions of dollars thrust into American culture. Their daughter's fragile emotional state caused her to doubt who she was—a beautiful daughter born exactly how God intended her to be.

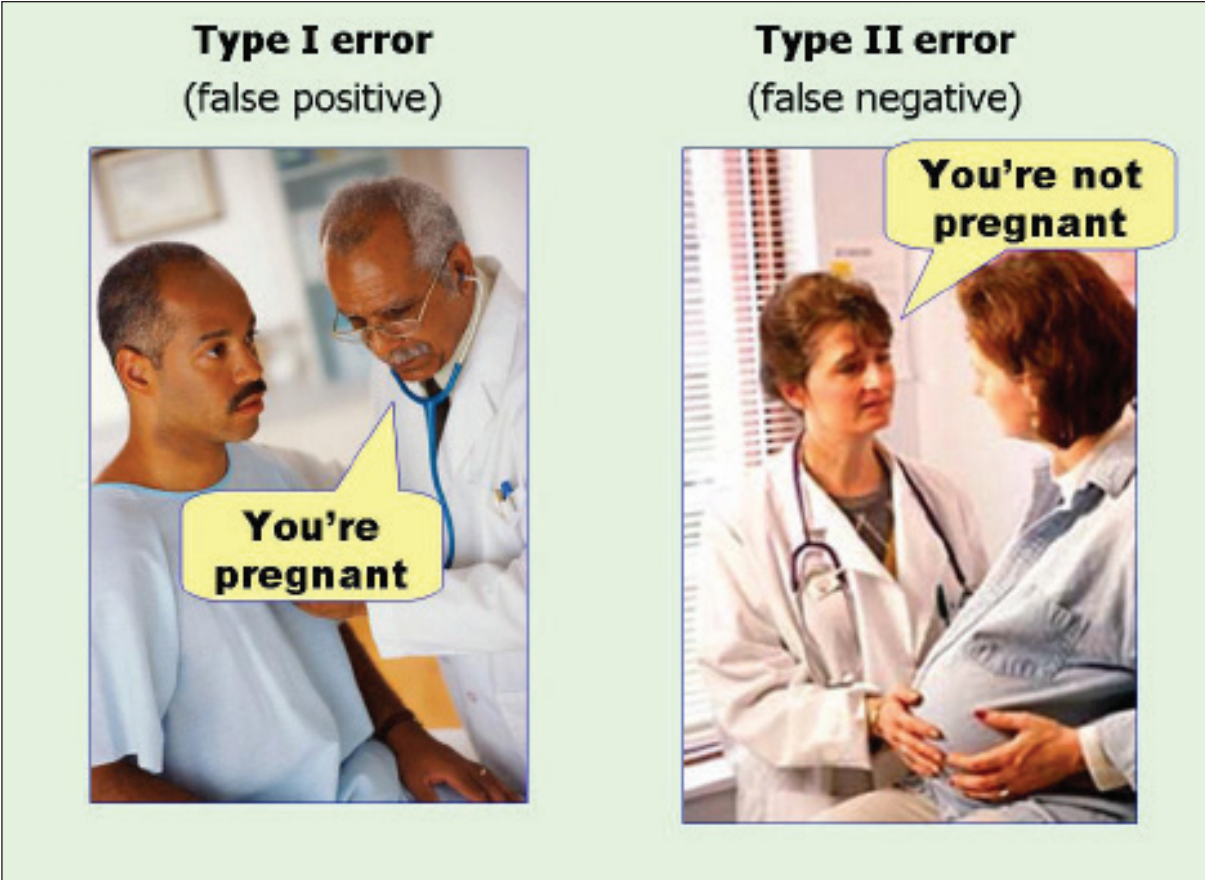
As school was starting the very next week and she was going to have to go back to an environment of hostility and vulnerability; their daughter was anxiety-ridden. It is against this emotional backdrop that their 13 year-old daughter was taken by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' Child Protective Service.

In the eyes of the Kolstad's daughter, her parents' Christian faith was a stumbling block to communicating honestly with them. The rejection she was feeling from her peers, made her fear rejection from others such as her parents, God, perhaps even herself. Her fears are what led her to lying and when she wasn't able to be honest with herself or her parents about her fears, and felt perhaps even God wasn't accepting her, she decided to take the lead from the culture that surrounds public school kids and through a friend, ordered puberty blockers through Amazon.

Most parents, just like the Kolstads, may not know a vast array of puberty blockers are readily available for sale on online on sites like Amazon and no form of id or medical prescription is necessary.
“I had no idea my daughter was taking puberty blockers she had a friend buy them for her through Amazon,” says stepmom Krista Kolstad.

Gender-affirming treatment remains a topic of controversy; of particular concern is whether gender-affirming treatment reduces suicidality. Even the National Institutes for Health (NIH), states that to date, the studies and literature produced from those studies, suffers from a lack of methodological rigor that increases the risk of type I error. In statistical hypothesis testing, a type I error, or a false positive, is **the rejection of the null hypothesis when it is actually true.**

The NIH states. “There is a need for continued research in suicidality outcomes following



gender-affirming treatment that adequately controls for the presence of psychiatric comorbidity and treatment, substance use, and other suicide risk-enhancing and reducing factors. There is also a need for future systematic reviews given the inherent limitations of a narrative review.”

A **narrative literature review** is generally more flexible and subjective, allowing researchers to provide a broad overview and identify trends in an expansive way, often incorporating the author's unique perspective or bias towards what they want to study to say. It is particularly effective when you need to summarize the overall state of knowledge on a topic and provide a contextual backdrop for your research.

In contrast, a **systematic literature review** is much more structured and methodical, using precise protocols to minimize bias and produce reliable, reproducible results that can form the basis for evidence-based decision-making. These differences mean that each type of review is not only unique in its execution but also in the kind of insight it offers.

What the NIH states on their website is that the transgender studies looking at puberty blocker use in adolescents, is biased and doesn't have the systematic review that is needed to conclude with certainty, that giving an adolescent who has Gender Dysphoria puberty blockers will reduce suicidal tendencies. That means the science is still undetermined on this topic. This further flamed the fears the Kolstads had about the health and well-being of their daughter and made them wonder if these mail ordered puberty blocker were the cause of many of their daughter's psychological issues. “Who knows what is in those mail order drugs that could be impacting her mental state,” Krista decried.

Even if the puberty blockers were correctly formulation, the NIH states, “There may be implications on the informed consent process of gender-affirming treatment given the current lack of methodological robustness of the narrative literature reviewed.” In other words, although some claim puberty blocker reduces suicidal tendencies and are a benefit to adolescents who suffer from Gender Dysphoria, literature reviews can be very biased and result in the reviewer stating the study found what

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Puberty Blockers Study Results Withheld by NIH Researcher

While some Americans might be aware of the early December letter sent by six Republican U.S. senators to the National Institutes of Health demanding the agency provide Congress with information related to a controversial taxpayer-funded study on transgender children; what they may not know is the study's cost has grown to nearly \$10 million and was funded through Fauci's NIH to administer puberty blockers to two cohorts of children, one older and one younger, to study the physical and psychosocial impact of puberty blockers. Dr. Johanna Olson-Kennedy, one of the researchers working on the project, recently admitted to withholding the results of the younger cohort's results because she believed it would be weaponized to advocate against the use of puberty blockers.

While the results of the study have not been released to the public, recipients of NIH grants are required to submit progress reports to the agency regarding the state of their research. According to a copy of a letter obtained by the *Washington Examiner*, Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Ted Cruz (R-TX), James Lankford (R-OK), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Mike Lee (R-UT) have asked the NIH to turn over each annual progress report provided to the agency by researchers working on the project.

“While we recognize that this particular study is observational, we remain concerned that minors lack the ability to fully understand the lifelong outcomes of the interventions studied in this project and provide their consent,” the senators wrote. “Further, taxpayers have the right to know the outcomes of the research they fund, particularly when the intervention studied has life-altering impacts.”



And that is exactly the point. Puberty blockers and trans surgeries have life-altering impacts that cannot be reversed. Yet our judicial system who will not try a juvenile as an adult because their brains are not fully formed, will allow a minor and the state, to decide on life-altering treatments and surgeries.

Olson-Kennedy, an ardent proponent of performing gender-transition procedures on minors, said she decided to withhold the results of her study after it was found that providing young children with puberty blockers did not improve their mental health. The researcher argued that the children's mental health did not improve because they began at a high baseline — however, an earlier description of the cohort said that a quarter were either depressed or suicidal before the study began. Two children involved in the

study also took their own lives.

“I do not want our work to be weaponized,” she said, promising that the data would be released at some point. “It has to be exactly on point, clear and concise. And that takes time.”

Since 2015, the project's cost has grown to \$9.7 million.

In their letter, the senators point to a similar instance in the United Kingdom where researchers delayed the publication of a study that failed to show puberty blockers improving the mental health of transgender children. Once the results of the British study were made public, and following an independent review, the country's National Health Service decided to stop providing children with puberty blockers. 🇬🇧

(Child Protective Services from page 4A)
the reviewer wanted it to find v. the unbiased results which may be the opposite. Meaning the literature can be biased and not necessarily “based on the science” nor can the narrative be trusted to not “spin” things.

Another less known fact is the medical specialty that works with gender identity disorder is called Endocrinology and has an Endocrine Society with guidelines that restrict eligibility for puberty blockers to adolescents. Specifically, they warn against administering puberty blockers to adolescents who are suicidal or have other psychological conditions that would interfere with the treatment.

They also stress the importance of adequate psychological and social support during treatment as cited in the NIH study by Michael Biggs: **“Puberty Blockers and Suicidality in Adolescents Suffering from Gender Dysphoria”** (Hembree WC, Cohen-Kettenis P, Delemarre-van de Waal HA, Gooren LJ, Meyer WJ, III, Spack NP, Tangpricha V, Montori VM. Endocrine treatment of transsexual persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. 2009;94:3132–3154. doi: 10.1210/jc.2009-0345, p. 3138). The Endocrine Society stipulates that any “coexisting psychological, medical, or social problems that could interfere with treatment...have been addressed, such that the adolescent’s situation and functioning are stable enough to start treatment.”

In layman's terms, puberty blockers should never be used on adolescents who are suicidal and/or have other psychological issues and who do not have a supportive environment for their transitioning. Montana CPS knows this. That is one of the reasons why children are taken away from parents who are not supportive of the transitioning of their child. However, are we getting the cart before the horse and should CPS be focused on removing children from their parents because the child wants to take puberty blockers; or should CPS have as its priority, keeping families intact first and then evaluating latter if puberty blockers are truly the solution.

It is amazing how social services and the courts won't allow minors who commit crimes, even heinous one like premeditated murder, be tried as an adult because their brains are not fully formed, but any minor who wants life altering, irreversible transgender puberty blockers or surgery, should get them online through the mail.

Unbeknownst to the Klostads, their daughter had threatened suicide via text to an acquaintance she barely knew but had met over the summer. This person took the call for help seriously and contact the Glasgow, MT Police Department. The local police responded with a phone call to the home around 1pm asking if their daughter was OK.

At no point did the officer request to see their daughter or mention that in cases where a minor threatens suicide it is required to “lay eyes” on the minor. Krista responded that her daughter was having a bad day, but was ok and if she had any concerns, or if the situation changed, she would drive her daughter to the hospital. The police officer then proceeded to end the call and Krista didn’t know she should have asked follow-up questions of the officer to understand whether CPS would be involved and what to expect next. Had they asked follow-up questions they could have been better prepared.

At 7:40pm Cyndi Baillargeon of Child Protective Services (CPS) a department within Child and Family Services Division (CFS) shows up at the Kolstad home while Krista was cooking dinner. Ms. Baillargeon asked to come in and speak with their daughter. Having nothing to hide, the Kolstads invited Ms. Baillargeon in where Ms. Baillargeon notes the home is in good order with food etc., but also notes the father, Todd Kolstad is drinking a beer and in Ms. Baillargeon's opinion, dinner is being prepared late in the evening.

Ms. Baillargeon then proceeded to interview the Kolstad's daughter alone, outside the presence of her parents. Krista advises parents that when it comes to minors, parents have the right to be there when their child is being interviewed and to never allow any government official to speak to a minor without a parent being present and better yet, an attorney too. She also advises that parents should have a friend as a witness to any conversations between the parents and CPS.

After interviewing their daughter, Ms. Baillargeon speaks with the Kolstads and Krista makes it very clear that their Christian beliefs do not allow for gender transitioning and it is the Kolstad's belief that their fundamental Christian values on gender transitioning caused CPS to build a case to take their child away instead of helping the Kolstad family stay intact.

Had the Kolstads known then what they know now, they would not have invited the government into their home, to twist their living situation to fit a narrative to be used against them. The Kolstads now know never to trust anyone with an email address that ends in mt.gov and they would have been prepared with an attorney present for the CPS inspection and interview.

What they didn't know was under current Montana law, CPS doesn't need a warrant to take your child.

Interestingly, in the 2023 legislative session, Jennifer Carlson sponsored House Bill 37 (HB 37) which required warrants in order for CPS to remove a child from their parents. HB 37 sailed through the house unanimously (100 votes which included every Democrat) and made it to Gov. Gianforte's desk for signature where he promptly vetoed it. A combination of democrats and republicans (42 of them in total) withdrew their support of the bill which caused the override of the veto to fail. If Gov. Gianforte had signed HB 37, CPS would not have been able to take the Kolstad's daughter without a judge issuing a warrant. In a state that has a 300% higher rate of child removal than any other state, it seems a warrant could go a long way towards preventing abuse within the CPS system and keep more families intact. Three decades of NIH research evaluating the impact of family structure on the health and well-being of children demonstrates that children living with their married parents consistently have better physical, emotional, and academic well-being. CPS should promote the family structure and be extremely reluctant to remove a child from the environment that is proven to be the best chance of producing healthy children.

After the interview, Ms. Baillargeon, in her authoritarian position as a CPS worker, suggests that it is best for the Kolstad daughter to be admitted to the hospital to ensure she hasn't ingested toxic chemicals and to get a mental health evaluation. The Kolstads, having their daughter's health as their primary concern, agreed. What they didn't know at the time was their daughter was already taking puberty blockers she had obtained through a friend whom she had purchased then online through Amazon. To this day, they wonder what affect those puberty blockers had on her mental state.

When a loved one is experiencing a mental health crisis, families often go to their local emergency room for help. However, this can set off a cascade of events that most people are unaware of and, quite frankly, blindsided by. The Kolstads, like most parents, didn't realize there are laws that limit their role as a parent once their child is committed to the care of a doctor. This often shocks parents or angers them either because their child is or isn't getting the treatment they deem appropriate for them.

The law can be nuanced and complicated, and medical providers and law enforcement officers are not always aware of all of the provisions so it is incumbent on you the parent to understand the law and know your rights and this may include having an attorney on hand to defend your rights.

One key factor that hospital staff will determine when a patient shows up in their emergency room in mental health distress is whether the patient is a danger to themselves or others which includes, as in the Kolstad case, when the individual has attempted suicide or threatened suicide and there is a reasonable probability of suicide unless adequate treatment is given.

The hospital that admitted their daughter for observation, provided “1:1 staffing” for her, meaning, at all times, there was at least one nurse assigned solely to observing her. Under the doctor’s care at the hospital where their daughter was receiving medical attention, she was not deemed a risk for suicide. However, the Kolstads couldn’t relax just because their daughter was in a hospital setting.

Immediately, the hospital staff defied the parents request in direct opposition to their religious beliefs, and refused to call their daughter by her biological name and instead



continued to refer to their daughter as “Leo.” The Kolstads also objected to male toiletries and every objection by the parents was met with disdain from hospital staff. Per MCA 40-6-701 Section 2 (e), (See sidebar), the Kolstads parental rights over the medical decisions of their child were being violated.

Frustrated with the lack of ability to influence the care their daughter was receiving, Krista states, "I would be courteous and kind, but firm and everyone of my requests was met with eye rolling and other body language which showed their contempt for us as parents. It was as if to say to us 'you lost.' You are now on our turf and have no power or authority over us or your daughter."

No one is going to be more concerned for the well-being of a child than the child's parents and the Kolstads were very concerned about their daughter's threat to commit suicide and wanted her in a facility that would help her. They feared her fixation on transitioning was exasperating her mental state and wanted to seek the help she needed. When the Kolstads made the decision to send her to the hospital, they assumed like every parent would, that hospital staff would be just as concerned for their child's well-being as they were. They had no idea the hospital would reinforce and normalize their daughter's fixation on transgenderism against the families religious beliefs against it.

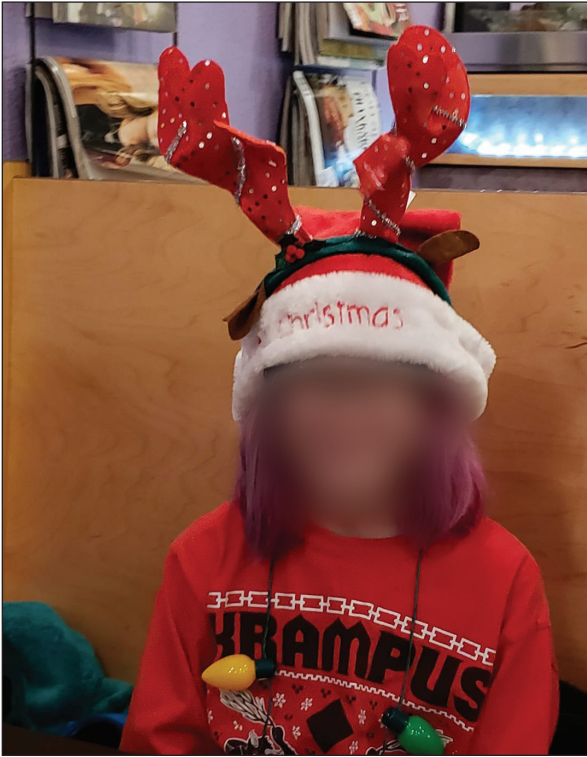
The decision to allow their daughter to be observed by the hospital was the first step that ripped authority away from this normal, middle-class family and started their battle with the medical industrial complex of transgenering and pitted them against the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, a \$7 billion dollar, 3000 employee department. Couple this against the background of hundreds of billions of dollars in grant money from the federal government going to LGBTQ+ causes and the billions in private foundation money, and you realize the enormity of the battle the Kolstads are fighting.

One of the hospital physician informed them their daughter was first on the waiting list for admission to a facility in Billings, Montana. Krista further explains the atmosphere at the hospital, “I was at the hospital from 8am to 6pm everyday asking the physician questions, when I realized the physician was referencing text threads from CPS-we were not included on. Here I am onsite and the staff are excluding us from information about our daughter, but they can manage to make the time to text CPS. I confronted the doctor about this and she brushed it off as CPS doing wellness checks which is routine.”

Things further deteriorated with the doctors assigned to their daughter's care. By the second day, the doctor told the Kolstads she was going to prescribe Prozac for their daughter's depression. The Kolstads asked for an alternative medication since they were aware of studies from the National Institutes of Health and other sources that confirmed Prozac could elevate suicidal tendencies.

It's a common warning on the labels of antidepressant drugs: "may cause suicidal thoughts," explains licensed clinical psychologist Dr. David Godot, with Psych Lab Psychology Center in an email. Some people

(Child Protective Services from page 5A)



who are depressed may think about committing suicide. So, it seems counterintuitive that medications, which are specifically formulated to treat depression, could have this side effect. “The name ‘antidepressants’ is kind of a marketing term that makes the problem of suicidality less understandable,” he adds. “Antidepressant medications do not actually reduce depression – they simply increase levels of certain neurotransmitters. Forty years ago, researchers imagined that depression was caused by a shortage of those neurotransmitters. However, research has not supported that hypothesis at all. The brain is much more complicated than that.”

The doctor treating the Kolstad’s daughter was not used to having her authority challenged and rebuffed the Kolstad’s concerns, led to the doctor conferring more about their daughter’s health with the case workers than the parents despite Krista being at the hospital from 8am-6pm. Krista recounts how she was constantly being asked to leave and they would not send the therapists to see her daughter into later in the evening after she had left the hospital.

Krista feels they did everything they could to keep us from knowing what medical or psychological tests were being performed on our daughter. It honestly felt like they were grooming her behind our back by specifically using therapists and aides who were non-binary or gender fluid to care for her. The hospital even placed an aide named Deborah outside her door who spoke to her about being non-binary and going to Kalispell for top-surgery. When I brought this up, to both Ms. Baillargeon and the doctor, I was told ‘you should be more concerned about your daughters mental health then what Deborah is saying.’”

Confused on who was on whose team and why they, the parents were left in the dark about their daughter’s care, Krista states, “We had no idea the doctor would be having meetings with the CPS case workers without inviting us or even notifying us.”

It is at this point that, per court documents, a bed in Helena did open up, but not only were the Kolstad’s not informed, their daughter was not moved there and no one really knows why.

By 7:30 pm on August 22, 2023, hospital staff has rotated and the hospital is calling to inform the Kolstads that a bed has opened up in Wyoming and their daughter needs to be immediately transferred. Not understanding the need to rush things and why their daughter cannot spend an extra night in the hospital, Krista interrupts the doctor in order to ask questions about what happened to moving her daughter to a bed in Montana and do her rights as a parent change when their daughter is moved to another state.

Krista can tell over the phone the doctor is feeling challenged and is urging her to move her daughter to the bed in WY. The tone of the conversation turns terse, as the doctor is extremely uncomfortable being asked questions and clearly doesn’t want to answer them. As Krista’s questions go unanswered, her concern level raises along with a lot of red flags. “I just wanted to know what protections and rights we had as parents and I was trying to get answers so we knew what to do, and would make an informed decision” she adds. When she pushes the hospital to wait until the next day the conversation ends.

Frantic after being hung up on by the doctor, the Kolstads are in for another surprise, when

Parental Rights in Montana Law

Per MCA 40-6-701 Section 2, which states: “All fundamental parental rights are exclusively reserved to the parent of a child without obstruction or interference by a government entity, including but not limited to the rights and responsibilities to do the following:

- (a) direct the education of the child, including the right to choose public, private, religious, or home schools and the right to make reasonable choices with public schools for the education of the child;
- (b) access and review all written and electronic education records relating to the child that are controlled by or in the possession of a school;
- (c) direct the upbringing of the child;
- (d) direct the moral or religious training of the child;
- (e) make and consent to all physical and mental health care decisions for the child;
- (f) access and review all health and medical records of the child;
- (g) consent before a biometric scan of the child is made, shared, or stored;
- (h) consent before a record of the child’s blood or DNA is created, stored, or shared, unless authorized pursuant to a court order;
- (i) consent before a government entity makes an audio or video recording of the child, unless the audio or video recording is made during or as part of:
 - (i) a court proceeding;
 - (ii) a law enforcement investigation;
 - (iii) a forensic interview in a criminal or child abuse and neglect investigation;
 - (iv) the security or surveillance of buildings grounds, or transportation of students; or
 - (v) a photo identification card;
- (j) be notified promptly if an employee of a government entity suspects that abuse, neglect, or a criminal offense has been committed against the child unless the parent is suspected to have caused the abuse;
- (k) opt the child out of any personal analysis, evaluation, survey, or data collection by a school district that would capture data for inclusion in the statewide data system except data that is necessary and essential for establishing a student’s education record;
- (l) have the child excused from school attendance for religious purposes;
- (m) participate in parent-teacher associations and school organizations that are sanctioned by the board of trustees of a school district; and
- (n) be notified promptly if, and provide consent before, the child would share a room or sleeping quarters with an individual of the opposite sex on a school-sponsored trip. A child whose parent does not provide consent must be permitted to attend the trip and must be provided with reasonable accommodations that do not require the child to share a room or sleeping quarters with an individual of the opposite sex.

- (3) Except for law enforcement, an employee of a government entity may not encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from the child’s parent and may not withhold from a child’s parent information that is relevant to the physical, emotional, or mental health of a child.
- (4) This section may not be construed as invalidating the provisions of Title 41, chapter 3, or modifying the burden of proof at any stage of the proceedings under Title 41, chapter 3.
- (5) When a parent’s fundamental rights protected by **40-6-702, 40-6-707, 41-1-402, 41-1-403, 41-1-405**, and this section are violated, a parent may assert that violation as a claim or defense in an administrative or judicial proceeding and may obtain appropriate relief without regard to whether the proceeding is brought by or in the name of a government entity, a private person, or any other party. The prevailing party in an action filed pursuant to **40-6-702, 40-6-707, 41-1-402, 41-1-403, 41-1-405**, and this section is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Ms. Baillargeon shows up on their doorstep within 10 minutes with all the paperwork in hand that says CPS is taking their child and they are not allowed to speak to or visit her.

So, while the minor is in a hospital setting in Glasgow, MDPHHS case workers petitioned a judge requesting an emergency removal because the minor was suicidal and an emergency situation existed, and their request was granted.

“We felt setup for failure,” Krista expresses. “We were not allowed to question anything, we weren’t told anything, and were intentionally kept in the dark and manipulated. To add insult to injury, whomever transported our daughter to WY, allowed her to use their phone to text family and friends and on their way out of town even allowed her to get out of the vehicle and go visit her friends and stop by her employer to tell everyone she was crazy and being sent to WY.”

Eventually, their daughter was moved from WY to a group home youth dynamics setting in Billings for several weeks before CPS released her to her biological mother in Canada. The Kolstads were allowed to visit in person and via zoom. So, when the therapist assigned to evaluate their daughter wore more eyeliner than anyone in the Kolstad family, and his painted nails and hair in a bun portrayed the image of a person who was gender fluid, the Kolstads were worried their daughter’s therapy might be biased. What they discovered is that the therapist was placing their daughter in an all boys group therapy session, referring to her as him, and helping her accept her new male identity. Despite these setbacks in the eyes of the Kolstads, upon their first in person session with their daughter, the therapist thought it

went so well he told the Kolstad’s they should come back later than evening and take their daughter out to eat. However, upon returning to the facility, the therapist had to inform them, the CPS case worker, Ms. Baillargeon would not allow it.

Per court documents, physician’s notes say the minor was not suicidal or threatening harm so the Kolstads wondered how it was possible for CPS to get custody of their daughter. As a result, the Kolstads are now suing MDPHHS social workers Cyndi Baillargeon and Baillargeon’s supervisor, Crystal Whitmore, in federal court, for submitting a false affidavit for why they took custody of their daughter and for interfering with their religious freedoms and taking their child without due process. The parents allege several civil rights violations when the social workers placed the teen in a psychiatric facility in Wyoming, and barred the parents from communicating with her.

What is even more bizarre, is that court records show there were several different hospital settings where the minor could have been placed in Montana, but they not only didn’t choose to place the minor in a Montana location, they never notified the parents the option was even available. The case workers, through lies of omission, simply notified the parents the child was headed to a facility in Casper, WY and didn’t really give a say to the parents about it. Not only does this place the minor further away from her parents, it placed the minor in a state that does not have the same level of parental rights over a transitioning minor.

Ultimately, after a brief stay in Billings, CPS sent the Kolstad’s daughter to her biological mother, whom hadn’t seen her in over 7 years,

and who now lives in Canada. They did this because the biological mother immediately agreed she would allow her to transition. One must also realize Canada is lax in regulations surrounding transgendering. Furthermore, now that she is living outside the country, Montana and the USA no longer have jurisdiction; thus, it is not clear if she will ever be allowed to return.

Each of the Kolstads were assigned a different public defender to represent them in court. The Kolstads didn't have the financial ability to pay for a private attorney. But the adage you get what you pay for applies, because the advice the public defenders were giving the Kolstads was to not make waves and do whatever you are told to do regardless of whether you agree to it or not.

"It was after we lost custody of our daughter that Ms. Baillargeon and her supervisor Crystal Whitmore, told us in order to even have an opportunity to see our daughter again, we would have to accept our daughter's chosen identity as a male and go through marriage counseling, anger management and AA programs," says Krista. "We never had issues with alcohol or our marriage and we told Ms. Baillargeon and Ms. Whitmore we were going to decline participation in those programs and our religious beliefs would never allow us to accept that our daughter was a male. This is when they laughed at us and told us we didn't understand, 'We had to accept these conditions,'" Krista emphatically stated.

"This was a setup by CPS to make us look like bad people and give them cover for taking away our daughter. This is how the government plays the system against good people," stepmom Krista exhorts.

After spending five months in court proceedings attempting to regain custody of their daughter and having sought help from Montana elected officials with no success, the Kolstads realized all they had left was the court of public opinion. They needed to get out their side of the story. They also wanted to help any other family that may be going through a similar situation. That is when they posted a video online explaining what happened to them and how CPS gamed the system against them.

This is when the judge overseeing the Kolstads's case, places a gag order against the Kolstads. The judge is furious the Kolstads have spoken directly with the public and orders the Kolstads to immediately take down their video and demands them to not publicly talk about



the case. The judge also mandated treatment plans for the parents which included marriage counseling, anger management and Alcoholics Anonymous programs.

Realizing the system is rigged against them and with the gag order in place against the, Governor Gianforte and Lt. Governor Juras go on social media in what the Kolstad's attorney describes as a smear campaign against the Kolstads. The Governor's Office insinuated there is more to the Kolstads's story than the general public is privy to and that information not available to the public exonerates the actions of CPS. Lt. Gov. Juris went even further and personally spoke with several people and claimed the Kolstads' lied about what happened to them and essentially CPS did the right thing by taking their daughter. The Kolstads's lawyer responded by sending Lt. Gov. Juris a cease-and-desist letter. This letter threatens legal action against Lt. Gov. Juris if she doesn't stop lying about the Kolstads.

Krista firmly believes that there would be no guarantee they would ever see their daughter again; especially, in light of the fact Montana allowed her to leave the country. So, to Krista, going to marriage counseling, Alcoholic Anonymous and anger management programs would not only legitimize CPS' actions and the Governor's smear campaign against them; but it would also be like taking a plea deal. The Kolstads want nothing to do with a system they view as corrupt, unjust and anti-Christian and they place Gov. Gianforte and his Lt. Gov. Juras at what they call the helm of the demonic Montana CPS enterprise that has a child removal rate **between two and three times the national average**, according to the latest national estimates.

As a result of the Gag Order and the comments from the Governor's Office, the Kolstads faced bullying and physical threats to their lives by fellow Montanans. They also have lost all faith in their local police department and do not feel in the event of an emergency they would get unbiased response from them. Fearing for their safety and also for the safety of family and friends in the community, the Kolstads were forced to flee their home and are now living in another state.

At this point, the Kolstads feel they have lost everything: their daughter was taken away; they lost their sense of safety in their community' were forced to move out of their dream-forever home they custom built; and live in another state all together. So they are now defying what they view as an unjust gag order and are speaking out about their ordeal at the hands of CPS and the Governor's Office. "We felt utterly disparaged by the Governor's and Lt. Governor's comments about us. The Lt. Governor seemed to go out of her way to tell everyone she knew about how we were not fit parents and the nuances of things left unsaid that gave the appearance we were monsters," added Krista.

Some grassroots activists say that going against establishment in Montana is akin to being placed on Stalin's hit list-making Montana feel more like Moscow than Main Street. Perhaps that is how the Klostads of Glaskow feel-like they have been exiled to Siberia by the Gianforte Governmental Complex that continues to back the Montana swamp against the rights of parents who, not only love their child, but want the best for that child. 🇺🇸

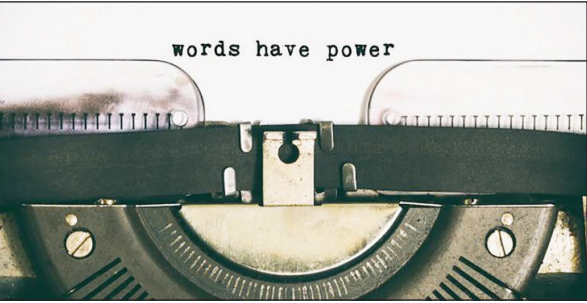
Our Words Show Who We Really Are

By William F. Holland, Jr.
WI Christian News

It's a spiritual revelation to comprehend that words have tremendous power but where there is privilege there is also accountability.

Communication not only shapes our views while influencing our behavior, but words also expose who we really are as we can learn a great deal about a person's views when we hear them speak. This is a wonderful prayer to begin each day, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips." (Psalm 141:3). Yes, we have much to pray about, and this petition is crucial if we are to live a holy life of integrity, respect, and love. Encouraging words are worth much, and cost little, and since what we say is what we think, it would be wise to monitor our thoughts and what we believe.

Words can accomplish God's intentions and carry us to encouraging places, but, unfortunately, they can also lead us into some dark situations. As children, many of us quoted this little rhyme, "Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will never hurt us," which was a courageous stand as we were being threatened or insulted. Still, we realized after we grew up that in most cases, the words were more emotionally painful than if we had been physically assaulted. There's a good chance you remember when someone said something that caused you to feel rejection and pierced your soul. Maybe derogatory words from a parent, teacher, coach, family member, neighborhood kids, or a bully from school, and unfortunately these painful wounds will always be remembered. Thankfully, some individuals change over the years as they recall the hurtful things they have said and are convicted to apologize as they realize that foolish people say foolish things.



On the other side of the two-edged sword of words, it's astounding to understand they also have the power to bring inspiration, joy, hope, and healing. In Proverbs 16:24, the Holy Spirit relayed to king Solomon that highly sensitive people are discreet and careful to use good judgment with their speech while the uncaring do not plan or consider what they say. We know this is true because we have been comforted by God's eternal promises and from those who sincerely care about us.

In the ancient world, honey was the sweetest substance available, and Solomon was intentional with his imagery as he penned these words, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." We have the opportunity to filter our speech through the Holy Spirit, but it's our choice to apply these spiritual principles or ignore them. The wise person who desires to walk in the awareness of God's presence will learn to control their carnal nature. Our emotions are interested in pleasing our flesh, but our spirit is always passionate about pleasing the Lord.

A command associated with obedience to God is to develop spiritual sensitivity and self-control which are included in the fruits of the Spirit. As a result of choosing words wisely, our communication can and should become a consistent relay of the message of Jesus.

A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which elevate and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world.

Some believe that when we can control our words, we have more maturity and discernment to control our lives. James 1:26 says, "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."

The Almighty wants His people to reveal His character, and develop agape charity which motivates us to embrace this beautiful way of connecting with others. Those who disregard speaking as a divine appointment to witness for Christ and do not care what they say are quite familiar with the flavor of their own foot.

Ephesians 4:29 declares, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

May we consider what is in the well comes up in the bucket. In this light, we realize that hate-filled and destructive words are intentional sin. The good news is that repentance is an opportunity to be forgiven and restored by God's grace.

This article is an excerpt from Dr. Holland's book, "Receiving Our Healing – Going to War on our Knees." Learn more about the Christian life at:

BillyHollandMinistries.com 🇺🇸

Political Left Has Captured Federal Grant-Giving Departments, Experts Say

Billions of federal dollars go to left-wing causes because activists control federal bureaucracy—and that’s not likely to change soon, an analyst predicts.

By Jackson Elliott 10/24/2023
Reprinted with permission from the Epoch Times

The federal government pays for initiatives promoting transgenderism and other LGBT causes because left-wing bureaucrats have captured federal grant-giving programs, experts say.

“When you dig into who staffs federal agencies, they’re absolutely dominated by people on the left side of the political spectrum,” David Ditch, senior budget policy analyst for The Heritage Foundation, told The Epoch Times.

“That has been the case for a very long time. I expect that will be the case indefinitely, regardless of who wins the next presidential election.”

Mr. Ditch and others have scoured federal grant records. They’ve found patterns that point to LGBT activists entrenched in federal agencies, making decisions on which projects to fund and which organizations in the United States and beyond will receive taxpayer money to execute their plans.

Grants awarded in the past four years include \$65,000 for a “Queer Arts Festival” in San Francisco. Another grant provided \$2,315 to help “professional transgender women makeup entrepreneurs” in Nepal. And, the University of Washington received \$350,000 to translate an LGBT sex manual into Spanish.

From Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2023, the federal government spent more than \$4.1 billion on grants with descriptions that included the keywords “LGBT” or “transgender,” an Epoch Times investigation found.

Gaining Ground in Government
Although the Left has long held a political advantage in the federal bureaucracy, LGBT activist groups have gained new ground under President Joe Biden, Mr. Ditch said.

“A lot of [former President Barack Obama’s] staffers felt that they needed to restrain some of their most extreme impulses,” Mr. Ditch said.

“There is no such restraint going on in the Biden administration.”

During President Obama’s administration, the top executive kept activists in the federal bureaucracy in check, he said. But President Biden, he said, has proven either unwilling or unable to do so.

Biden administration decision-makers who award grants are “happy to give grants to decidedly ideological, activist organizations,” Mr. Ditch said.

“They will continue to act this way as long as they have these trillions of dollars in financial resources provided to them by American taxpayers.”

Even within the administration of former President Donald Trump, a Republican, the federal government awarded grants to left-wing causes, Mr. Ditch said.



Government workers award an “unbelievable torrent of grants on everything constantly,” he said.

And that taxpayer funding of left-wing political activism helps the political Left grow ever stronger, Mr. Ditch said.

Funding a Left-Wing Agenda
Grants funding transgender-related causes have grown exponentially in the past two years, federal records show.

From 2008 to 2020, the U.S. government passed out \$184 million to grant applicants for project descriptions that included the keyword “transgender,” according to the Capital Research Center (CRC), an investigative think tank.

But from 2021 to Sep. 12, 2023, a total of \$1.2 billion was given out in the form of grants, direct payments, and low-interest loans for projects described using “transgender” as a keyword, CRC researchers found.

The CRC research notes that not all of that money went to fund transgender causes directly. Many of those grants included the word “transgender” in diversity statements but didn’t focus primarily on transgender spending.

However, at least \$104 million of that federal spending explosion went to initiatives that mostly or entirely promoted, subsidized, or studied transgenderism, CRC researchers found.

Left-wing ideological capture is so extensive that almost no federal department is untouched, CRC researcher Parker Thayer told The Epoch Times in an email.



Children cheer as drag performers dance at the Chattanooga Pride parade in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Oct. 2, 2022. Jackson Elliott/The Epoch Times

Federal departments that have given grants to LGBT activist causes include the U.S. Agency for International Development Independent (USAID), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of State (DOS), and the Department of Defense (DOD), according to a federal spending database.

USAID and the NEH operate independently. But the other departments report directly to the U.S. president.

The Epoch Times contacted the agencies and the White House for comment but received no response by publication time.

The Biden administration’s funding of medical research into transgenderism and the promotion of transgenderism creates an ideological dilemma, Mr. Parker wrote.

His take is that if scientists don’t know yet whether it’s harmful for people who identify as transgender to undergo sex-change surgeries or use cross-sex hormones, the federal government shouldn’t use taxpayer money to pay for those procedures.

And if current science proves transgender medical procedures help people, grants funding additional studies shouldn’t be necessary, he wrote.

“Either the science on transgenderism isn’t settled, and the Biden administration is lying [that it’s been proven to be helpful to people], or the science is settled and the Biden administration is wasting tens of millions of dollars on pointless medical research,” Mr. Parker wrote.

“I think that most reasonable people would agree that the administration is both lying and wasting taxpayer money.”

‘Diversity’ Statements Required
The term “LGBT” appears in so-called Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statements in many grant applications. And that makes it complicated to know how much federal money actually goes to LGBT activism, Mr. Parker wrote.

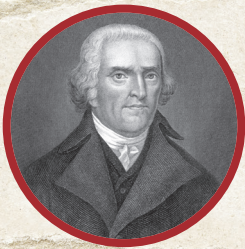
Researchers with his group spent the time to painstakingly “sift through the diversity statements to discover the rapidly increasing spending on transgender medical research, LGBT arts festivals, and LGBT activism,” Mr. Parker wrote.

DEI statements are so common now that USAID defines “marginalized groups” to include people who identify as LGBT.

“Such groups may include, but are not limited to, women and girls, persons with disabilities, LGBT people, displaced persons, migrants, Adivasi/Janajati, youth and the elderly, religious and linguistic minorities, Dalit castes, and people of diverse economic class and political opinions,” a USAID grant’s definition for “marginalized” reads.

“The Biden administration has required many organizations submitting grants to also include DEI statements alongside their applications,” Mr. Parker said.

————— (continued on page 11A)



“Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.” —Thomas Jefferson

(TRANSGENDER AGENDA MONEY from page 1A)



The article states that”...all the wealthiest donors have been funding LGB institutions before they became LGBT-oriented, and only in some instances are monies earmarked specifically for transgender issues. Some of these billionaires fund the LGBT movement through their myriad companies, multiplying their contributions many times over in ways that are also difficult to track.”

These funders often go through anonymous funding organizations such as the Tides Foundation, founded and operated by Pike. Influence Watch, a Capital Research Center Project, has this bio on Pike:

“Drummond McGavin Pike is an American businessman, philanthropist, and a career progressive activist and fundraiser. He is notable for founding a number of organizations that promote and fund progressive causes, the most notable of which was the Tides Foundation in 1976, an organization he led as CEO for 35 years, retiring in March 2011. Tides pioneered the use of donor-advised funds to advocate progressive policy change through philanthropy and later spawned the Tides Center, which serves as an incubator for new or small left-wing advocacy groups.

Drummond Pike has spent most of his professional life as a progressive activist, starting with the Youth Project in Washington, D.C., in 1970, at which he served as associate director.

The Youth Project was a project of the Center for Community Change created by activists Dick Boone and Lenny Conway and a network of center-left organizations with the aim of channeling donations from young people with inherited wealth into left-wing activism. This strategy is considered the precursor to Pike’s development of the donor-advised fund.

He was also a close ally of Wade Rathke, the founder of the now-defunct Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) labor-union aligned community organizing network, whom Pike brought on to sit on the founding Tides Foundation board of directors. Rathke was ousted from the Tides Foundation board by chairman John Powell following the 2008 revelation that his brother, Dale Rathke, had embezzled funds from ACORN.

In 2018, Pike wrote in the Chronicle of Philanthropy that he and some Tides colleagues “should share some of the blame” for the rapid growth in so-called commercial Donor Advised Fund (DAF) providers, which are held by 501(c)(3) public charities associated with for-profit investment firms such as Charles Schwab and Fidelity Investments. He goes on to say, “We borrowed a sleepy device [DAFs] deployed by community foundations to attract donors,” normalizing that model with the IRS and laying the groundwork for other DAF-based organizations.

Pike adds, “DAFs should be treated with rules mirroring those applied to private foundations: donor disclosure, the same limits on deductions for gifts of stock, and minimum annual payouts calculated on a fund-by-fund basis.”

Large corporations, philanthropists, and organizations can send enormous sums of money to the Tides Foundation, specifying how they want their donation to be used, and have the funds get to their destination anonymously. The Tides Foundation creates a legal firewall and tax shelter for foundations and funds political campaigns, often using legally dubious tactics.

These men and others, including pharmaceutical companies and the U.S. government, are sending millions of dollars to LGBT causes. From 1996-2003, overall reported global spending on LGBT was estimated at \$424 million. From 2003-2013, reported funding for transgender issues increased more than eightfold, growing at threefold the increase of LGBTQ funding overall, which quadrupled from 2003 to 2012 and by 2023 the LQBT spending was \$4.1 billion just from the federal government alone. This huge spike in funding happened at the same time transgenderism began gaining traction in American culture.

\$424 million was a lot of money back in 2013, but \$4.1 billion being spent by the US government in 2023 is insane. It is more than enough to change laws, uproot language and force new speech on the public, to censor, and to create an atmosphere of threat for those who do not comply with gender identity ideology-like the Kolstads.

A political insider who wishes to remain anonymous stated that, “Really wealthy people from Montana, and outside of Montana, are willing to spend a lot of money in our state to get policy made the way they want it. Montana has a small population so it is cheaper to get elected and get things done than in a more populous state like California. These people use their money, power and influence to get what they want, even if that means knocking out solid conservative candidates like Matt Rosendale who don’t toe the line.”

Precedence in court does not bode well for parents in this fight-especially Christian parents like the Kolstads from Glasgow, MT who are standing up for their religious beliefs. This is especially bad in light of what has been recently exposed about how Big Pharma, the medical profession and the judicial and executive branches have colluded against the people to hide, lie and distort the truth about everything from what is medically safe and necessary to who is lying or telling the truth about physical and psychological medical issues facing our population. It is also apparent when a government body seeks to seal documents, overly redact them or seeks a gag order so members of the public aren’t even allowed to tell the public what is happening.

Whether it is the safety or efficacy of COVID jabs and redefining the definition of vaccines; to lies about FBI sources being present on January 6th; to clerks and recorders destroying election material that is supposed to be retained; it seems everywhere the government is using laws to keep the public from knowing what their real motives and methods of operandi are. When government does not hold up to their end of the bargain in being transparent and honest, this leads to the public, and especially parents, making desperate moves,

Bilak adds, “Doctors are being trained in cadaver symposiums across the world in all manner of surgeries related to transgender individuals, including phalloplasty, vaginoplasty, facial feminization surgery, urethral procedures, and more. More and more American corporations are covering transgender surgeries, drugs, and other expenses. Endocrinologists seeking the fountain of youth in hormones for more than a generation, and the subsequent earnings for marketing those hormones, are still on a quest for gold.

Puberty blockers are another growing market. The plastic surgery arm of medicine is staged for an infusion of cash as well as organ transplants, especially womb transplants for men identifying as women who may want future pregnancies. These surgeries are already being practiced on animals and the first successful womb implant from a deceased female donor to another female has already been a success. Biogenetics is poised to be the investment of the future, says Rothblatt, who has headed a massive pharmaceutical corporation and is now heavily invested in biogenetics and transplants.

Transgenderism has certainly made its way into the American marketplace, so it seems important to consider the implications of this as we pass laws regarding transgender individuals’ and our civil liberties.”

Transgenderism sits square in the middle of the medical industrial complex, which is by some estimates even bigger than the military industrial complex.

Who Works to Institutionalize Transgender Ideology?
Bilak asserts, “Much more important than funds going directly to the LGBT lobby and organizations, only a fraction of which trickles down to assist people who identify as transgender, is the money invested by the men mentioned above, governments, and technology and pharmaceutical corporations to institutionalize and normalize transgenderism as a lifestyle choice. They are shaping the narrative about transgenderism and normalizing it within the culture using their funding methods.” She adds, “This can hardly be a coincidence when the very thing absolutely essential to those transitioning are pharmaceuticals and technology.?”

Her article uses the Pritzker family as a case study. She claims those funding trans organizations and normalizing transgenderism are channeling funds in the same ways and invested in the same medical infrastructure. “This can hardly be a coincidence when the very thing absolutely essential to those transitioning are pharmaceuticals and technology. It is also important to note that though the trans lobby has sewn itself to the LGB umbrella, LGB people as such are not lifelong medical patients,” she writes.

The Pritzkers are an American family of philanthropic billionaires worth approximately \$29 billion, whose fortune came through Hyatt Hotels and nursing homes. Per Bilak’s article, they now have massive investments in the medical industrial complex.

(continued on page 10A)



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(TRANSGENDER AGENDA MONEY from page 9A)

To give you some indication of the Pritzker family's reach and influence, especially as regards the transgender project and their relationship to the medical industrial complex, we need to look into key Pritzker family members such as Jennifer Pritzker. It is important to also remember transitioning individuals are medical patients for life and as Bilak puts it, "The Pritzker family are not an anomaly in their funding trajectory or investments in the medical-industrial complex."

Jennifer Pritzker

Bilak gives us the history of Jennifer Pritzker as once a family man and a decorated member of the armed forces, who now identifies as transgender. Bilak tells us how “He has made transgenderism a high note in philanthropic funding through his Tawani Foundation. He is one of the largest contributors to transgender causes and, with his family, an enormous influence in the rapid institutionalization of transgenderism.”

Bilak stresses the important of knowing where the Pritzker invest their enormous fortune. Bilak tells us, “Some of the organizations Jennifer owns and funds are especially noteworthy to examining the rapid induction of transgender ideology into medical, legal and educational institutions. Pritzker owns Squadron Capital, an acquisitions corporation, with a focus on medical technology, medical devices, and orthopedic implants, and the Tawani Foundation, a philanthropic organization with a grants focus on Gender & Human Sexuality.”

A direct reprint from Bilak's article states:

Pritzker sits on the leadership council of the Program of Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota, to which he also committed \$6.5 million over the past decade. Among many other organizations and institutions Pritzker funds are Lurie Children's Hospital, a medical center for gender non-conforming children, serving 400 children in Chicago; the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago; a chair of transgender studies at the University of Victoria (the first of its kind); and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto. He also funds the American Civil Liberties Union and his family funds Planned Parenthood, two significant organizations for institutionalizing female-erasing language and support for transgender causes. Planned Parenthood also recently decided to get into the transgender medical market.

Jennifer Pritzker funds strategically, as does his family, by giving to universities that become beholden to his ideology, whose students go on to spread gender ideology by writing pro-trans articles in medical journals and elsewhere. Jennifer's uncle and aunt, John and Lisa Pritzker, gave \$25 million to the University of California at San Francisco for a center of children's psychiatry. Jennifer likewise funds hospitals and medical schools where the alumni go on to create transgender specialties and LGBT medical centers, even though lesbians, gays, and bisexuals don't need specialized medical services.

Here are just several current activities of Pritzker-funded medical school alumni and recipients of Pritzker money.

- James Hekman founded the LGBT medical care center in Lakewood Ohio.
- David T. Rubin sits on the advisory board of Accordant/ CVS Caremark, the largest pharmaceutical chain in the United States. CVS acquired Target department stores' pharmacies in 2015. Target, of course, is the site of a major social controversy about unisex bathrooms and is a corporate funder of the trans-pushing Human Rights Campaign activist group.
- Loren Schecter is the author of the first surgical atlas for transgender surgery, author of pro-trans journals, was awarded for legal advocacy of transgenders, performs reconstructive surgeries, and is director of transfeminine conferences sponsored by World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH). He also performs reconstructive surgeries at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

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- Schecter is also the “surgeons only sessions chair” on the Scientific Program Committee of the newly formed United States arm of WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health), USPATH, holding conferences in Los Angeles for surgeons in transgender surgeries.
- Robert Garofalo, a gay man, is director of the St. Lurie children’s gender clinic, head of the hospital’s division of adolescent medicine, and a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University, which J.B. Pritzker (whom we will meet later) funds.
- Benjamin N. Breyer is chief of urology at San Francisco General Hospital and a professor at the University of California at San Francisco, specializing in transgender surgery.
- Nicholas Matte teaches at the Mark Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto, with a specialty in queer studies. Jennifer Pritzker also funds the Bonham Centre. Matte lectures around the country on transgender issues, and espouses the idea that we are not a sexually dimorphic species.
- Mark Hyman is the Pritzker Foundation Chair in functional medicine at the Cleveland Clinic and director of the Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine. Cleveland Clinic conducted the United States’ first uterus transplant.
- Baylor College of Medicine is on the receiving end of the Pritzker School of Medicine’s “pipeline programs” for people studying to be doctors. Baylor is where the nation’s first child was born from a uterus transplant as part of an experimental program funding the procedure for 10 women in order to develop uterus transplants ultimately health insurance and taxpayers will pay for rather than being relegated to elective infertility treatment.

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Jennifer Pritzker has also helped normalize transgender individuals in the military with a \$1.35 million grant to the Palm Center, a University of California, Santa Barbara-based LGBT think tank, to create research validating military transgenderism. He has also donated \$25 million to Norwich University in Vermont, a military academy and the first school to launch a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

Pritzker's funding is not confined to the United States, but reaches other countries via the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), in conferences for physicians studying transgender surgery and funding of international universities.

Bilak's article moves on to Jennifer's cousin Penny. In the article Bilak has this to say about



Penny Pritzker:

Cousin to Jennifer Pritzker, Penny Pritzker served on President Obama's Council for Jobs and Competitiveness and Economic Recovery Advisory Board. She was national co-chair of Obama for America 2012 and national finance chair of Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. To say she was influential in getting president Obama elected would be an understatement.

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As Obama's secretary of commerce, Penny Pritzker helped create the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), by facilitating an award of \$70 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the first funding of its kind. Obama made transgenderism a pet issue of his administration, holding a meeting at the White House (the first ever) for transgenderism.

The administration quietly applied the power of the executive branch to make it easier for transgender people to alter their passports, get cross-sex treatment at Veteran's Administration facilities, and access public school restrooms and sports programs based on gender identity. These are just a few of the transgender-specific policy shifts of Obama's presidency.

Soros and Gill are two other major transgender movement funders who generated millions of dollars to get Obama elected, and Stryker was one of the top five contributors to Obama's campaign. Under Obama and President George W. Bush, the federal government also funded the Tides Foundation \$82.7 million, which in turn donated \$47.2 million to LGBTQ issues over the last two decades.

Penny has funded the Harvard School of Public Health and, with her husband through their mutual foundation, The Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation, are funding early childhood initiatives as well as providing scholarships to Harvard University medical students. The Boston Children's Hospital Gender Management Services wing physicians are all affiliated with Harvard Medical School. Penny Pritzker also sat on the board at Harvard, where student life offices teach students, many of whom go on to lead U.S. institutions, that "there are more than two sexes."

Bilak does not leave out J.B. Pritzker, Jennifer's brother, who was elected in 2018 as Governor of Illinois.

Bilak writes:

Penny Pritzker's brother, J.B. Pritzker, is an American venture capitalist, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and business owner. He is co-founder of the Pritzker Group, a private investment firm that invests in digital technology and medical companies, including Clinical Innovations, which has a global presence. Clinical Innovations is one of the largest medical device companies and in 2017 acquired Brenner Medical, another significant medical group offering innovative products in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology.

We have to look at why this is framed as a civil rights issue when the main issues seem to be capital and social engineering.

J.B. provided seed funding for Matter, a startup incubator for medical technology based in Chicago. He also sits on the board of directors at his alma mater, Duke

University, where they are making advances in cryopreserving women’s ovaries.

We have to look at why this is framed as a civil rights issue when the main issues seem to be capital and social engineering.

There doesn’t seem to be a sphere of influence that is untouched by Pritzker money, from early childhood education and universities to law, medical institutions, the LGBT lobby and organizations, politics, and the military.

If they were the only ones funding the institutionalization of transgender ideology they would still be fantastically influential, but they are joined by other exceedingly wealthy, influential white men, who also have ties to the pharmaceutical and medical industries.

Pharma and Tech Giants All-In for Transgender

Along with support by pharmaceutical giants such as Janssen Therapeutics, the health foundation of a Johnson and Johnson founder, Viiv, Pfizer, Abbott Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, major technology corporations including Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Intel, Dell, and IBM are also funding the transgender project. In February 2017, Apple, Microsoft, Google, IBM, Yelp, PayPal, and 53

other mostly tech corporations signed onto an amicus brief pushing the U.S. Supreme Court to prohibit schools from keeping private facilities for students designated according to sex.

As these corporations were pushing for transgender bathrooms, they were fighting President Trump’s travel ban and immigration policies. In reporting the incidents simultaneously, CNN News made the obvious connection between the corporations’ interest in the immigration ban and commerce, quoting a legal brief signed by the companies that said, “It is inflicting significant harm on American business, innovation and growth.” It made no such equivalent connection for the corporations’ interest in transgender rights. The obvious question would be: Why do they care? The obvious answer is: money.

It behooves us all to look at what the real investment is in prioritizing a lifetime of anti-body medical treatments for a miniscule part of the population.

Melding this manufactured medical issue with civil rights frame entails the continuance and growth of the problem. Transgenderism is framed as both a medical problem, for the gender dysphoria of children who need puberty blockers and are being groomed for a lifetime of medicalization, and as a brave and original lifestyle choice for adults. Martine Rothblatt suggests we are all transhuman, that changing our bodies by removing healthy tissue and organs and ingesting cross-sex hormones over the course of a lifetime can be

likened to wearing make-up, dying our hair, or getting a tattoo. If we are all transhuman, expressing that could be a never-ending saga of body-related consumerism.

The massive medical and technological infrastructure expansion for a tiny (but growing) fraction of the population with gender dysphoria, along with the money being funneled to this project by those heavily invested in the medical and technology industries, seems to make sense only in the context of expanding markets for changing the human body. Trans activists are already clamoring for a change from “gender dysphoria” to “gender incongruence” in the next revision to the international register of mental diagnosis codes, the ICD-11. The push is on for insurance-paid hormones and surgeries for anyone who believes his or her body is in any way “incongruent” with his or her “gender identity.”

Bodily diversity appears to be the core issue, not gender dysphoria; that and unmooring people from their biology via language distortions, to normalize altering human biology. Institutionalizing transgender ideology does just this. This ideology is being promoted as a civil rights issue by wealthy, white, men with enormous influence who stand to personally benefit from their political activities.

It behooves us all to look at what the real investment is in prioritizing a lifetime of anti-body medical treatments for a miniscule part of the population, building an infrastructure for them, and institutionalizing the way we perceive ourselves as human beings, before being human becomes a quaint concept of the past. 🗿

FEDERAL GRANT GIVING from page 8A)

Who Decides Where Money Goes?

Grants that promote left-wing ideology don’t originate from a politically neutral government that decides to pass out money to left-wing activist organizations that apply for grants, Mr. Ditch said.

Rather, the trend begins with a left-leaning government that creates left-wing grant opportunities, he said.

Federal employees take the lead role by creating grant application guidelines posted on a federal database. Those show the kinds of projects they want to fund.

One U.S. grant opportunity seeks grant applicants to do work in Sri Lanka, officially known as the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The opportunity is described this way: “The project will support civil society organizations, including but not limited to human rights



The U.S. Capitol building in Washington on Sept. 30, 2023. Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

organizations, youth movements, informal groups, religious organizations, labor and trade unions, professional associations, indigenous organizations, women organizations, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) organizations, and think tanks.”

Organizations hoping to receive grant money

submit applications showing how they can fulfill the request. Department employees then review the applications and choose which organizations will receive money for proposed projects that fulfill the grant requirements.

This process gives federal employees immense power, Mr. Ditch said.

There’s no easy way to shift control of the federal grant-making machine toward political neutrality, he said.

Federal employees “are going to default toward groups that they’re more ideologically inclined toward,” Mr. Ditch said. And currently, that’s overwhelmingly in the direction of the political Left, he said.

“The solution is not trying to nudge the federal Leviathan a tenth of a degree toward the right,” Mr. Ditch said.

The solution, he said, “is to stop giving [federal employees] so much money” to give away. 🗿

(Propaganda from page 3A)

network. This secret funding, funneled through the Journalism Development Group (JDG) controlled by Sullivan, was key to the creation of the OCCRP.

Sullivan’s relationship with USAID and the US government dates back to the early 2000s, when he worked on a USAID-funded initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina to train local journalists. He later used his connections to secure funding from the US government to establish the OCCRP. The fact that such an influential journalistic network was born out of a covert US government grant raises concerns about the independence of its operations.

US govt funds investigations aimed at opponents such as Russia One of the most striking revelations of the investigation is that the US government has directed the OCCRP to focus its investigations on specific countries, including Russia and Venezuela. The OCCRP received \$2.2 million from the US to investigate Russian media in an effort dubbed ‘Balancing the Russian media sphere’.

Similarly, the organization was granted \$2.3 million to investigate corruption in Cyprus and Malta, two locations where Russian business people have significant financial interests.

By funding investigations that target certain countries, the US government has influenced the scope of the OCCRP’s reporting, ensuring that its investigations align with American geopolitical interests. The OCCRP has worked on several high-profile international investigations, including ‘Cyprus Confidential’, which exposed Russian citizens allegedly using



the island as a tax haven to bypass sanctions. These investigations are clearly in line with US foreign policy priorities.

OCCRP reports weaponized to justify US sanctions policy The OCCRP’s investigative reports have also been used by the US government to justify its foreign policy, particularly sanctions. Through the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium (GACC), a program co-financed by the US State Department, OCCRP investigations have been directly linked to judicial actions and sanctions procedures.

The US government uses the OCCRP’s findings to push for greater sanctions on individuals and entities it frames as being associated with corruption, often targeting countries such as Russia and Venezuela.

Sullivan confirmed that the OCCRP works closely with governments, including the US, to apply the findings of its investigations in

ways that support broader international policy goals. “We believe the GACC has proven to be highly successful,” Sullivan said. This program has been instrumental in lobbying for tougher anti-corruption and anti-money laundering legislation, he adds, often in countries that the US government sees as adversaries.

Propaganda tool designed to advise US foreign policy interests The revelations of the OCCRP’s close ties to the US government will fuel criticism that the organization is not simply an independent journalistic entity, but rather a tool used by the US to promote its foreign policy interests. While the OCCRP maintains that it operates independently, its reliance on US funding and its role in advancing US political goals suggests that its reporting may be subject to external influence, particularly when it comes to issues that affect US geopolitical priorities.

As one director of a South American media outlet put it, “The OCCRP makes the US seem virtuous and allows them to set the agenda of what is defined as corruption.” While the OCCRP continues to investigate corruption in many parts of the world, its close financial relationship with the US government raises significant questions about the organization’s independence and the potential for its work to be used as a tool of American foreign policy.

In conclusion, the findings from Mediapart and its partners highlight the complex and often hidden relationship between the OCCRP and the US government. Despite its protestations, the scale of its financial dependence on the US government and the influence that Washington has over its operations will hardly be ignored. 🗿



THIS AD’S FOR YOU!

If you are like me and believe in:

Stability

- A Moral Order and Moral Truths are Permanent
- Freedom, Liberty and Property are Linked

Tradition

- Supporting the Original Intent of our Constitution

Community

- Saving our Children from the Public Education System

Safety and Security

- Health Freedom
- Supporting your Local Police and Keeping them Independent
- Stopping Mass Migration
- Restoring Election Integrity
- Exposing and Eradicating Corruption and the Deep State



Montana Republican
National Committeeman



TANNER SMITH

A message from Montana Republican National Committeeman Tanner Smith

Hello fellow conservatives. I’m writing to give everyone an update on what I’ve been doing to represent YOU. We all needed a break from politics this holiday season and I hope everyone enjoyed time with their families.

The General Election is over and yes Republicans won the Presidency and other offices...but this is just the beginning of our work.

Winning elections because our Republican candidates are the lesser of the two evils isn’t sustainable. Not only because I fear the Democrats will eventually run more center left candidates like Bullock/Swietzer and this honeymoon we are on will end; but because Republicans who are the lesser of evils tend to not support our U.S. Constitution nor vote to support the Republican Platform.

Montana isn’t as Red as we think if Montanans voted Red down the ticket but did a complete 180 on an issue like CI128 that codified abortion through the date of birth in our State Constitution.



As many of you know I am not a cheerleader and I won’t bend the knee to anyone because of their label. I represent the people and the Republican Party and won’t swear allegiance to any single politician. We have a problem in Montana with “Republicans” voting and acting like Democrats and NOT upholding our party platform-the platform voted on by all the Republicans elected to county central committees across our great state.

Some of the issues facing Montanans are: the

inability to purchase a home; a growing state government with property taxes many can no longer afford-especially on fixed incomes; attacks on parental rights; attacks on water rights; and the legalization without regulation of recreational Cannabis.

Our “Republican” Governor and “Republican” majority legislature have allowed these things to happen. The Republican Party doesn’t stand for these things, so why isn’t the Republican Party standing up against them?

My message from my Gubernatorial campaign hasn’t changed. These actions are unsustainable and they hurt our Republican brand-to the point that many solid conservatives have left the party because they no longer recognize it as a reflection of their values.

Montana is not unique. Many states across our beautiful Land of the Free and Home of the Brave have encountered the same issue of politicians running as Republicans when they won’t uphold the Republican Party platform.

I will be at the National RNC meeting in D.C. on January 15-19th. My intention is to join the movement happening across many states to confront these issues in our Party. The plan is to create a mechanism to disavow folks that ride Trumps coattails, say they’re Republican and then vote against everything we as a party stand for including the MAGA agenda.

Better days are ahead for our State and Nation. Trump is in and we as a party need to ensure his legacy lives on. We do this by making our party apparatus bigger and stronger than any one person. When the folks vote Republican, they deserve Conservative Republican policies.

Faithfully serving,
Tanner Smith
MT National Committeeman 🇺🇸



The Government is the Biggest Threat to Our Republic

WRITTEN BY
Ashe in America (@asheinamerica)
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Corruption Crisis - Glendale Cherry Creek
Chronicle

On October 18, 2022, *The New York Times* shocked themselves when their Siena College poll revealed that 68% of likely US voters answered the same open-ended question the same way:

What do you see as the biggest threat to democracy?

Government Corruption — That the government is not working on behalf of the people.

Corruption is a national concern, and Americans are sobering up to the realities of unaccountable governance via public private partnerships. In Colorado, this shift in awareness is pronounced.

On October 29, 2024, during early voting, the Colorado GOP revealed the Colorado Department of State (CDoS) published the BIOS passwords for hundreds of pieces of election equipment on their public website.

According to a redacted affidavit, later revealed from Colonel Shawn Smith (USAF, Ret.), from August 8 through October 24, the BIOS passwords were exposed for 600+ individual pieces of election equipment in 63 counties. On October 24, the spreadsheet was removed from the website and replaced with an updated version without the passwords.

The October 24 date is important, because it proves that CDoS knew about the breach but failed to alert the county clerks. The clerks held the potentially exposed devices, and this breach occurred during the voting period.

In November, the Libertarian Party of Colorado unsuccessfully sued CDoS and, during that hearing, it was revealed that the passwords had actually been up since June 21, not August and that was BEFORE COLORADO's 2024 primary — and that there was true security exposure for devices in 34 counties.

But the county clerks didn't know about this until the general public did: From the Colorado GOP press release on October 29-**more than three months after the data breach!**

This was a coverup, and following the GOP press release, the crisis communications began immediately. Deputy Secretary Chris Beall (public) and Colorado County Clerks



Association Executive Director Matt Crane (private) handled the clerks, while Secretary Jena Griswold (public) shared her story with her pal Kyle Clark (private).

There was never any real threat. They were all acting out of an abundance of caution. There is no security breach.

Again, these contemporaneous assertions were later proved untrue in court and, regardless, at the time Beall, Crane, Griswold, and Clark made these assertions, CDoS could not possibly have known if there was exploitation for a very simple reason: They didn't tell the Clerks, and the Clerks had the devices.

It was just spin. Narrative. A Story.

They said it anyway. On November 1, just three days after news of the breach hit the public, Griswold claimed victory:

“All of the passwords in affected counties have been changed...every eligible voter should know their ballot will be counted as cast.”

The coverup appears to have been successful for now; but, in early October, additional news about Colorado Executive Branch corruption broke.

On December 2, *The Gateway Pundit* published a bombshell article with newly discovered emails that revealed Mesa County Treasurer Sheila Reiner working with Dominion Voting Systems in 2021. Reiner had a Dominion email address and was coordinating with the election vendor in 2021, without the knowledge or involvement of Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters.

Open Records don't cover email domains that are hosted by private companies. Dominion is the corporation that supplies Colorado with their election equipment. Tina Peters, the County Clerk who ran elections for Mesa County Colorado, didn't know Dominion had setup a private email through their email server for the Mesa County Treasurer to be able to communicate off the record

The Mesa County Treasurer was not only hiding communications from the public by using the election vendor's email domain to send and receive messages, but it begs the question of what the Treasurer, who has nothing to do with elections is even doing when sending and receiving emails through Dominion's private email servers. Hiding communications from open records exposure is an intentional choice. How could this even be allowed to have happened, and why would an elected official be doing this, let alone through a vendor that has nothing to do with the Treasurer's Office?

CSoS Griswold who for over four months posted online the BIOS passwords for over 600 machines in 63 counties, then removed Clerk and Recorder, Tina Peters, from the Clerk post for leaking her election machine BIOS password to an outside vendor in order for them to be able to write a back-up copy for the county to be able to preserve their election records-(later Tina was convicted in a state court for this password leak).

Griswold then appoints Treasurer Reiner, who was intentionally communicating via email through the Dominion email server to keep her messages private, to run the Mesa County Clerk's Office. What was Reiner trying to keep secret and who is she working for-The People of Mesa County of Dominion the election equipment vendor?

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other.”

Although this Bible passage refers to working for God or for the attainment of money, this passage is still very applicable to this situation and is extra concerning because the Treasurer's Office should have no relationship with an election company, So, what is going on here?

You can't make this up. 📌

An anti-money laundering law called the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA)

On Dec. 3, 2024, a federal district court in Texas issued a nationwide preliminary injunction preventing the federal government from requiring certain businesses to report their “beneficial owners” to the U.S. Department of the Treasury by January 1, 2025. This reporting requirement was passed by Congress in the Corporate Transparency Act, which is a law intended to help the Treasury Department target illicit financial activity. The Texas district court concluded that the CTA's reporting requirement was unconstitutional and, therefore, it issued the preliminary injunction.

Background for those of you who missed our CTA article in our fall edition, the CTA requires millions of small business owners to register with the Financial Crimes Enforcement

(continued on page 7B)



From the White House to the Church House, America is Spiritually Rotten

By Jesse Boyd

By the grace of God, I recently completed a long walk across the USA, and definitely not by the shortest or easiest route (thelongwalkusa.com). My daughter and I got our feet wet in the Atlantic off North Carolina’s Cape Hatteras in March of 2021; and just three months ago, we dipped our feet in the Pacific off the California coast.

Along an unbroken 8,118-mile route across 20 states and 251 counties, we carried a cross with an American flag in distress and prayed for our nation in these troubling times. Others joined us at different times and places, always making us a small team of peaceful Christians. About 600 of those walking miles and 10 of those counties were in Montana, a “conservative red state” with some of the best Second Amendment (2A)-affirming self-defense laws on paper in all of America.

November 12, 2022 was a brutally cold afternoon. After 5,543 miles of walking without incident, we found ourselves contemplating whether or not to call it a day on the side of an icy highway in Madison County, a deep-red county with a Republican Sheriff and where nearly 72% of voters cast a ballot for Donald Trump in the 2024 election.

Our support vehicle was legally parked at a junction off to the side, and our team of five, including my daughter and 12-year-old son, stood beside it with our Christian cross, minding our own business.

Suddenly, in the middle of what seemed like nowhere, we found ourselves the victims of a violent assault and hate crime. A burly stranger drove up screaming, “Your KIND ain’t welcome in Montana!” He then exited his pickup and crossed a road to attack me and my young son standing at my side.

In by-the-letter accordance with Montana law, I drew my sidearm in self-defense, and the attacker stopped dead in his tracks. As quickly as it had begun, the matter de-escalated. Next, I made a terrible mistake. Because I love Jesus, and was walking across America for the purpose of reasoning with folks about the spiritual problems of our nation, I foolishly put my little derringer away, thinking I could speak to this guy about our peaceful purpose.

It didn’t work. The madman punched me in the face, broke my sunglasses, tackled me to the ground, and then repeatedly pummeled me with his fists while my head was buried in the snow. As soon as I went to the ground, my daughter, the young man who is now her husband, and my ministry partner came to my aid and helped get me out from under that madman. Though three of us are highly-trained marital artists, we showed great mercy and restraint. He escaped with a bloody nose, and by God’s grace, none of us were hurt, despite my nursing a back injury sustained from a bad fall on the ice in Yellowstone National Park. After fending off this attack, three other individuals came on the scene. They mocked the name of Jesus and our cross while threatening to kill us if we didn’t leave Montana. The attacker loudly described himself as MAGA, Q-Anon, and a Trump supporter while bragging: “I know the sheriff in this county, you are going to pay.”

We fled that very dangerous scene and dialed 911 from a spot about a mile up the highway, identifying ourselves and reporting what had transpired. Despite claiming self-defense and acting in accordance with the laws of a constitutional-carry, stand-your-ground state, multiple Madison County sheriffs deputies responded like a SWAT crew.



Four of us were arrested and charged with felony assault without any investigation, and my 12-year-old son, Josiah, was forced to kneel in the snow with multiple firearms pointed at him. Josiah was handcuffed, transported to the attacker’s place of business and left unattended in a police vehicle, tampered with as a witness, and ultimately put into CPS custody until my wife could fly out from North Carolina to retrieve him.

The rest of us spent four days in different county jails, and as dash and body camera footage later leaked to the public by an anonymous whistleblower would reveal, the involved deputies referenced our attacker on a first-name basis, openly mocked our Christian faith and our walk across America, and literally conspired to prevent us from walking through their county. While the others laughed at our situation, Madison County Deputy Daniel Wyatt says: “Every one of these sons of bitches needs to go to jail ... We gotta call child protective services for the fucking kid. Come and take the goddamned kid ... The family that walks across America together gets to go to jail together.”¹

A corrupt Madison County justice of the peace, lame-duck incumbent Mark Glines, who had been ousted by the voters a week prior, spoke from his bench about being lied to the in past “by Christians” and set our bail at an outrageous \$50,000 each, and ordered us to wear expensive ankle monitors while he pontificated: “This was a crime of violence.” In truth, it was a hate crime. It was Christian persecution right here in America, furthered by good-ole-boy sheriff deputies under the authority of a Republican sheriff and by a Republican justice of the peace, all in a deep red county. Ironically, it would also be aided and abetted by conservative Montana Attorney General, Austin Knudsen, who boasts about paying more than lip service to the 2A.

For nearly two years, we fought the unjust and false charges brought against us for simply acting to defend ourselves from an unprovoked and violent hate crime in the middle of nowhere Montana. All the while, the story got little to no media attention.

We turned down multiple slap-on-the-wrist plea offers from AG Knudsen, who hung his entire case on a game of semantics: whether or not “draw or present a weapon,” as allowed by Montana law in response to a threat of bodily harm, actually means someone can “point” a weapon. This “conservative” politician actually attempted to induce 5th District Judge Luke Berger, appointed by Democrat Governor Steve Bullock, to undo Montana’s landmark 2009 HB 228 self-defense statute, one that cements a person’s right to possess or use a firearm for self-defense without fear of prosecution for doing so.

As the saga droned on for many months, we maintained, “No pleas, no deals, to the end.” We refused to parley with the wicked men responsible for what was described in an official court filing as “the most extreme case of selective prosecution motivated by religious discrimination in the history of Montana.”

In May of 2023, our long walk resumed from the very spot it was sabotaged. On September 19, 2024, all unjust charges against all the others in our group were suddenly dismissed. On October 4th, Judge Luke Berger, appointed by a liberal Democrat governor, issued a righteous ruling that actually strengthens and reinforces the very self-defense statute that AG Knudsen was trying to dilute but charges against me were still pending.

Less than a week later, all of us, the victims of the Madison County Montana hate crime arrived at the Pacific waters, completing the work I had committed to the Lord more than three years prior. Less than two weeks after that, the unjust charge against me was finally dismissed. The Madison County Sheriff’s department returned my firearm, the cross, and the upside-down American flag they seized from us in November of 2022, and while doing so, a deputy was caught on camera agreeing that his department had screwed up.

Such is the kind of unconstitutional trampling of civil rights and law-fare one would expect to find these days in blue states or liberal cities, but not in rural Montana. How can this be?

At the turn of the 20th Century, the United States was basking in the glow of its economic prosperity and national glory. The dollar was backed by gold; our country was feared and respected by the nations of the world; and a Republican President with a reputation for honesty, integrity, humility, and a stalwart Christian faith had just secured a second term. Following a bloody brother-war and the unconstitutional tyranny of Reconstruction, America was truly great again. President McKinley’s running mate in 1900 was Teddy Roosevelt, and six months following his 1901 inauguration as vice president of the United States, he delivered a speech at the Minnesota State Fair, an event showcasing the great glory and prosperity of America. It was Labor Day, a Monday, and Roosevelt used the occasion to sound a solemn alarm:

“No prosperity and no glory can save a nation that is rotten at heart.”

On Friday of that same week, at another huge exposition showcasing America’s prosperity in Buffalo, NY, President McKinley was shot by a madman, proving Roosevelt’s point. On September 14th, McKinley died and Teddy became, at that time, the youngest man ever to serve as President of the United States.

Teddy Roosevelt’s alarm at the turn of the 20th Century, in fact, echoed alarms sounded by two former presidents around the turn of the 18th Century. John Adams warned, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Thomas Jefferson elaborated: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath.”

To see what these men saw, and to understand how such a thing could happen in Madison County, you have to take off your political glasses. Matters of the heart are moral and spiritual matters. Rottenness of heart is a tremendous spiritual problem, and the spiritual problems of a nation founded and established in the fear of God cannot be fixed with political or economic solutions, and certainly not by elections.

When the moral fabric of American society is torn, the Constitution is little more than words on parchment, and all segments of society, including rural red counties, become tainted. Once spiritual rot sets into the heart of a nation, the entire culture becomes a polluted and poisonous well. Everyone who drinks from it gets sick—Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives in blue states and red states.

1 All of this footage has been accessible for many months online via multiple social media platforms (e.g. tinyurl.com/longwalkusa; <https://youtu.be/GI93ojrCX9M?si=nItVoJxG5QKXAhtw>)

My maternal English ancestors came to tidewater Virginia and North Carolina not long after the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, sailing to these shores to worship God freely, believing liberty to be a blessing from His Hand. They settled in an area profoundly affected in the mid-1700s by America's First Great Spiritual Awakening. Some crossed the icy Delaware with George Washington on Christmas Day in 1776; and others marched with General Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia, eyewitnesses to the Third Great Spiritual Awakening spreading through the Confederate Camps.

My paternal Scotch-Irish forebears settled in Western Kentucky and witnessed America's Second Great Spiritual Awakening. Some later served as Baptist missionaries when Mississippi and Louisiana were considered dangerous frontier; and my great grandfather preached Christ in the trenches during the First World War. With the Psalmist, I can truly say: "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage" (Psalm 16:6). All the more, Roosevelt's 1901 alarm strikes a personal chord, and like Jefferson of old: "Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

In March of 2021, I prayerfully decided to go for a walk, from sea to shining sea, and to cry out to God for this land while sounding an alarm in the spirit of a watchman upon a wall:

AMERICA HAS A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM, AND SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS CANNOT BE FIXED WITH POLITICS.

Let's face it: Long have we Americans provoked Almighty God to anger with our sin, and our chief export to the nations nowadays is iniquity. We have kicked God and the Lord Jesus Christ out of everything. We have canceled the same Ten Commandments our Founding Fathers deemed essential to national security. We butcher our unborn children (60+ million since 1973). We teach our little boys to be little girls. We celebrate all forms of sexual perversion. Today, America is where the love of money is indeed the root of all evil, where men are cowards and the family is assailed, where dummies govern, and where the liberties that our fathers bled and died to secure are hastily cast aside in the name of "health & safety." We are indeed a nation rotten at heart, and no amount of glory or prosperity can save us. Moreover, God is just, and His justice cannot sleep forever. We desperately need spiritual awakening in our streets and revival in our local churches.

Our walking route was not limited to roads. You name it, we walked it or we ran into it. Along the way, we also ran into a lot of people—folks of many different ethnic,



economic, political, and religious flavors. I found myself repeating Roosevelt's 1901 warning, his exact words, countless times to countless individuals. I'll go ahead and warn you. What I am about to report from those interactions might throw your right/left political paradigm into a tailspin:

Our best and most fruitful leg of the journey turned out to be the 1,500 miles across Washington, Oregon, and California—the very liberal Pacific Northwest. The most dangerous place proved to be in a "MAGA" corner of Montana. Two of the friendliest of more than 3,600 encounters with strangers proved to be liberal Democrats sitting on their front porches, one near the starting line with a Biden sign in the front yard, and one near the finish line with a Harris sign in his front yard. Both offered us refreshment and listened with intent as we sounded Roosevelt's alarm, asking questions and gladly receiving a Gospel tract from our hand. The California liberal at the end even asked if we had ever been attacked along our journey for carrying that cross. When we informed him about Madison County, he profusely apologized "for what Montana did to you." Five times along the way, we were told: "You are not welcome here." Once it was a liberal hater. The other four times, it was those claiming to be Trump supporters. Sheer profundity!



You see, it's not as simple as right/left or red/blue. Take off your political glasses and stomp them in the ground. America's problems are spiritual, and spiritual problems can't be fixed with political solutions. In William McKinley's first inaugural address, more than four years before his assassination, he said something we all would do well to remember at the beginning of a second Trump Presidency:

"There is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers ... who will not forsake us as long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in His footsteps."

Teddy Roosevelt's 1901 alarm was part of the same speech best remembered something else he said, a phrase often divorced from its original context: Because prosperity and glory cannot save a nation rotten at heart, the righteous must: "WALK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK."

As a Bible-believing Christian and a law-abiding citizen who fears God and loves his country, I maintain without apology that America is spiritually rotten, from the White House to the Church House. We need to humble ourselves, repent, and return to the God of our Founding Fathers. It's either back to the Bible, what Andrew Jackson described as "the Rock upon which our Republic rests," or it's back to the jungle! We must look to Jesus for help, remembering as Patrick Henry once affirmed: "This great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

I'll keep walking softly in these times, but I will carry a big stick, not kool-aid for Donald Trump, the Republican Party, or political conservatism. That big stick is a resounding alarm:

"No prosperity and no glory can save a nation that is rotten at heart."

As for the Madison County hate crime, all involved must be held accountable to insure that such trampling of civil rights never happens again to anyone in Montana. Perhaps one of the best forms of that accountability involves bringing back a citizen grand jury. As our two-year battle unfolded, I was shocked to learn that my constitutional right to presentment of evidence before a grand jury was non-existent in Montana. In my home state of North Carolina, every single felony charge goes before a grand jury to determine whether or not there is enough evidence to prosecute. Back home, the charges against us would have been thrown out quickly, and we never would have been indicted.

In Montana, however, law enforcement officers or prosecutors can claim "probable cause" for any reason without any check-and-balance evaluation of their "evidence" short of a trial. Hence, the intimidation factor is strong, and more than 90% of criminal cases in Montana are settled through plea deals due to the cost of a trial. That not's justice, neither is it safe for a law-abiding citizenry in a nation rotten at heart.

I started my long walk near the beginning of the hopelessly corrupt Biden Administration. I sounded Teddy Roosevelt's alarm on the highways and byways throughout. Here at the beginning of a new Trump Administration, I'll keep sounding that alarm. America is in big trouble with God! We must humble ourselves and repent. None of that changed with a favorable election.

The Lord may have indeed meted out great mercy by its outcome, but to whom much is given, much is required.

More than a century ago, Roosevelt was right, and we would do well to remember it moving forward. No rebounding economy or second Trump Administration can save our nation. Spiritual problems necessitate Holy Ghost revival in our churches and spiritual awakening in our streets. Without these, 2024 election results ultimately won't matter.

Apart from Almighty God, humility before Him as a people, and national repentance, Americans vexed and angry over a blue tyranny might just be foolish enough to replace it with a red tyranny. And historically, those prove to be much worse and much more dangerous. Look no further than Nazi Germany.

(continued on page 4B)

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Border War: Sheep Industry Belly-up

The steady decline of independent, family-operated cattle and sheep farms in the United States demands our attention to revitalize this cornerstone of our nation’s economy and heritage.

COMMENTARY BY
Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA

A major contributor to the ongoing contraction of America’s independent, family-scale cattle and sheep farms and ranches can be traced back to the early 90s. It was in 1994 that America deliberately kowtowed to the global elites and struck out blindly on a journey to see how long it would take before the most efficient and productive food production system the world has ever known is rendered unrecognizable. That production system, of course, was America’s widely dispersed family farm and ranch system of agriculture.

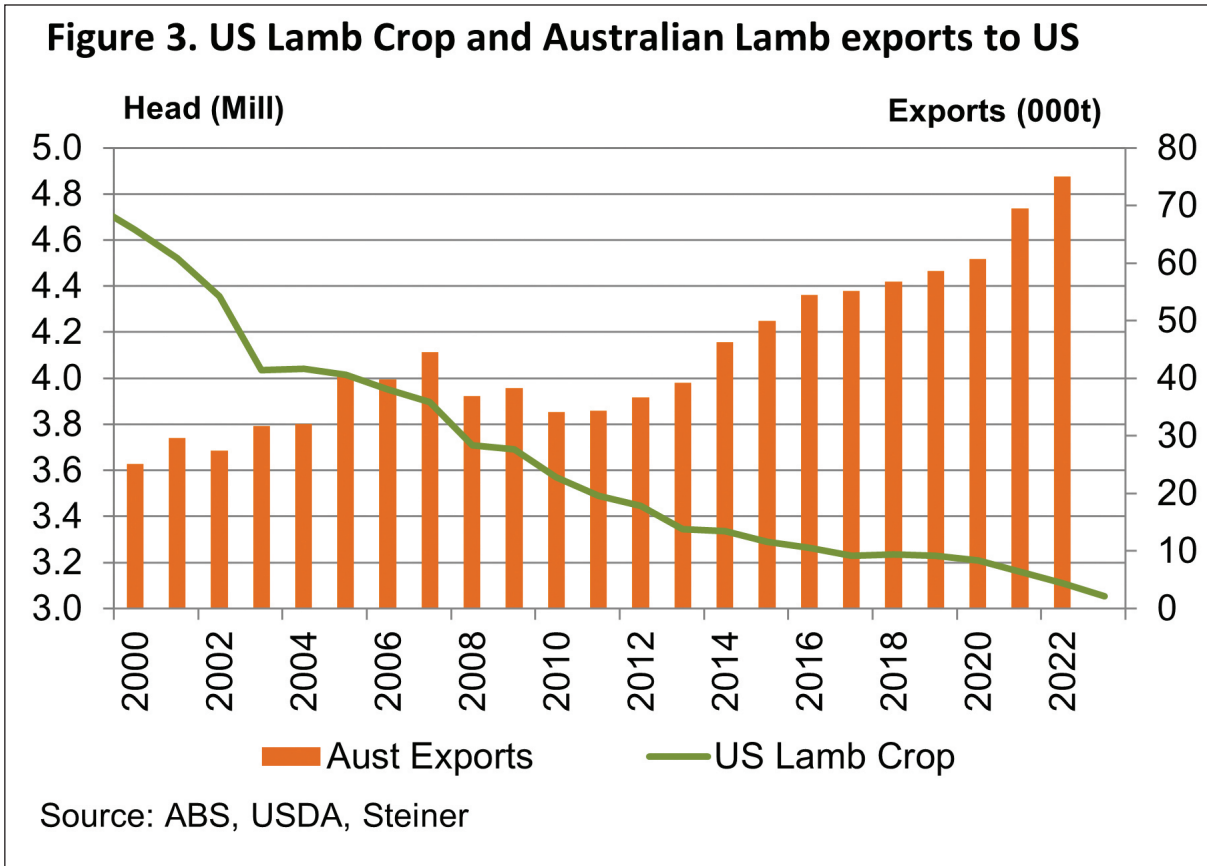
Globalism was an effective, though sinister process devised by global elites, and its adverse effect could be described as death by a thousand cuts because it was implemented incrementally.

First was the elimination of tariffs on imported commodities, which meant the competitive advantage flowed to whichever nations had lower wages, weaker environmental standards, weaker production standards, and weaker currencies.

Next was the surrendering of our national sovereignty to an international tribunal consisting of unelected and unappointed global officials who could literally cause the United States to abandon Congress’ constitutionally passed laws. This happened just a year after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was passed as it was 1995 when the U.S. agreed to be overwatched by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Then came the unthinkable, and even today many people refuse to believe this really happened. Admittedly, it sounds far-fetched to think that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would systematically relax our U.S. food safety standards for no other reason than to help facilitate more and more imports into the United States. But that’s exactly what happened.

It was right after entering NAFTA that the USDA finalized a rule to relax our requirements for foreign meat inspection systems. Since 1995, the U.S. no longer requires foreign meat inspection systems to be “at least equal to” the United States meat inspection system. Now foreign inspection systems need only be close to our U.S. system, under a relaxed equivalency standard. Two years later, in 1997, the U.S. lifted its restrictions on countries with ongoing



disease outbreaks under what is called “regionalization.” Under this scheme, foreign countries with ongoing disease problems can carve out regions within their boundaries where the dangerous disease has not yet been detected and it can export meat to the United States sourced from these carved-out regions.

And then a few years later, in 2004, the U.S. concluded that it wasn’t fair to foreign countries for the U.S. to continue conducting monthly on-site inspections of foreign meat packing plants that export meat to the U.S. So, monthly inspections of foreign meat packing plants have ceased and the U.S. is now conducting only periodic inspections.

And then remember when the USDA assured Americans that the U.S. food supply was safe because the U.S. prohibited the importation of beef and beef products anywhere that BSE or mad cow disease was known to exist. Well, that too was relaxed in 2005 even while Canada and other countries that export beef to the United States were continuing to experience outbreaks of the classical form of BSE.

So globalism means this to our domestic food production and food safety: U.S. cattle and sheep farmers and ranchers are forced to compete on an unlevel playing field, with the advantage going to countries that don’t have to comply with America’s economic and environmental cost structures.

And it means that the U.S. can no longer maintain its more stringent food safety, food inspection, and disease mitigation standards that the United States deemed reasonable and necessary right up to and until it fell under the globalists’ spell. Globalism, as exemplified by NAFTA, was an abject failure on its economic, environmental, food safety, and disease protection fronts.

But wait a minute! Wasn’t NAFTA renegotiated to become what is now the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA? Indeed, some of it was, but not the provisions impacting cattle and sheep producers. Today’s USMCA provisions for American cattle and sheep farmers and ranchers were unchanged during the NAFTA renegotiation process.

And that means the dismantling of our widely dispersed and independent family-scale farm and ranch system of agriculture that began under NAFTA continues through today.

So, urge your members of Congress to reverse the failed NAFTA and USMCA. If you’re looking for a place to start, tell them to pass mandatory country of origin labeling for beef (MCOOL) so consumers can at least choose under what countries’ food safety system they want their beef and lamb produced. 🇺🇸


(ROTTEN from page 3B)

Mark these words of an obscure walking preacher from North Carolina: No red wave will have any lasting benefit as long as America continues to collectively stick its middle finger in the face of our Founding Fathers’ God, daring Him to act! No glory or economic prosperity can save our nation. In fact, hypocritical Christless conservatism is just as dangerous to a free people as woke godless liberalism.

And as the French statesman, Alexis de Tocqueville, long ago remarked:

“America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” Let’s not work to make America great again. Let’s make her good and God-fearing again! Such is my understanding of true conservatism, genuine American patriotism.

As for Madison County, stay tuned. I’ll be back, walking softly and carrying a big stick. For more information on the Madison County Hate Crime, visit thelongwalkusa.com. 🇺🇸



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WHY?





to sound an alarm

America is in **BIG TROUBLE** with God

More than 100 years ago, and 4 days before the assassination of President William McKinley, Vice President Teddy Roosevelt forewarned:
"No prosperity and no glory can save a nation that is rotten at heart." We should have listened. God save the USA!

thelongwalkUSA.com | @zerayim 📷

Christmas 2024 Looked a Lot Different to People in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene

January 24th marks the fourth month anniversary Helene crippled major parts of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Homes and entire towns were flattened, slammed by mudslides and simply washed away, leaving absolute and total destruction behind. it was ten days before FEMA had any presence in the area, and then the absolute ineptness of our federal government was on full display. Hundreds of people whose homes were destroyed are still living in campers and tents amid cold temperatures. As a long hard winter sets in, many residents are still struggling to gain some forward momentum.

Early December delivered snow and biting cold temperatures. And recovery efforts have slowed to a snail's pace in most of the heaviest affected areas. We reached out to FEMA, and as of Thanksgiving FEMA had only delivered 13 mobile homes for all of western North Carolina. By the time of this printing it is just above 50 delivered for all of western North Carolina.

One video, taken by a resident in Asheville, North Carolina, showed a single FEMA truck in the rear of a parking lot and this person interviewed the FEMA employees there. One man had a single sheet of paper with instructions for people as to how to obtain aid. Not copies to hand out — just one piece of paper that people were supposed to take photos of with their cell phones, and then apply for aid from FEMA via the internet.



First of all, those survivors (if they could even FIND FEMA in the back of this parking lot) were left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. They had no cell phones; not even a pen or a piece of paper. And then, with no electricity, cell phone or internet service, how did FEMA expect people to “apply” for their aid? And of course, the “aid” was supposed to be \$750 per person. (I guess, perhaps due to “inflation,” they increased that from the \$700 the victims of the fires in Lahaina were to receive last year). However, as happened in Lahaina, Hawaii very few received even that amount of money... there was always a reason why they didn’t qualify.

One person, who had lost her home — and her family — was told she was only eligible for a one-time \$300 payment to help with immediate needs. And early on in this debacle, FEMA announced it was broke — no more money left in the hurricane relief fund, because the money had been spent helping illegal migrants. Incidentally, that same week, our government sent another enormous check to Ukraine. They’d like us to forget that, but they absolutely did make that announcement. Congress quickly allocated more funds for disaster relief. 🇺🇸

HURRICANE HELENE

Montana can Make a Difference for our Fellow Americans Still Hurting in NW NC by:

Making a Tax Deductible Donation to Montana Concerned Citizens Foundation Fund (MCCFF).

Appalachia needs help. This is real.

Here are the latest numbers from the FEMA website which was last checked on Christmas Day but per FEMA hasn’t been updated since Oct 17, 2024: FEMA has spent \$102 million dollars in North Carolina. They’ve registered more than 5,000 survivors and six Disaster Recovery Centers have served more than 2,500 people. They also claim over 14,000 home inspections.

These numbers may sound large, but it’s a mere drop in the bucket compared to the overwhelming need. I understand logistics and trying to reach people where there are no longer any roadways, bridges or other infrastructure. But the big question on the ground, from everyone I’ve spoken with there is, “where is FEMA?” They appear to be very hard to find.

Meanwhile, Christian ministries, other organizations and individuals have stepped up to help. People helping people, directly, without government involvement seems to be much more effective than the federal or state government. The current need now is for shelter, as thousands continue to live in tents, and winter is here. Once again, individuals are coming forward to build temporary shelters with heat and electricity for families who have nothing. But the need is enormous, and it appears FEMA is just endless “red tape.” Countless thousands have lost everything, including their loved ones, who will never be found. One cannot comprehend the sheer devastation of this disaster unless you see it with your own eyes.

Please note that Amish and others have built tiny homes for survivors to keep warm and safe over the winter as temperatures in the mountains drop to below freezing. Dec 11, the North

Carolina State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor announced the release of emergency rules aimed at aiding Hurricane Helene survivors to utilize temporary housing situations; however, “The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) requires all homes built with electrical must be built with permits and be inspected to be approved for use. As a result, despite there being no alternative shelters, there have been stories of families ordered to leave their tiny homes because they have not been inspected, failed an inspection or were built without permits. This means families have been told to endure the elements in the great outdoors, in freezing temperatures, as a “safer” alternative then to stay in a tiny home that has not been inspected, failed an inspection or was not permitted correctly. The emphasis is on the lack of alternative shelters for these survivors and their families.

Additionally, the mud that now covers everything is highly toxic, contaminated with “forever chemicals”

that have been stirred into the mix from chemical plants and factories that were destroyed. Some have called it “East Palestine, Ohio “times” a thousand.” Cadaver dogs, and horses used to reach those trapped in the mountains are dying from the poisonous mud. One person described how her rubber boots were dissolving in the mud because of the toxic sludge. The water is unsafe. People are suffering beyond belief and will soon be freezing to death. This is in the United States of America. Appalachia needs help. This is real.

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To Protect and Serve, but to Protect and Serve Whom?

By Jim Mundorf-Lonesome Lands, Reprinted with permission

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Ask most Americans and they will tell you that laws are supposed to be enforced and that local law enforcement is there to protect and serve the people of their community. But the reality is that law enforcement today is more about protecting and serving themselves and the government than it is the individual freedoms of the people who elected them. Local law enforcement isn't supposed to play favorites or selectively enforce the law, or, even worse, make up their own laws because they don't like someone.

That's what makes what happened to the Peermans in Flathead County, Montana so alarming. Montana, Big Sky country, is where most of the rest of the country imagines is ground zero for the "land of the free." But Brandi Peerman and her family were being bullied by their neighbors and local law enforcement because they have two livestock guardian dogs who do what they were bred to do-bark.

Brandi, her four children, and her husband, moved from California to Whitefish, Montana in 2017. They bought a 16-acre property known as Peerman Family Farm just outside the city limits to take up farming; and opened a farm-to-table restaurant called The Farmhouse Inn and Kitchen.

They also home schooled their children and kept goats, sheep, pigs, cows, chickens and raised other agricultural items on their farm. The farm had ¼ mile of the Stillwater River running through it so it attracted plenty of wildlife, including a herd of elk, grizzlies, and mountain lions.

There was always a significant concern about predators in their area. Accordingly, the Peerman's owned two Caucasian Ovsharkas,



a livestock guardian dog breed that has been kept by farmers and ranchers for centuries; specifically, to protect their livestock. Kodiak and Elsa, the Peerman's two Caucasian Ovcharkas, kept the bears, big cats, and coyotes away from the Peerman's flocks. They also had a Labrador Retriever named Angus who apparently wasn't much of a barker and not an issue in this case.

Unfortunately, the Peermans' had a neighbor who complained about Kodiak and Elsa's barking and an animal control officer (part of the sheriff's department in Flathead County) showed up at their door and gave them a citation. The problem is in Montana there is a state law 7-23-2110, that says livestock guardian dogs are exempt from local barking dog ordinances:

"The governing body of a county may, by adoption of an ordinance that substantially complies with 7-5-103 through 7-5-107, regulate barking dogs. An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section may not apply to a dog that is owned, kept, or harbored as part of the business of a licensed veterinarian, animal boarding facility, or agricultural or livestock operation."

Flathead County also has an ordinance that says livestock guardian dogs are exempt from barking dog ordinances. These dogs are doing their job to protect animals on the farm – an agricultural business. Barking is part of their

job. The Peerman's livelihood depended on successfully raising their animals without predators killing them. So, how is it that a local animal control officer – part of the county sheriff's department – issued them a citation for barking dogs?

When Brandi spoke to someone at the Flathead County Sheriff's Department, she was told, *"If enough people complain then there has to be an exception to the laws."* She was told that if her neighbor continues to complain, they will continue to cite her family for barking dogs.

Animal control and the sheriff's department are well aware of what the state and county laws say about livestock guardian dogs being exempt from barking dog laws. They were simply ignoring the law.

According to Brandi, she has heard from other farmers in the area who say that they have also been pressured into giving up their livestock guardian dogs despite the laws that protect them in Montana. Farmer's from around the state and country were relying on the precedent from the Peerman's case to help them in their cases. It seemed agricultural operations, across the state and country, with guardian livestock dogs, were facing similar issues with their neighbors.

The Peerman's attorney was out of town, so they had to go to court with a substitute attorney. When Brandi met with this attorney and started listing her constitutional rights and how Montana law protected them, her alarmed attorney advised that if they went into court talking about their constitutional rights, the judge would think they were crazy and they would lose the case.

The Peermans were told they either had to pay upwards of \$10,000 in legal fees to fight the case or pay \$35, plead guilty – and give up their livestock guardian dogs. The Peerman's

(continued on page 7B)

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(To Protect and Serve from page 6B)

were not only disappointed in this advice, but they also knew they were fighting for more than just their barking dogs. They lost the first round to have the case dismissed and fired that attorney. The judge assigned to the trial, did not appreciate dogs in general and ignored the state and county laws, and ordered a trial date.

The Peermans knew they had the resources to fight-something most native Montanans don't have. They found a new attorney, and when their trial date arrived, their neighbor who lodged the complaint didn't even bother to show up for the trial. The Peerman's won their case, and got the county prosecutor to agree that there was no violation of the law which set a precedent that helped livestock dog owners across the country.

However, winning the case was not the end of the Peerman's problems. Those neighbors who couldn't be bothered to show up for the trail, continued to harass the Peermans. When the Peermans would be away from home, the

neighbors would trespass onto their property and steal livestock from their barn. When the Peermans called the sheriff, he said he wasn't going to get involved and refused to investigate or press charges.

What the Peermans want people to understand is that law enforcement in Montana, and essentially around the country, has the discretion to enforce the law or ignore it when they deem it in their best interest to do so, not in what is in the best interest of those involved or the community at large. In other words, the Peermans knew they were up against the Good Old Boys' Clubs, and being newcomers from the "Communist State of California," the locals had it out for the Peermans and were using law enforcement to harass them and then law enforcement was selectively choosing when they would enforce the law.

"I'm the fighter of fighters," Brandi said referring to her battles within the justice system. "What I learned is the cards are stacked

against you; especially if you aren't a local. The problem has so little to do with justice. You may be right, but that doesn't matter; especially in Montana. The people of Montana don't realize they have lost ground-they have lost their rights. Our family spent a lot of money fighting for what is right and although we won in court, we lost locally. The whole process was a bad experience in the 'injustice' system. It is more about who you know, not who is right and what is fair and just. You can be right all day long and it doesn't matter because law enforcement and the courts will do what they want."

Even 6 years later, after winning her case that helped Montana farmers and ranchers across the state, Brandi feels Montanans are judgmental. "I moved here for freedoms I didn't have in California. Freedoms I was willing to fight for. When you come from somewhere where you don't have the rights afforded as you do in Montana, you fight for them."

(continued on page 11B)

(Corporate Transparency Act from page 1B)

Network, or FinCEN, by mid-January, or potentially pay fines of up to \$10,000.

The registration rule had been on hold since Dec. 3, when a federal court in Texas issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting its enforcement. But on December 23, 2024 the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the order, ruling that the decision is in the "public's urgent interest in combating financial crime and protecting our country's national security."

On Dec. 26, 2024, the Fifth Circuit appellate court vacated its order reinstating the nationwide injunction, meaning for now, you do not need to report.

The CTA requires that the owners and part-owners of an estimated 32.6 million small businesses must register personal information with FinCEN, such as a photo ID and home address, by Jan. 1. With the court ruling that enforcement can proceed, many small business owners may scramble to register ahead of deadline, although FinCEN said on Monday that it is extending the deadline until Jan. 13 due to the late December court ruling.

Earlier in 2024 we reported on the Corporate Transparency Act, passed by Congress in 2021. It is a piece of bipartisan legislation that became effective on January 1, 2024. The new federal rule now requires more than 32 million small businesses nationwide to file ownership information to an agency in the U.S. Treasury Department or face potential penalties, however, many of these businesses don't know about it, reported The Wall Street Journal.

The CTA requires state or tribal registered corporations or limited liability companies with under 20 employees whose gross receipts are under \$5 million to report private, sensitive information on "beneficiary owners" to the federal government, which will purportedly be stored in a secure government database.

The original regulation requires foreign entities registered to do business in the United States, as well as, state or tribal registered corporations or limited liability companies, with under 20



employees whose gross receipts are under \$5 million, to submit beneficial ownership information (BOI) reports to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

BOI information includes the legal name, birth date, current address and copy of a governmental id for each person that originally started the business and for all current beneficial owners. Yes, the original founder of the company who may be long dead. You also need the country and or state of formation for the company, addresses where it conducts business and other company structure information. For small businesses, these reporting requirements require a significant amount of complex paperwork that is burdensome to meet. Not only that, but now we have yet another repository of sensitive material for identity theft hacking.

The legislation was passed with hopes it will curtail the use of anonymous shell companies and track the flow of illicit money, stated the Wall Street Journal. The law creates a beneficial ownership database and reporting requirements for companies to file ownership information to FinCEN, similar to existing requirements in the U.K. and the European Union.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the anti-money-laundering bureau of the Treasury Department, says it has been working hard to inform those affected by the new law, spreading the word through social media and asking other government agencies to help. But small-business advocates say more needs to be done.

"As we talk to small businesses, there is a great lack of awareness on this," said Todd

McCracken, president of the National Small Business Association. The advocacy group in 2022 filed a lawsuit challenging the law.

Entities created in 2024 have 90 days to file after they initially register, making early April the first possible deadline, while companies created before this year have one year to file their report, according to FinCEN. The report includes identifying information about who directly or indirectly owns or controls the company, including names, addresses, and identification documents.

In *Top Copy Shop v. Garland*, plaintiffs alleged the CTA represents an unconstitutional expansion of federal power, threatens privacy and associational interests, and violates individual rights. The Court agreed with the plaintiffs, finding they were likely to prevail on their argument that the CTA exceeded Congress' enumerated powers.

Other organizations involved in the fight include R-CALF (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund). On July 29, 2024, R-CALF USA, the People Restored, Crofter Market, Utah OSR Land Cooperative, and several Utah-based individuals filed a joint lawsuit in the U.S District Court for the District of Utah against the U.S. Department of the Treasury and others, seeking a declaration from the court that would repeal the law.

In mid-December, a hearing was held in the Utah case. Following courts across the country that are also reviewing challenges against the law; as a result of the Texas injunction and pending the new presidential administration, the Utah court issued a 90-day stay.

R-CALF USA and its fellow plaintiffs' case differs from the Texas case as it argues additional constitutional violations. Both cases seek to repeal the CTA.

In addition to litigation pushback, in Congress, the Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act (H.R.8147 and S.4297) seeks to repeal the CTA. With 100 cosponsors in the House and 17 in the Senate, R-CALF USA encourages swift passage of the legislation.

Stay Tuned.... 📻



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Money Laundering

FEA Press Release June 18, 2024
Washington - The Justice Department announced a 10-count superseding indictment charging Los Angeles-based associates of Mexico’s Sinaloa drug cartel with conspiring with money-laundering groups linked to Chinese underground banking to launder drug trafficking proceeds. During the conspiracy, more than \$50 million in drug proceeds flowed between the Sinaloa Cartel associates and Chinese underground money exchanges.

Following close coordination with the Justice Department, Chinese and Mexican law enforcement informed United States authorities that those countries recently arrested fugitives named in the superseding indictment who fled the United States after they were initially charged last year.

The multi-year investigation into this conspiracy—dubbed “Operation Fortune Runner”—resulted in a superseding indictment returned on April 4, 2021 and unsealed on June 17, 2024 charging a total of 24 defendants with one count of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine, one count of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments, and one count of conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business.

The superseding indictment alleges that a Sinaloa Cartel-linked money laundering network collected and, with help from a San Gabriel Valley, California-based money transmitting group with links to Chinese underground banking, processed large amounts of drug proceeds in U.S. currency in the Los Angeles area. They then allegedly concealed their drug trafficking proceeds and made the proceeds generated in the United States accessible to cartel members in Mexico and elsewhere.

Lead defendant Edgar Joel Martinez-Reyes, 45, of East Los Angeles, and others allegedly used a variety of methods to hide the money’s source, including trade-based money laundering, “structuring” assets to avoid federal financial reporting requirements, and the purchase of cryptocurrency.

“Dangerous drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine are destroying people’s lives but drug traffickers only care about their profits,” said U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada for the Central District of California. “To protect our community, therefore, it is essential that we go after the sophisticated, international criminal syndicates that launder the drug money. As this indictment and our international actions show, we will be dogged in our pursuit of all those who facilitate destruction in our country and make sure they are held accountable for their actions.”

“Relentless greed, the pursuit of money, is what drives the Mexican drug cartels that are responsible for the worst drug crisis in American history,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “This DEA investigation uncovered a partnership between Sinaloa Cartel associates and a Chinese criminal syndicate operating in Los Angeles and China to launder drug money. Laundering drug money gives the Sinaloa Cartel the means to produce and import their deadly poison into the United States. DEA’s top operational priority is to save American lives by defeating the cartels and those that support their operations. This investigation is the latest example, and there is more to come.”



“Drug traffickers generate immense amounts of cash through their illicit operations. This case is a prime example of Chinese money launderers working hand in hand with drug traffickers to try to legitimize profits generated by drug activities,” said Chief Guy Ficco of IRS Criminal Investigation. “We have made it a priority to identify, disrupt, and dismantle any money launderers working with drug cartels and we are committed to our partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to combat drug cartels and those who assist them in laundering drug proceeds.”

As part of this investigation, law enforcement has seized approximately \$5 million in narcotics proceeds, 302 pounds of cocaine, 92 pounds of methamphetamine, 3,000 Ecstasy pills, 44 pounds of psilocybin (magic mushrooms), numerous ounces of ketamine, three semi-automatic rifles with high-capacity magazines, and eight semi-automatic handguns.

Background
The Sinaloa Cartel is largely responsible for the massive influx of fentanyl into the United States over the past approximately eight years, and for the accompanying violence and deaths that have afflicted communities on both sides of the border. The cartel’s activities generate enormous sums of U.S. currency in the United States that belong to the cartel in Mexico. Profits from the drug trade must be repatriated to Mexico for use by the cartel.

Chinese underground money exchanges in the United States assist the Sinaloa and other cartels to move their profits from the United States to Mexico by providing a ready market for U.S. currency in the United States.

Many wealthy Chinese nationals who live, work, or invest in China wish to transfer assets to the United States for various reasons but are barred by the Chinese government’s capital flight restrictions from transferring the equivalent of more than \$50,000 per year out of China. These individuals seek informal alternatives to the conventional banking system to move their funds.

To transfer money to the United States, the China-based investor contacts an individual who has U.S. dollars available to sell in the United States. The seller of U.S. dollars provides identifying information for a bank account in China with instructions for the investor to deposit Chinese currency (renminbi) in that account. Once the owner of the account sees the deposit, an equivalent amount of U.S. dollars is released

to the buyer in the United States.

The sellers of U.S. currency in the United States obtain dollars in a variety of ways. Some of them accept cash from individuals engaged in criminal activity that generates large amounts of bulk currency, including drug trafficking. These U.S. currency brokers charge a percentage commission as a fee to the owner of the criminal proceeds to conceal the nature and source of the funds—typically far less for their services than their competitors. Drug traffickers increasingly have partnered with Chinese underground money exchanges to take advantage of the large demand for U.S. dollars from Chinese nationals.

The funds that are transferred in China are then used to pay for goods purchased by businesses and organizations in Mexico or elsewhere such as consumer goods or items needed to aid the drug trafficking organization to manufacture illegal drugs, such as precursor chemicals, including fentanyl.

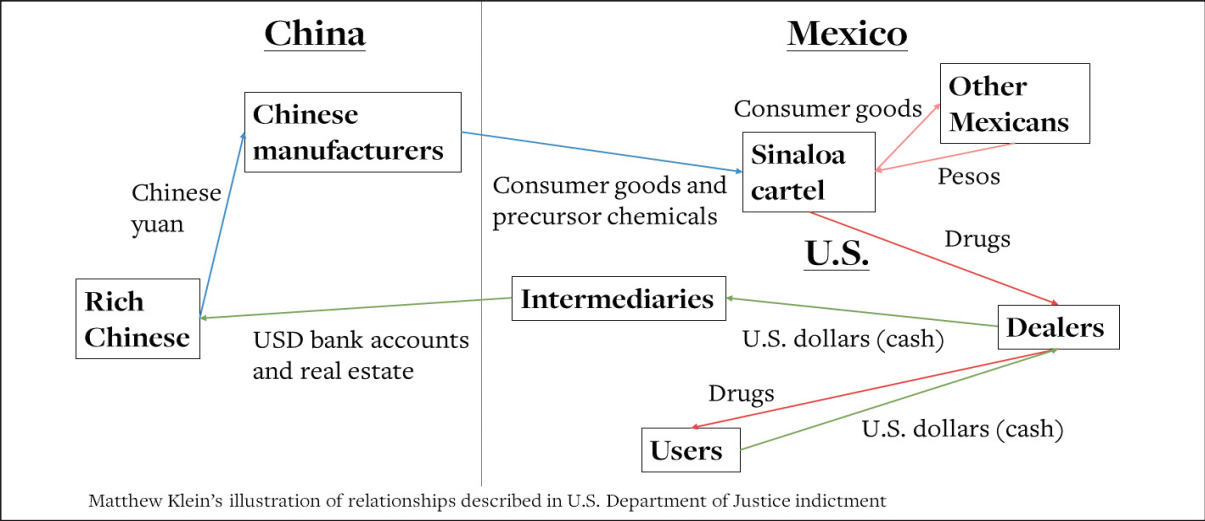
The Superseding Indictment
Members and operatives of the Sinaloa Cartel imported large quantities of narcotics, including fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine, into the United States, generating huge sums of drug cash proceeds in U.S. dollars.

In January 2021, Martinez-Reyes allegedly traveled to Mexico to meet with Sinaloa Cartel members to strike a deal with money remitters with links to Chinese underground banking to launder drug trafficking proceeds in the United States. After the deal was struck, the Sinaloa Cartel—through their connections and associates—distributed cocaine, methamphetamine, and other narcotics, generating U.S. dollars as drug proceeds.

Martinez-Reyes and other conspirators allegedly then delivered the currency—frequently in amounts of hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars in cash—to other members of the Chinese underground money exchange and remitting organizations to be laundered for a fee. The remitting organizations possessed large amounts of U.S. currency and could help wealthy Chinese nationals evade China’s currency controls.

The money remitters allegedly disposed of the drug proceeds by either delivering United States currency directly to their money exchange customers or by purchasing real or personal property, including luxury goods and cars to be shipped to China. Additionally, the remitters also moved illicit drug proceeds through cryptocurrency transactions. They also allegedly used a variety of traditional methods to place the funds into the traditional banking system such as purchasing cashier’s checks, or “structuring,” that is, depositing small amounts at a time into bank accounts opened for this purpose to avoid banks from reporting large cash deposits to the U.S. government.

The remaining seven counts charge individual defendants with crimes such as possession of pound quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine, structuring funds to avoid federal reporting requirements placed on banks, and one count of assault with a deadly weapon on a federal officer.



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Opinion

Ensuring the Safety of Women While Using Capitol Washrooms

WRITTEN BY
Jerry Schillinger
Montana HD 55 Representative

Recently, I read Representative Brad Barker’s version of a rule change I offered at our Joint Rules Committee meeting in Helena. Joint, meaning House and Senate members together to set rules that will affect both chambers in the upcoming session beginning January 6th. The rule change that I brought, would require men to use the men’s restroom and women to use the women’s restroom. Pretty basic. Currently there is no rule, there shouldn’t need to be, except these days there seems to be some confusion about who’s who and what’s what. So, in the absence of a rule, any man can access the women’s restroom and vice versa. In the proposed rule it would allow anyone, Representative Barker or anyone else, that may be confused about their sex, to request a chromosome test if denied access to the restroom. This test was the methodology used in Senate Bill 458 by Senator Glimm to establish the legal definition of one’s sex. It was passed by the legislature in 2023 and signed into law by the Governor. Representative Barker voted for this bill. Representative Barker would like the readers to believe the test is mandatory for all, not true. The restrooms in question, are the ones located between the Senate and House chambers, accessible only by legislative members and staff.

Representative Barker suggested locks on restroom doors solved the problem. Not true again. If a man was already occupying one of several stalls in the women’s restroom, a woman entering would have no way of knowing that. She may well be locking herself in the restroom with the man already occupying a closed stall, she would then be locking herself in the restroom with a man. Regardless, common courtesy and respect for the women of the legislature should naturally make their restroom off limits to men, whether 1 or 100.



Representatives Bedey and Barker argued this rule would inhibit the efficiency of the legislature and give unnecessary acclaim to some confused member of the legislature. Apparently, efficiency is more important than respect for women. I and most other Republicans disagree. Four Republicans, Representatives Barker, Bedey, and Sprunger, along with Senator McKamey, (the four) joined every Democrat to kill the rule change. The Senate and House votes were tallied separately, with the Senate passing the rule and the House killing it by 2 votes, Bedey, Barker, and Sprunger. Thus the joint rule change failed. After that vote, I have been contacted by a number of lady legislators thanking me for offering the rule. Representative Barker called the rule change a political stunt. Really? The lady legislators contacting me don’t think so. Do you?

Representative Barker also argued that this is a policy change that should be statutory and not in rules, that somehow rules don’t reflect policy. I would argue, if our rules don’t keep men out of women’s restrooms, then it’s our policy to let men in women’s restroom.

When the Legislature convenes in January, we will vote to accept or not, the rules package passed by the Rules Committee. I expect the failed rule change to be brought to the full House for a vote. Hopefully (the three) in the House will have heard from their neighbors, friends and families and help to resoundingly pass this commonsense rule. There shouldn’t be a Democrat vote against this rule let alone a Republican.

Some reading the Representative Barker article, may have gotten the subtle hints that Barker doesn’t appreciate the Montana Freedom Caucus. The MFC aspires to limit the size and scope of government, be responsible with your money and promote personal freedom. This requires us to call out those standing in the way of these goals. Big government Republicans are especially sensitive to this. Apparently, his ridiculous assertion that we are surrogates of the John Birch Society, is an attempt to discredit our work. Trying to destroy the messenger is a popular tactic that the left uses when they are wrong on the issues. He also accused us of a pattern of lies, but of course offered no specifics.

Then of course, the spiritual aspect asserted by Representative Barker. He maintains that since the representative in question, removed his male parts as an adult and had them replaced with manufactured female parts, it is somehow morally wrong to require him to use the male restroom. Not sure I follow that logic. What if that same person being a man, claiming to be a woman, says he’s a coach, does that morally entitle him to be in our girls locker room as the good representative would suggest?

There is a lot of important work to do in the upcoming 69th Session of the Montana Legislature. It’s important to embrace a spirit of respect for all legislators and our staff. Passing this rule is a good start.

Thank you!
For Freedom,
Representative Jerry Schillinger HD34
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“Property must be secured, or Liberty cannot exist.”
—John Adams

was invalid because the election held the previous week was not yet certified, a common and historically regular occurrence around election days.

To accommodate Mr. Hudson, the MTGOP Chairman-appointed “rules committee” proceeded to proclaim that they possessed the authority to decide what rules are to be followed, even if it violates state law or their own bylaws. This rules committee inexplicably determined that EVERY ELECTED REPUBLICAN PRECINCT REPRESENTATIVE in the State serves at the whim of the MTGOP not as defined by state law. **This committee decided the two-year term of office for precinct representatives ends on election DAY. Not on the conclusion of two years as defined in state law-which is when an election is certified.** For the entire history of our state, terms of office have concluded either upon the certification of the appropriate election -OR- upon the swearing-in of the newly elected officials. **Never has “Election Day” determined a “term-of-office. Until Now!**

The convoluted reasoning this rules committee applied is Precinct Representatives are governed by the rules of the political party, **not state law.** This, in spite of the fact that Precinct Representatives are governed by the same laws and rules that apply to any and every candidate on the ballot in every primary election across the state. Their election undergoes the same scrutiny any other elected office does and is certified in the same manner of every other election.

Yet, the rules committee, with the guidance of the top officials in the MTGOP seem to believe that they can preclude the lawful two-year term and **remove Precinct Representatives from their office** in direct violation of state law **MCA 13-38-202 quoted again here: “(5)Vacancies in the office of precinct committee representative occur only on the death or written resignation of the incumbent or when the incumbent is no longer a resident or registered voter of the**

precinct. A precinct committee representative may not otherwise be removed from office.” This rules committee has displayed through its ruling, that they have no regard for the law, tradition. or for maintaining continuity of government. **This ruling leaves ALL Precincts unrepresented and halts all business from election day through certification of the election.** We have all seen certifications that can take months to resolve.

The reader must remember this action centered around Ravalli County Republican Central Committee (RCRCC), (long referred to by the MTGOP as their Crown Jewel due to the county’s exceptional Crown Jewel voting record) who **in 2023 overwhelmingly elected America First aligned candidates into leadership.**

The RCRCC is now embroiled in a power struggle with the MTGOP supported legacy leadership including Mr. Terry Nelson, the former chair of the RCRCC and now secretary of the MTGOP. Mr Nelson’s leadership gave Ravalli County the leadership of the Solutions **(read Surrender)** Caucus. The Solutions Caucus are establishment Republicans and perhaps even Democrats claiming to be Republicans.

The Surrender Caucus very effectively undermined the Republican “Supermajority” and specifically the Freedom Caucus during the 2023 legislature. This “solution-caucus” mindset, supported by Mr. Nelson, fielded many precinct committee people to the RCRCC through this last primary. These new members **all** adamantly refuse to pledge to uphold the Montana Republican Platform even though they claimed to represent Republicans when they signed up to run for the RCRCC.

One would ask why would the MTGOP be so willing to blatantly disregard State Law, their own rules and historical tradition? The reason is the same one that propelled them to violate State Law, forcing the RCCs to hold their conventions AFTER the MTGOP

leadership convention in 2023. I believe, the **majority of the current MTGOP leadership is VEHEMENTLY ANTI-AMERICA FIRST!** The MTGOP continues to deny that the Republican party is now Trump’s party. Rather than riding the wave of a historic Republican victory in November, the MTGOP is desperately trying to keep their ship the USS Uni-party upright and intact.

Why is the MTGOP so desperate? **President Trump clearly states his intent for the coming administration. As he said during his first inauguration in 2016: “We are returning the power back to the people”.** Nothing terrifies those who have spent years building a controlling power structure more. Believing their very existence is threatened, they have no regard for laws, rules or those they claim to represent. It’s win at all costs for them.

In summation, if you are a true conservative, one that values traditional American values and the freedoms generations of Americans have sacrificed their lives for, the majority of the current MTGOP sees you as a threat. The MTGOP has become what they started out fighting against; **a power center that only desires more power. Their choices and actions certainly are not those of a morally centered organization. In short, the current MTGOP is simply the Republican wing of the Uni-Party. One bird, two wings. Morals have no place in their decision process. The majority of the current MTGOP leadership MUST be replaced!**

As our Founders warned us throughout the Federalist Papers; “Government is the natural enemy of Freedom.” Their only source of power is to take yours! The MTGOP clearly demonstrates they see themselves as rulers in state government. These people, who were elected to be humble servants, have succumbed to the temptation of power and no longer serve the interest of the people. They are wholly self-serving. None are more deceived than the self-deceived. 🇺🇸

(To Protect and Serve from page 7B)
Many Montanans assume if you come from a blue state you are a missionary instead of a refugee. The Peerman’s fight though, wasn’t just for their family’s ability to own guardian livestock dogs. Their fight benefited every Montanan with guardian livestock dogs. Brandi shared, “I still get death threats on social media from people telling me to go back to California. Montanans are so caught up in where people are moving from, they have lost grip on the reality that they are losing or have lost freedoms they failed to protect because they were so focused on xenophobia. It makes me feel like I value freedoms more than the native Montanans do.”

Despite winning their court case, Brandi is terrified to live in Montana because the county sheriff has ignored the safety of her family. Brandi confides, “ We have had people trespass, stolen our property and threaten our lives and the county sheriff says he won’t get involved.”

The Peermans and others in the area have a right to farm. Shouldn’t local authorities be encouraging agricultural businesses instead of bullying them or allowing them to be threatened? Should animal control and the sheriff’s department, not to mention the court, be upholding state and local laws instead of

ignoring them? Research proves that when minor crimes including vandalism, theft, trespassing and other public order crimes are ignored, the incidence of major crimes also increases because of the perception, by criminals and law-abiding alike, that law enforcement isn’t serious and is ineffective.

It is up to authorities to uphold the Rule of Law, not interpret the law to suit their agenda. That is the real concern in Whitefish, Montana and all across America today.


There are a lot of farmers and ranchers, not to mention dog owners, who benefitted from the efforts of the Peermans. Yet, the community where she lives and stands the most to gain from a fighter like Brandi who was willing to put her money where her heart is and fight for our freedoms, is the community that has torn at the fabric of her family’s safety and security by threatening her and condemning her actions.

“Some people believe they are Christians and that they are somehow protecting their native state by threatening and condemning newcomers who start businesses, contribute to their communities and safeguard their freedoms,” states a disillusioned Brandi. “People need to treat each other with more love and kindness and understanding. We are all made

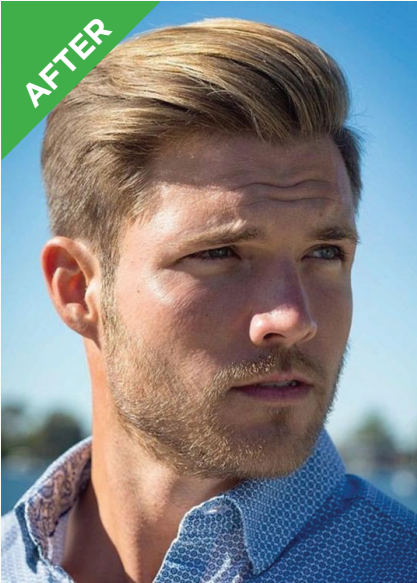
in the image of God. Is attacking each other the way to behave and show God’s love through each other as Christians? I try really had to be a good neighbor, but my neighbors violate my privacy , safety and private property rights by stealing, physically assaulting me, flying drones over my property and trespassing to take photos of the animals on my property so they can condemn me for having my guardian livestock dogs live outside in a heated dog house. I love my animals, but when is it ok for concern for an animal to turn into death threats, condemnation and harassment of fellow human being? How does that show God’s mercy and love? Where have people’s kindness, compassion and Biblical virtue gone and why does law enforcement fail to protect our rights against this behavior?”


Brandi added, “My entire life has been turned upside down. The cost our family has had to pay both financially and emotionally has been enormous and has caused me to have zero respect for law enforcement and the justice system. It is a very broken system that dispenses injustice more than anything else. What good does it do to win in court when the community continues to punish you for ‘perceived’ crimes you have never committed?” 🇺🇸

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—MT GOP Sues Itself—

By Dave Johnson

What is in a name? A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet, William Shakespeare famously said. In the world of political organizations, names matter. They convey authority, legitimacy, and often, historical continuity.

When a Republican County Central Committee Chairman and another Republican County Central Committee State Committeewoman with over 17 years dedicated to helping the MT GOP, chose to use create a group to help central committees and named it the “Montana Association of Republican Central Committees” (MARCCO), the move sparked controversy, especially within the ranks of the Montana Republican Party (MT GOP). The MTGOP didn’t call up their members and ask for details. Instead the MT GOP served them with papers and filed a lawsuit against MARCCO over their use of the term “Republican.” The suit is likely to cost each side over \$120,000 to defend.

This lawsuit is especially interesting given that the Montana Republican Party prides itself on upholding the U.S. Constitution, yet through this lawsuit is violating the 1st Amendment rights of free speech and assembly of Republicans in the State.

What is also interesting is that no one on the MT GOP Executive Committee was aware the lawsuit was filed until months after the June MT GOP Convention. So, who at the MT GOP authorized the lawsuit-especially when it comes with a six-figure price tag?

An unsubstantiated claim that is circulating, states that Debbie Churchill, the MT GOP National Committeewoman and the MT GOP Executive Director, Danielle Tribble, who has since tendered her resignation-coordinated the lawsuit without consulting with the Executive Committee. However, as of press time, The Liberty Bell was unable to reach either woman for comment.

The lawsuit was filed in April of 2024, and around that time the MT GOP Rules Committee suggested a bylaw change requiring permission from the MT GOP prior to any group being able to use the word “Republican” in their name.

At the MT GOP Convention in Billings this past June, Republicans from across the state gathered to specifically vote on this new bylaw without knowledge that a lawsuit had been initiated by the MT GOP.

The body overwhelmingly voted against the change, with its primary motivation to not waste the time or money of the organization enforcing such a rule; especially, since the state didn’t have a trademark on the name and claimed it didn’t have the resources to defend the redistricting map that favored the democrats which was a higher priority. So, why didn’t the MT GOP drop their lawsuit after this vote?

The MT GOP wants the power to control who has authority to be able to use the word “Republican” to describe a group in the State of Montana. They claim using the word “Republican” without explicit permission from the MT GOP will confuse the public and lead the public to believe all groups using the word “Republican” are sanctioned MT GOP groups legally representing the MT GOP. Therefore, using the word “Republican” violates the MT GOP’s intellectual property and legal rights-of which they have none because the name hasn’t been trademarked.

However, upon closer examination, activists are justified in using the name for several reasons, including the broad historical context of Republican Party organizations, their lawful standing as political activists, and the legitimacy of state party operations under broader national party structures.

1. The term “Republican” Is Not Exclusively Owned by the Republican Party, let alone the MT GOP.

One of the core arguments made by the attorney for the MT GOP is the MT GOP believes it holds exclusive rights to the use of the term “Republican” within the state. However, any Republican has the freedom to



create its own independent group that does work to help the cause of republicans. In fact, several Political Action Committees (PACs) across the state and country use the term Republican in their name but are separate entities working independently of their state republican parties and by law they must so as not to run afoul of state and federal election laws.

The name “Association of Republican Central Committees” has been used in multiple states and at national levels to describe coalitions or groups that bring together Republican central committees from various counties or districts. These committees are responsible for promoting the republican cause and independently support candidate at the local level. The name has thus evolved to represent a broad, decentralized network of republican activists and organizers who coordinate at multiple levels, not just within Montana and not only with the “permission” of state level Republican Party Organizations.

Therefore, use of the name Republican in an organization representing central committees is not a usurpation of the Montana Republican Party’s authority, but rather an adoption of a commonly recognized term used throughout the country. If the name was truly exclusive to the Montana Republican Party, it would be unusual for it to be applied across state lines in other jurisdictions.

2. The Principle of Free Association in Political Movements

The right to use the name “Montana Association of Republican Central Committees” is grounded in the principle of free association, a fundamental aspect of American political discourse. Political parties and organizations are inherently decentralized, and individuals within the party have the freedom to organize and form alliances under names that reflect their goals and values. The Montana Republican Party may object to the use of the name, but its objection stems from a desire to consolidate authority rather than a legal or constitutional right to control the use of certain phrases or terms. The establishment is afraid of the grassroots having a voice and taking away its control over republican central committees.

3. The Right to Organize

Political movements often evolve when individuals or factions choose to organize separately from the established party structure, particularly when they believe that the current leadership does not adequately represent their interests. In this case, activists within the Republican Party in Montana, have a legitimate right to organize their own efforts, create coalitions, and choose a name that reflects their

By opposing the use of the name, the Montana Republican Party risks stifling the very principles of pluralism and internal democracy that underpin the broader Republican movement.

mission even if it does not align with the state party’s leadership.

The party’s attempt to restrict the name undermines the basic precept of free speech and freedom of association and smacks of despotism.

4. The Need for a Counterbalance to Party Establishment

In any political system, especially one as diverse as the Republican Party in the U.S., it is essential that there be avenues for reform and dissent. Activists use of the name “Montana Association of Republican Central Committees” could be viewed as an effort to create a more inclusive, grassroots-oriented organization that serves as a counterbalance to the established political elite within the Montana Republican Party. This is particularly important in a state like Montana, where local issues and political affiliations often have a unique character.

This initiative may be seen as a direct response to what many see as a failure of the current leadership to represent the interests of local party activists. It is not uncommon in political movements for new factions or organizations to adopt similar names to established ones, particularly when they seek to provide additional resources or a different direction for the party. History is filled with instances where factions within political parties—whether in the form of splinter groups or reform movements—have used established names to challenge the status quo.

The use of the name Montana Association of Republican Central Committees is justifiable on several grounds. First, the name is not an exclusive property of the Montana Republican Party but is rather a term widely used to describe coalitions of central committees across the nation. Second, the principle of free association supports the right to organize as activists see fit. Third, these actions are in line with broader national Republican infrastructure and precedents, and fourth, these efforts could provide an important counterbalance to the established leadership within the Montana Republican Party.

In a state where the MT GOP has limited resources and ability to hire staff to do the tremendous amount of work that is needed within the GOP in a state with such vast and unpopulated areas, the MT GOP should be working hand-in-hand with an organization that has the best interests of republicans at heart.

Rather than stifling this initiative, the Montana Republican Party would do well to recognize the importance of internal democracy and plurality, ensuring that all voices within the party can contribute to the ongoing conversation about the future of the Republican movement. By doing so, they would not only defend the broader party structure but also ensure that it remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of its grassroots supporters. 🛡️