



House Values Agenda

Congressman Joseph R. Pitts, Values Action Team Chairman
110th Congress

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”

Life: *The most fundamental responsibility of government is the protection of human life. We must do everything in our power to defend this most basic right of every human being at every stage of life.*

- **Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act** (Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen) makes it illegal to transport a minor girl across state lines for the purpose of procuring an abortion or circumventing parental notification or consent laws in the girl’s home state. (H.R. 1063)
- **Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act** (Rep. Chris Smith) requires abortion providers to notify women seeking an abortion after 20 weeks that their unborn child feels pain and that they may request anesthesia for their unborn child to reduce or eliminate the pain. (H.R. 3442)
- **Human Cloning Prohibition Act** (Rep. Dave Weldon) prohibits human cloning. (H.R. 2564)
- **Patients First Act** (Rep. Randy Forbes) prioritizes funding for ethical stem cell research that has the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefits. (H.R. 2807)
- **Title X Provider Prohibition Act** (Rep. Mike Pence) prohibits distribution of Title X family planning funds to any organization that performs abortion. (H.R. 4133)

Religious Liberty: *Our nation was founded on the principle of religious liberty. Americans, first and foremost, should have the freedom to express and practice their religious convictions without fear of judicial activism.*

- **The Public Expression of Religion Act** (Rep. Dan Burton) frees state and local officials from the fear of lawsuits arising from the public expression of religious by state and local officials. (H.R. 725)
- **Public Prayer Protection Act** (Rep. Gresham Barrett) denies court jurisdiction to review any matter related to the alleged establishment of religion involving the expression of public prayer by any federal state, or local government entity. (H.R. 2104)
- **Pledge Protection Act** (Rep. Todd Akin) bars federal district and circuit courts from ruling on cases pertaining to the pledge’s standing under the Establishment Clause. (H.R. 699)

Marriage: *Marriage has been a valuable and important social institution and a foundation for healthy families. Government should enact policies that promote, rather than punish, marriage and that protect it as a sacred institution.*

- **Marriage Tax Penalty Permanent Elimination Act** (Rep. Jerry Weller) permanently eliminates the marriage tax penalty. (H.R. 834)
- **Marriage Protection Amendment** (Rep. Paul Broun) amends the Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. (H.J.Res. 89)
- **Definition of Marriage Amendment** (Rep. Dan Lungren) amends the Constitution to prohibit any court from having jurisdiction to determine whether the U.S. Constitution or any state constitution requires the legal institution of marriage to be conferred upon any union other than a legal union between one man and one woman. (H.J.Res. 22)

Parental Rights: *Children across the country rely on parents to protect, nurture, and prepare them for adulthood, but parental rights are being displaced by government regulation. Parents should be the primary decision makers when it comes to their children's health, education, and welfare.*

- **Parents' Right to Know Act** (Rep. Todd Akin) requires parental notice before contraceptive drugs and devices are distributed to a minor child by a Title X clinic. (H.R. 2134)
- **Children's Hope Act** (Rep. Trent Franks) encourages states to enact their own state educational scholarship tax credit. (H.R. 2706)
- **Abstinence Education** provides a holistic message that empowers teens to make informed and healthy decisions about their sexual behavior as an alternative to so-called "comprehensive" sex education programs that actually encourage sexual activity.

Protecting Children: *Protecting the future of this country must be a priority. We must continue to look for ways to guard against child exploitation.*

- **Protecting Children from Indecent Programming Act** (Rep. Chip Pickering) affirms the FCC's ability to regulate indecent programming, including a single word or image. (H.R. 3559)
- **Deleting Online Predators Act** (Rep. Mark Kirk) requires schools and libraries to prohibit access to chat rooms unless used for educational purposes with adult supervision and protect against access to visual depictions that are child pornography, obscene, or harmful to minors. (H.R. 1120)
- **Child Pornography Elimination Act** (Rep. Marilyn Musgrave) expands penalties for child pornography. (H.R. 3148)
- **SAFE Act** (Rep. Steve Chabot) expands reporting requirements with respect to violations of child sexual exploitation and pornography laws. (H.R. 876)