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Resisting COVID Tyranny

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people, by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations," warned James Madison in June of 1788. Later in the same month, the U.S. Constitution was ratified. Madison was so instrumental in the creation and adoption of that great document that he became known to history as the "Father of the Constitution."

Through a carefully crafted system of checks and balances and other means, the Constitution was designed to prevent the "encroachments of those in power." The powers delegated to the federal government by the Constitution were few and defined; those limited powers were divided among three branches of government; and all other powers were reserved to the states and the people. Because government was limited, the people were free, and America prospered, becoming the envy of the collectivist old world.

Under the Constitution, the American experience, which is still ongoing, has been far and away the greatest experiment in liberty in human history. Today, 233 years after its ratification, our Constitution is still the law of the land. Yet those entrusted with political power have increasingly overstepped their constitutional boundaries, despite their oaths of office to uphold the Constitution. Their encroachments have been "gradual and silent" — well, relatively speaking at least. There has been no "violent and sudden" overthrow of our government along the lines of what happened when the communists seized control of Russia during their revolution of 1917.

Latest Encroachment

Yet more and more of what is happening to our country is more communistic than freedom-oriented. How else can one characterize the COVID lockdowns, face-mask mandates, and other restrictions on liberty that have occurred since March of 2020?

And now there is the push for COVID vaccine mandates coupled with the demonization of the unvaccinated. On September 9, while this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN was under production, President Joe Biden sounded very much like a demagogue engaged in class warfare when he falsely blamed the unvaccinated for

"keeping us from turning the corner" in the fight against COVID-19 and "stand[ing] in the way of protecting the large majority of Americans who have done their part and want to get back to life as normal." He added: "Over 200 million Americans have gotten at least one shot. We've been patient, but our patience is wearing thin."

In the same speech, the president also exposed himself as a usurper by announcing his plan — without so much as a fig leaf of constitutional authorization — to force more Americans to get the jab. For instance, as part of this naked power grab, he announced that "the Department of Labor is developing an emergency rule to require all employers with 100 or more employees ... to ensure their workforces are fully vaccinated or show a negative test at least once a week."

He even boasted that "we're going to protect vaccinated workers from unvaccinated co-workers," without explaining why vaccinated workers would need to be protected from unvaccinated workers if the vaccines were truly effective.

The Right to Refuse

What can Americans do who do not want to have an experimental vaccine injected into their bodies? They can refuse.

The cover story in this issue is comprised of three articles by Robert M. Owens, J.D. The first article focuses on how an employee can submit a religious exemption (page 10); the second describes the ordeal of military personnel who have refused the jab (page 18); and the third explains how to nullify vaccine mandates (page 23).

Of course, another option is to get the vaccine. If that is what you want to do, that is your right. Regardless, all of us should support the freedom to choose. And all of us should ask ourselves: If we allow the government to decide what must be injected into our own bodies, what other "encroachments of those in power" would we be willing to accept on a road leading ultimately to tyranny?

— GARY BENOIT

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.





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INSIDE TRACK

Medical Journals Call for Emergency Action on Climate Change

An editorial published in more than 200 medical journals world-wide is calling for emergency action on the so-called climate crisis, ahead of COP26, the United Nations-led conference that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. The editorial was written by a group of editors from esteemed medical journals including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, and the *British Medical Journal*.

The editorial, released September 5, claims that the world can no longer wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to pass before addressing the issue and that "climate change" is already affecting global health.

"Health is already being harmed by global temperature increases and the destruction of the natural world, a state of affairs health professionals have been bringing attention to for decades. The science is unequivocal: a global increase of 1.5° C above the pre-industrial average and the continued loss of biodiversity risk catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse. Despite the world's necessary preoccupation with Covid-19, we cannot wait for the pandemic to pass to rapidly reduce emissions," the editorial states.

The editorial writers blame global warming for a variety of health problems.

"In the past 20 years, heat-related mortality among people over 65 years of age has increased by more than 50%. Higher temperatures have brought increased dehydration and renal function loss, dermatological malignancies, tropical infections, adverse

mental health outcomes, pregnancy complications, allergies, and cardiovascular and pulmonary morbidity and mortality," the editorial writers complain.

As global concern over COVID-19 continues to decline, the climate propaganda that seeps from the United Nations, globalist NGOs, and persons connected to them, as many of the authors of this editorial are, is set to become more dire, especially in the lead-up to COP26 in Glasgow later this year.



Britain's National Health Service Lectures White People on "Racism"

The United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS), supposedly overtaxed by COVID-19 patients, nevertheless found time to publish a blog hectoring white people about their alleged racism.

The blog, titled "Dear white people in the UK," was posted on the NHS Senior Leadership Onboarding and Support website, which means it's primarily targeting the people who make lifeand-death decisions for all of Her Majesty's subjects.

Authored by Aishnine Benjamin, equality, diversity, and inclusion lead at the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the piece aims to convince white Britons that they are all racists — or, at the very

least, the beneficiaries of institutional racism — and that they must join the anti-racism crusade.

Benjamin begins by recommending that they read Peggy McIntosh's 1989 essay *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*. In that essay, McIntosh argues that racism is not found in "individual acts of meanness" but in "invisible systems conferring unsought racial dominance on [whites] from birth."

Benjamin also commends to readers Robin DiAngelo's book *White Fragility,* along with a host of lesser-known publications making the case that white people are inherently racist and can't handle being told so.

"Don't be defensive," Benjamin tells white Britons. "This isn't personal and it's not really about you. Everybody is at a disadvantage when our formal institutions perpetuate inequalities."

Readers are also instructed to be "open to hearing what black and minority ethnic people are saying," to "work on your empathy," and to "be uncomfortable."

Benjamin then urges readers to take action. "Use your power and your privilege for the benefit of humanity," she writes. "Break the foundations of structural racism," and "Vote." Although she adds "no matter what your political leaning," it's hard to shake the feeling that she wouldn't take kindly to someone's casting a ballot for, say, Nigel Farage. In fact, she includes a link to Operation Black Vote, a left-wing activist group.



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INSIDE TRACK

Archbishop of Pelosi's Diocese Hints at Excommunication

The new Texas law essentially banning abortion has raised a cry among liberals, including some prominent liberal "Catholic" politicians. Among those politicians are Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and President Joe Biden. And while the leadership of the Catholic Church has debated the issue of denying communion to pro-abortion Catholics in political power, one bishop is taking a strong stand. That bishop is Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone — and he is Nancy Pelosi's bishop.

Biden has said he will bring the full weight of the federal government to bear on Texas. Pelosi has decried the Texas abortion ban as an assault on the liberty of women, calling it a "cowardly, dark-of-night decision to uphold a flagrantly unconstitutional assault on women's rights and health" and promising to pass legislation "codifying *Roe v. Wade*" in federal law.

In an August 5 op-ed published in the *Washington Post*, Archbishop Cordileone stood up for Catholic moral teaching and against the prevailing political winds, writing that abortion is "the most pressing human rights challenge of our time" and that Catholic politicians who advocate — or legislate — in favor of it are not Catholics in good standing and should be denied communion.

Archbishop Cordileone's op-ed does not mention Biden, Pelosi, or any other politicians by name, but makes it clear that "You cannot be a good Catholic and support expanding a government-approved right to kill innocent human beings." Furthermore, the

archbishop invokes a historical precedent for excommunicating Catholics who in their public lives cause a scandal that may lead others to sin.

That Biden, Pelosi, *et al.* are guilty of violating "core Catholic teachings and basic principles of justice" and are "[leading] others to sin" is beyond question. That they should at least be denied communion is clear. If, after being denied communion, they still "will not hear the church," excommunication is an option.



AP Images

China Bans "Sissy Men" From TV

While Hillary Clinton and her supporters would insist that "the future is female," this apparently isn't going to be the case in China (or in Afghanistan). In fact, after unveiling a program earlier this year designed to enhance teen boys' masculinity, Beijing has announced that broadcasters must "resolutely put an end to [showcasing] sissy men and other abnormal esthetics" on television.

As the *South China Morning Post* reported September 2, "China's top media regulator has announced a boycott of what it called 'sissy idols,' among other new guidelines, during an ongo-



ing 'clean up' of the entertainment industry.... The notice stated there needed to be more emphasis on "traditional Chinese culture, revolution culture, socialist culture' and that they will establish a 'correct beauty standard,' including boycotting 'sissy idols,' vulgar internet celebrities."

We have become "a silly people," liberal comedian/commentator Bill Maher lamented in March, addressing our "woke" degradation and how Beijing was "eating our lunch." The Chinese, he said, "are as serious as a prison fight."

They surely are serious about their masculinization efforts. In fact, it was announced earlier this year that China had adopted a policy called "Proposal on Preventing the Feminization of Male Adolescents"; it's designed to cultivate masculinity in teen boys, who a top Chinese political adviser described as now being "delicate, cowardly and effeminate."

In contrast, the *Washington Times* reported in 2015 that two "years ago, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the nation's top military officer, laid down an edict on the Obama administration's plan to open direct land combat jobs to women: If women cannot meet a standard, senior commanders better have a good reason why it should not be lowered."

As a result of the wider indulging of feminist dogma, however, the object lesson we may get in the future won't involve just losing some titles and trophies. All "the future is female!" agitation may help ensure is that the future is Chinese.

President Biden Scolds the Unvaccinated

"And my message to unvaccinated Americans is this: What more is there to wait for? What more do you need to see? We've made vaccinations free, safe, and convenient. The vaccine has FDA approval. Over 200 million Americans have gotten at least one shot. We've been patient, but our patience is wearing thin."

Speaking from the White House Briefing Room on September 9, Joe Biden sounded more like a dictator than a president when he besmirched the unvaccinated for not getting the jab, blamed them for "keeping us from turning the corner" in the fight against COVID, and announced new steps to force them to get vaccinated. Biden may complain that "our patience is wearing thin," but he should instead be worried that freedom-loving Americans, who do not want to be told by government what must be injected into their own bodies, are losing patience with him.







Senator Joe Manchin Wants to Be Known as Frugal

"If the country is facing what we're facing now ... I would ask my colleagues and all of the Senate to hit the pause button on the 3.5 [trillion dollar budget proposal]. Let's sit back.... We've got so much on our plate."

As he works hard to gain a reputation as a thrifty legislator, Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) refuses to leave the Democratic Party and is likely to approve half the expenditure sought by his leftist colleagues in a future proposal. Most of the money called for in any newer measure would be considered unconstitutional in saner times.

Biden Gets Lambasted by Fallen Marine's Mother When They Meet at the Dover Airport

"You tried to interrupt me and give me your own sob story and I had to tell you that 'this isn't about you so don't make it about you.' You turned to walk away and I let you know my son's blood was on

your hands and you threw your hand up behind you as you walked away from me like you were saying 'OK whatever.'" What was so important that you had to keep looking at your watch? You are nobody special Biden. America hates you!"

The mother of Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, one of the victims of the terrorist bombing at the airport in Kabul, Shanna Chapell took the opportunity to blast President Biden on social media. She sent her angry message immediately after the dignified ceremony in front of flag-draped coffins of 13 service personnel killed by the suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

Alabama Senator Blames Biden for Arming Taliban With Weaponry

"Thanks to Joe Biden's impotence and incompetence, the Taliban now has 760,000 American military-grade weapons, equipment, and vehicles. He armed a terror group in the process."

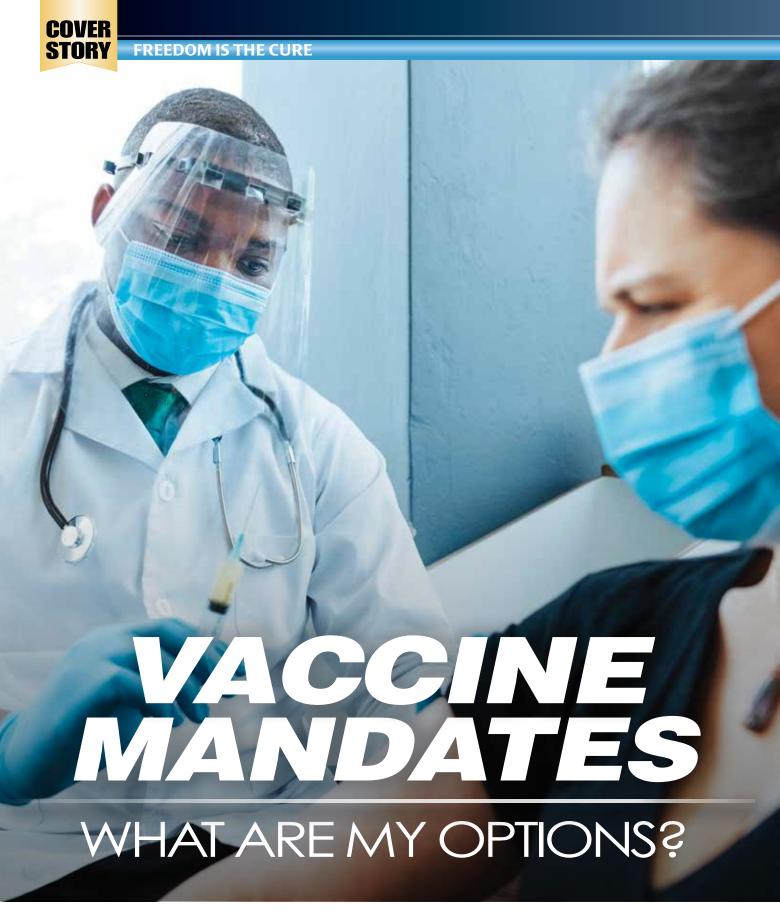
In a fundraising appeal to Americans, Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) accused the president of keeping promises to the Taliban and breaking promises to the American people.

New York Times Editorial Scorches Biden

"We let ourselves hope that the new president [Biden] could heal and soothe, restore a sense of rationality, decency and sanity. But the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be just a firefly." With the next presidential election more than three years away, the nation's leading liberal mouthpiece has all but given up on the Biden presidency. The Times policy setters haven't called for the president to resign, but that seems to be what they hope will occur.

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McManus





No one should be forced to choose between violating his conscience or getting the jab. If that happens, one option is to submit a religious exemption. This article explains how.

by Robert M. Owens, J.D.

atie Kern, R.N., was a frontline nurse during the COVID crisis in 2020. She did not ask to be called a hero, but her personal sacrifice and dedication to her patients earned her that consideration. In 2021, Katie went from hero to zero in the eyes of her employer, Henry Ford Health System. Choking back tears and trembling as she recalled the incident, Katie reported, "In June 2021, I received an email from Henry Ford threatening termination of employment ... for noncompliance with their Covid vaccine mandate." This ultimatum was delivered after months of oppressive bullying, threats, and suspensions.

Millions of American workers are now being faced with the same dramatic quandary: Do I take the COVID vaccination or lose my job? This situation is made even more unfair as employers would incur no liability in the event of vaccine injury, nor do they even have to report the injury. As stated on the OSHA website, "OSHA will not enforce 29 CFR 1904's recording requirements to require any employers to record worker side effects from COVID-19 vaccination through May 2022."

Federal law, and in most jurisdictions, state law, has an effective mechanism to allow you to both refuse the COVID vaccine and keep your job. But there are critical steps that you must follow, and time is of the essence in following them. Moreover, strict adherence to appropriate process and procedure of documentation is essential.

Steps to Follow

First, don't quit or abandon your post.

Second, put your refusal to get the jab in writing and submit it to your employer. Include the reason for your refusal. Be precise.

Third, keep a copy of your documentation, including method of transmittal and date of submission.

Fourth, understand the deadlines asso-

Robert Owens, J.D. is a Regional Field Director for The John Birch Society and host of the JBS program Constitution Corner. Prior to joining the JBS staff, he spent 20 years as a trial lawyer and 10 years as a member of the JBS National Council. Federal law, and in most jurisdictions, state law, has an effective mechanism to allow you to both refuse the COVID vaccine and keep your job. But there are critical steps that you must follow, and time is of the essence in following them.



Do your homework: For employees wanting an exemption from the COVID vaccine, meticulous research and documentation are essential, as is ensuring the proper legal steps are taken in a timely manner.

ciated with the process, from submitting your refusal to responding to a denial.

In every instance, seeking local legal counsel for specific advice on the application of the law to your situation is recommended, especially if the consequences of these matters impact your ability to provide for your family.

Federal law applies in all 50 states and every American territory and possession. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for 1) sincerely held religious beliefs and 2) medical exemptions. This legal process applies without regard to whether the COVID vaccination is subject to an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or full approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs

42 U.S. Code § 2000e–2 defines "Unlawful employment practices" as follows:

It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer—(1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or (2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because

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of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

This means that employers must respect your "sincerely held religious beliefs" with regard to the COVID vaccination with a reasonable accommodation. The sincerely held religious belief need only be yours alone, and there is no requirement that such belief be generally accepted theological dogma.

Written documentation of your sincerely held religious belief is mandatory, as is specifically using the key words "sincerely held religious belief." Be certain to retain copies of your request and take photos if your employer has an electronic portal system that does not otherwise provide you a written copy. Secure your copy of the request in a safe and readily accessible spot outside of your place of employment.

Pay close attention to how your employer requests that you document this exemption. If there are specific people who need to receive the documented request, make sure they get it. If you are required to enter it into a specific communications portal, follow those instructions with immaculate precision. If there is a specific form to fill out, make sure to do so completely. Attach an addendum if the space provided on any specified form is inadequate for the substance of your request. Do not let a technicality invalidate your efforts. Attention to detail in this respect cannot be overstated.

The sum and substance of your sincerely held religious belief need not be lengthy. There are many suggested tem-

It is not lawful for your employer to mandate that you get a letter from a religious leader or mandate documentation that your place of worship has a longstanding history of teaching against taking vaccines.



Check the ingredients: During research and development for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines, cell lines originally taken from an aborted fetus were used. For many pro-life individuals, this is reason enough to decline the vaccine.

plates for such a letter, but it is strongly recommended that you do not merely "copy and paste" such templates. So long as you include the key language "sincerely held religious belief," make the letter uniquely yours. Suggestions for content would include citations to scripture, and there are many to consider. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19, and 8:7 are relevant, as is 2 Corinthians 7:1. More broadly, the New Testament requires of Christians that we "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17). When it comes to putting things into our own bodies, as opposed to making payments to government, compliance with God's law is required. Liberty Counsel has many template letter options for different faiths: Christian, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and Russian Orthodox. There is also a letter specifically for students that is geared to educational institutions. (Two of the Liberty Counsel's sample letters are included on pages 16-17.)

Pro-life advocates have a specific reason for a sincerely held religious objection related to the COVID vaccines. It is well documented that the COVID vaccines all involved use of cell lines from aborted fetuses in either the research and development stage, or in the manufacturing stage. According to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, "to make the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, scientists infect PER.C6 fetal cell lines to grow the adenovirus vector. All PER.C6 cells used to manufacture the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are descended from tissue taken from a 1985 abortion that took place in the Netherlands." Further, "When it comes to the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, fetal cell line HEK 293 was used during the research and development phase. All HEK 293 cells are descended from tissue taken from a 1973 abortion." Although the cells in question were grown in a laboratory and were not harvested directly from a newly aborted preborn baby, they are descended from tissue from an abortion.

mandate that you get a letter from a religious leader or mandate documentation that your place of worship has a longstanding history of teaching against taking vaccines. Don't waste your time arguing why the pope or the Southern Baptist

It is not lawful for your employer to

Convention is wrong, as it's not relevant to your personal beliefs. However, if you can readily obtain a letter from a religious leader, taking the path of least resistance is a good idea. Over-documentation will not hurt you.

Members of the U.S. armed forces may also avail themselves of a religious belief exemption. Again, close attention to detail in the documentation and process of transmittal of documentation is essential. For example, members of the U.S. Navy must follow the policy outlined in MILP-ERSMAN 1730-020 adopted August 15, 2020. The request must be made to the designated authority through the serviceman's commanding officer or immediate supervisor in command.

However, there is a great deal of concern for members of the military. As reported in an August 25, 2021 article in Army Times, "As the regulations currently stand, religious exemptions may be a high bar to meet. According to AR 600-20, the service's surgeon general, Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, is the approval authority for all religious accommodation requests. And before such requests reach Dingle's level, unit chaplains must interview requesters and 'provide a memorandum that summarizes this interview and addresses the religious basis and sincerity of the Soldier's request....' In addition to the religious sincerity interview, 'a licensed healthcare provider' must counsel religious objectors as well. Finally the soldier's 'immediate commander' must sit down with them and explain 'that noncompliance with immunization requirements may adversely impact deployability, assignment, or international travel, and that the exemption may be revoked under imminent risk conditions....' Even if the surgeon general approves the request, 'religious exemptions may be revoked in the case of an imminent risk of exposure to a disease for which an immunization is available.""

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not apply to private colleges and universities. Therefore, private (as opposed to public) colleges and universities need not, as a matter of federal law, grant religious exemptions. However, many states have applied federal employment standards to university settings. For example, Title 77 of the Illinois Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter i,



An uphill battle: For members of the U.S. armed forces, declining the COVID vaccine and getting an exemption is possible, but soldiers should expect a great deal of resistance, and even persecution, for doing so.

Part 665, Section 665.510 provides religious exemptions for K-12 schools and "institutions of higher learning."

A religious exemption letter should be focused only on your personal beliefs. This is not the time to argue over the science or efficacy of the vaccine. The issue is your personal sincerely held religious beliefs and not safety studies or vaccine injuries. Stay on point.

Lastly, if your employer has a deadline to get the documentation submitted, get it done, and sooner is better than later. Don't just wait for the deadline, as the more time there is to deal with any potential denials and get them resolved prior to termination, the better.

Medical Exemption

Employees may obtain a medical exemption to the COVID vaccine pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act. 42 U.S. Code § 12112 states in part: "No covered entity shall discriminate against a qualified individual on the basis of disability in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement, or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment." Both

public and private colleges and universities are subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or its sister statute, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Unlike a religious-belief exemption, you can't write your own medical exemption letter. You will need documentation signed by a medical professional. The most robust and defensible documentation will indicate that you have a medical condition that is listed as a known potential hazard related to the COVID vaccine. Some common conditions listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include a weakened immune system; autoimmune conditions; cancer; chronic lung diseases, including COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension; dementia or other neurological conditions; diabetes (type 1 or type 2); heart conditions; liver disease; overweight or obesity; pregnancy; and a history of smoking either in the past or currently; to name just a few.

In the matter of *Ruggiero v. Mount Nitta-ny Med. Ctr.*, the court upheld a medical exemption to mandatory vaccination (not related to COVID). In that case, the employee provided a doctor's note stating she had a



Doctor's orders: A medical exemption to the COVID vaccine needs to be written by a doctor, and ideally should be based on an underlying condition that would make vaccination dangerous. If your regular doctor won't write you an exemption, look around for a second opinion.

history of allergies, suffered from "severe anxiety," and had eosinophilic esophagitis, which limits her ability to perform certain life activities such as eating, sleeping, and engaging in social interactions.

You can and should feel free to "shop around" for a medical professional if your current physician will not supply the necessary document. Doctors routinely have differences of opinions, and getting a second opinion on this issue is clearly within your rights. You need not disclose to your employer that a different doctor declined to write a medical exemption letter for you. Physician consultations via Zoom have become quite commonplace, and one would suspect that amenable physicians for this purpose would pop up much as they did for writing prescriptions for medical marijuana.

Members of the armed forces may also consider a medical exemption. The Department of the Army uses directorate 40-562, which states at section 2-6: "Medical exemptions. A medical exemption includes any medical contraindication relevant to a specific vaccine or other medication. Health care providers will determine a medical exemption based on the health of the vaccine candidate and the nature of the immuniza-

tion under consideration. Medical exemptions may be temporary (up to 365 days) or permanent." Further, personnel separating or retiring from the Army within 180 days are exempt from mandatory vaccines if they contact their commanders, produce an approved separation or retirement order, and request exemption; however, again, exceptions may exist to this policy.

As with the sincerely held religious belief exemption, timely and proper transmittal of the medical documentation to the authorized person as designated by your employer is essential. Be sure to keep copies of your documents in a safe, accessible place outside of your employer's building. Lastly, feel free to file both a religious exemption and a medical exemption. Over-documentation of this type cannot hurt you.

Exemption Denied or Unreasonable Accommodation

In the event of a denial of your request for a reasonable accommodation for your claimed exemption, you have options, but you must act quicky. Liberty Counsel advises as follows: "If your request for religious exemption at your work has been

DENIED, you will need to file a Complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Go to the EEOC website at https://EEOC.gov and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find additional links and information about submitting a complaint. The Complaint form will need to include a description of your religious accommodation request regarding your sincerely held religious beliefs to not take these Covid shots along with the employer's response and the termination date. Please note that you generally have 180 DAYS to file a complaint against a private employer." Liberty Counsel further notes that federal employees have a shorter deadline, generally just 45 days. Moreover, it is their recommendation that the complaint be filed with both the federal government and state government.

You must timely file an administrative complaint in response to a religious or medical exemption denial. If you fail to do so, you may be barred from filing any legal action to otherwise enforce your rights. Complaints may also be filed if the accommodation to your exemption is improper or not reasonable. This analysis may be very fact-intensive, and if you feel that you are being treated unfairly, you should seek legal counsel immediately. Many lawyers will be interested in your case as your employer will be forced to pay your legal fees if your rights were violated.

The "John Galt" Option

In Ayn Rand's masterpiece Atlas Shrugged, John Galt is an engineer who determines society to be hopelessly lost and withdraws his talents. He recruits others who demonstrate hard work and ingenuity to join him in his "strike."

Today we see many employers at a severe loss to get employees to work. Signing bonuses and other perks have become commonplace. Accordingly, threatening to quit and convincing others to do the same may have such an effect as to get an employer to relent on vaccine mandates. This is a high-risk proposition, however, and going down this road merits careful consideration of the consequences.

Public Demonstrations Not Recommended

As patriots, we need to be smarter than to fall into the traps laid out by establishment

insiders. The debacle on January 6 was such a trap, and the many thousands of peaceful protesters there were easily made to look like violent criminals. In the instance of vaccine mandates, good-natured people have resorted to forming protest crowds outside of prominent employers that are mandating vaccines, especially hospital systems that are threatening to terminate noncompliant medical professionals. This is a mistake.

The culmination of over 60 years of experience in the educational fight against the destruction of our heritage of liberty has produced, among other things, the John Birch Society publication *Tangents*. This publication was intended for leaders in the JBS (the parent organization of this magazine) as a manual of "what not to do" and how to keep your team out of the traps laid out by the enemy. One of the entries is called "Public Protest." Here we read:

Wise activists are wary of attentionseeking activities that challenge public order. Any such major activity nearly always attracts the media. Television crews and reporters hope to find strife, faction, contention and even violence at such events. News coverage of public dissent in the form of marches, demonstrations, or protests plays directly into the hands of the Conspiracy. Anarchy — or virtually any form of public disorder creates an excuse for government to show its muscle and exercise force against the dissidents, which turns out to be force against everyone. This is one of the most subtle ways by which governments assume power.

The general public wants order, and the Insiders want police power, for which the disorder is used as a pretext. Citizens must be aware of being used in demonstrations, marches, or any form of public protest that strengthens the enemy by furnishing an excuse for more laws, more government, and extreme enforcement measures.

Once a public protest is organized — for good or for ill — all it takes is one or two people planted in the crowd to provide the violence or ill manners that can be displayed on television to discredit the entire cause.



Not a good look: Engaging in public demonstrations is rarely a good idea, because there is such a great opportunity for a few bad actors to ruin the public perception of the movement, and the media will capitalize on any negative actions.

For this and other good reasons, The John Birch Society does not participate in demonstrations, marches, or public protests. Moreover, we scrupulously stay away from areas where confrontation, clashes, or violence are likely to occur.

Public perception on the issue of vaccine mandates is quickly turning in our favor. The proof of this is found in the intense pressure state legislatures are feeling all over the nation to pass laws that prohibit vaccine passports and vaccine mandates.

As is evident by the disproportionately large number of media executives who hold membership in the world-government-promoting Council on Foreign Relations, the Deep State controls the main-

stream television and newspaper outlets. It would be far too easy for a small group of agents provocateurs to throw a Molotov cocktail or two from the middle of an otherwise peaceful gathering and then have media outlets nationwide blame "crazy anti-vaxxers" for killing a bunch of children in a minivan leaving the hospital.

The same effort that it takes to do a demonstration should instead be focused on the statehouse to advocate for legislation such as Michigan's H.B. 4667 and H.B. 4471 to prohibit government entities and businesses from mandating COVID-19 vaccinations. Widespread contacting of state legislators in support of similar legislation in all 50 states would be far more effective in advancing the mission of liberty than sporadic demonstrations that can be used against us by the media. There is a war for the heart and soul of our nation, but to be successful, we must understand the enemy and deny them their advantages.

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RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS SAMPLE LETTERS

SAMPLE REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION [EMPLOYMENT]

Dear [HR Department]:

[Employer] has directed me to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine, or suffer adverse employment action, up to and including termination.

However, I cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine because to do so would violate my sincerely held religious beliefs. All of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines used cell lines originating from aborted children in their manufacturing or testing.

As a Christian, I believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death.

The Scriptures reveal that God knows us even before we are conceived. See Jeremiah 1:4-5 ("The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."). And God's creative powers are effectively at work while we are yet in the womb. See Psalm 139:13-16 ("For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.").

The Christian Church has condemned abortion — the killing of human infants while in the womb — from earliest times. The *Didache*, a conduct code of the early Christian community, dated by some as being as early as 70 AD, is in accord with Scripture, stating: "[D]o not abort a foetus or kill a child that is born." Loeb Edition of the *Apostolic Fathers* (also translated as, "Thou shalt not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is begotten."). *A Plea for Christians*, written around AD

The letter template above, prepared by Liberty Counsel, is designed to be submitted by a Christian employee who is seeking a religious exemption. To see the full letter, go to https://lc.org/exempt and click on "Employment Sample." Other samples, including ones designed to be submitted by clergy on behalf of an employee, are also available at the Liberty Counsel website.

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THE NEW AMERICAN • OCTOBER 4, 2021

[Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

[Name] is a baptized Catholic seeking a religious exemption from an immunization requirement. This letter explains how the Catholic Church's teachings may lead individual Catholics, including [name], to decline certain vaccines.

The Catholic Church teaches that a person may be required to refuse a medical intervention, including a vaccination, if his or her conscience comes to this judgment. While the Catholic Church does not prohibit the use of most vaccines, and generally encourages them to safeguard personal and public health, the following authoritative Church teachings demonstrate the principled religious basis on which a Catholic may determine that he or she ought to refuse certain vaccines:

- Vaccination is not morally obligatory in principle and so must be voluntary.1
- There is a moral duty to refuse the use of medical products, including certain vaccines, that are created using human cells lines derived from abortion; however, it is permissible to use such vaccines only under case-specific conditions—if there are no other alternatives available and the intent is to preserve life.
- A person's assessment of whether the benefits of a medical intervention outweigh the undesirable side-effects are to be respected unless they contradict authoritative Catholic moral teachings.3
- A person is morally required to obey his or her conscience.4

A Catholic may judge it wrong to receive certain vaccines for a variety of reasons consistent with these teachings, and there is no authoritative Church teaching universally obliging Catholics to receive any vaccine. An individual Catholic may invoke Church teaching to refuse a vaccine that used abortion-derived cell lines at any stage of the creation of the vaccine. More generally, a Catholic might refuse a vaccine based on the Church's teachings concerning therapeutic proportionality. Therapeutic proportionality is an assessment of whether the benefits of a medical intervention outweigh the undesirable side-effects and burdens in light of the integral good of the person,

This template letter, prepared by the Colorado Catholic Conference, is an example of a letter that would be signed by a third party — in this case a Catholic priest on behalf of a Catholic employee seeking a religious exemption. The sample, as presented at cocatholicconference.org, includes footnotes not shown here.

This letter template, like the one on the left, is from Liberty Counsel. It is designed to be submitted by a Jewish employee who is seeking a religious exemption. To see the full letter, go to https://lc.org/exempt and click on "Jewish."

To Whom It May Concern: I am an observant Jew. In Deuteronomy, G-d stated through his prophet Moses: 9Know, therefore, that the Lord, your God He is God, the faithful God, Who keeps the covenant and הצאלו שמר הברית הססד לאהביו ולשטני His commandments to a thousand generations. מצוקיו (כתיב מצותו) לאלף דור: 10 And He repays those who hate Him, to their face, to cause them to perish; He will not delay the one יַוּסְשׁלָם לְשָׁנָאֵיו אָל־פָּגֵיו לְהַאַבִּידָוֹ לְא יָאַסּר who hates Him, but he will repay him to his face. לשטאו אל־פניו ישלם־לו: 11You shall therefore, observe the commandments, אַר־הַמַּצְוֹה וְאָר־הַחָּקֵים וְאָר־ the statutes, and the ordinances, which I command you this day to do. המשפטים אשר אנקי קעוד היום לעשתם: 12And it will be, because you will heed these ordinances and keep them and perform, that the יבודנה | עקב משטשון את המשפטים האלה Lord, your God, will keep for you the covenant and ושסרתם נעשיתם אתם ושפר יהנה אלהיד לד the kindness that He swore to your forefathers. את־הברית ואת־הססד אשר נשבע לאכתיה: 13And He will love you and bless you and multiply יגואתקה וכרקה והרבה וכרה פרייכטוה ופריי of your soil, your grain, your wine, and your oil, the קשָהַרָת באנָדָּ שַל הַאַרָּטָה אַשְּרִינִשְׁבָע לַאָּבֹחָיִדָּ offspring of your cattle and the choice of your flocks, אָסָר לֶּרָּב in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you. 14You shall be blessed above all peoples. There will be no sterile male or barren female among you <u>יינ</u>קרוון פהווה סקל־העפים לארוהוה הפ עקר or among your livestock. וניקרה וכבהקפה: 15And the Lord will remove from you all illness, and שַּוְהַבִּיר יִרְנָה טִפְּבָּ כָּל־ חַלִּי וְכָל־עַדְנִי סִצְּרִים all of the evil diseases of Egypt which you knew, He ברצים אוצר יוֹדְנָהָ לָא יִשִּׁיכָם בָּדָר your enemies. In Exodus 15:26, Moses said that "If you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your G-d, and you do what is proper in His eyes, and you listen closely to His commandments and observe all His statutes, all the sicknesses that I have visited upon Egypt I will not visit



Soldiers, Sailors SAY NO!

Representative Thomas Massie held a conference call with military service members opposed to the Pentagon's COVID vaccine mandate, illustrating the opposition to it within the ranks.



by Robert M. Owens, J.D.

Ry.) has fielded dozens of communications from distraught active and reserve service men and women concerned about the impending military mandate to receive a COVID vaccine. He has responded by introducing H.R. 3860, a bill that would ban such a mandate. As of September 16, his bill had picked up 33 co-sponsors, all of whom are Republicans. The matter has been referred to the House Armed Services Subcommittee, and at this time there is no scheduled hearing on the measure.

On August 24, 2021, the secretary of defense issued a memorandum directing that each service branch should have "ambitious timelines for implementation" of the COVID vaccine mandate. In response, each service branch set its own deadline. As of this writing, the vaccine mandate is scheduled to go into effect November 2 for active-duty Air Force and November 28 for active-duty Navy and Marines, and December 15 for active-duty Army.

Many service members who have refused the jab would disagree with the claim that the military takes "freedom of religion and worship" seriously.

On August 27, Representative Massie moderated a conference call that included a dozen armed service members, with experience ranging from a first-year Air Force Academy cadet to a major with 17 years of service, including combat experience. Topics covered were widespread, but centered around the willful disregard of the science involved in this matter and the total disregard of people and their concerns, in favor of achieving

total compliance with set policies. Selected members of the media, including The New American, were invited to listen to the teleconference and ask questions under the condition that the service members who shared their experiences would remain anonymous.

Media personnel were not provided the names of the witnesses, but Massie advised that his office had vetted each of the speakers for authenticity, and the teleconference was run through his office. The need for anonymity stemmed from intense backlash the witnesses stated they have been subject to, including extreme pressure and threats so pervasive that one member reported the recent suicide of a vaccine non-compliant enlisted man as a result.

The sum and substance of the collective testimony was that the Biden administration has grossly misrepresented to the American people the facts concerning the vaccine status of military personnel, and the administration is outright lying about any notion that they "take freedom of religion and worship seriously." The witness testimony seemed to suggest that the purpose of the draconian mandates is to get actual vaccine rates to more closely match the 70-percent claim made by the administration. Many of the witnesses predict that the rigid enforcement of the vaccine mandate will result in a huge loss of personnel to resignations and other adverse disciplinary action. Thus, in one incredibly miserable policy choice, Biden has managed to be anti-science and anti-religious-freedom and create a national-security crisis all at the same time.

A soldier identified only as "Member 10" is a six-year veteran of the Air National Guard as a frontline healthcare worker. "The science is ignored in favor of a 'vax everyone at all costs' position" he reports. Superiors are aware of the fact that soldiers with prior exposure to COVID have a better immune response than could be achieved with a vaccine, yet it simply does not matter. He laments the unnecessary risk of requiring the vaccine for individuals who have natural immunity already, especially when they have health indicators that suggest the vaccine is a risk. "I've personally witnessed [fellow soldiers] forced out because of health issues that prevented them from safely getting vaccinated." He says superiors

would rather see experienced veterans quit if such action improved the vaccination percentages in their units.

"Member 1" has been on the military COVID response team for the past six months. "The pressure from commanders to get people vaxxed is intense." This member is currently in the process of trying to obtain an exemption and has been frustrated throughout the process. He reports that the harassment from commanders to abandon his exemption request is daily and miserable.

"Member 9" is a captain in the Air Force and an experienced, decorated pilot. "I began the religious exemption process months ago." He noted that it is not yet fully adjudicated. "The officers in charge of the process are yes men that only want

to protect their own careers." This Air Force officer's once squeaky-clean service record has been irreparably damaged. His future assignments have been canceled. He has been taken off the flight line, has been issued three letters of reprimand, and has been cited and suspended for a "refusal to follow command" — all while his paperwork for an exemption is still pending. The Air Force has invested millions of dollars in training this pilot, who is currently sitting at home all day long answering the occasional e-mail.

"I submitted my exemption paperwork in February and my requests have been denied without any reasons given," explained a senior officer who is a fighter pilot with combat experience. "I had the support of my direct commander, but I

The sum and substance of the collective testimony was that the Biden administration has grossly misrepresented to the American people the facts concerning the vaccine status of military personnel, and the administration is outright lying about any notion that they "take freedom of religion and worship seriously."



Vaccinator-in-chief: While the Biden administration claimed that it would take religious exemptions to the COVID vaccine among members of the military seriously, the reality has been quite different in the push to vaccinate all U.S. military personnel as quickly as possible.

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keep getting denials up the chain." Appeals are still ongoing, but the harassment has ramped up. "Our flight surgeon labeled me a 'medical extremist' and that was put in my permanent file, an action that I have no way to appeal." As with "Member 9," this senior pilot and flight instructor has been taken off the flight line and relegated to menial tasks.

Such treatment is not just the domain of the Air Force. "Member 4" is a U.S. Army captain with over 10 years of service. He describes himself as a Christian patriot who joined the military out of a sheer love of country. "I put forward my religious accommodation request in December 2020. I had the full support of my command structure. My request was denied by the Surgeon General of the Army without any reason given." This Army veteran went on to describe the horrific, miserable, and stressful harassment he has endured during the appeals process, which is still pending with the secretary of the Army. "I am going to fight this in Federal Court if I need to." "Member 4" feels there has been "significant dishonesty" on the part of superiors regarding the ruling upon his religious exemption request.

In corroborating many of the experi-

ences shared by other members on the call, an enlisted Navy man recalled an officer telling him, "you are the reason your mom and dad is going to die." An enlisted Air Force E4 wanted to refuse the vaccine because a close family member just died from a blood clot immediately after getting the vaccine. Both have been threatened with a court-martial or, in the best-case scenario, a dishonorable discharge. "I wanted to serve my country and now I am looking at a result in which I am lumped in with felons and rapists, I won't even be able to own a firearm," lamented the enlisted Navy man, who is still under contract and cannot simply resign.

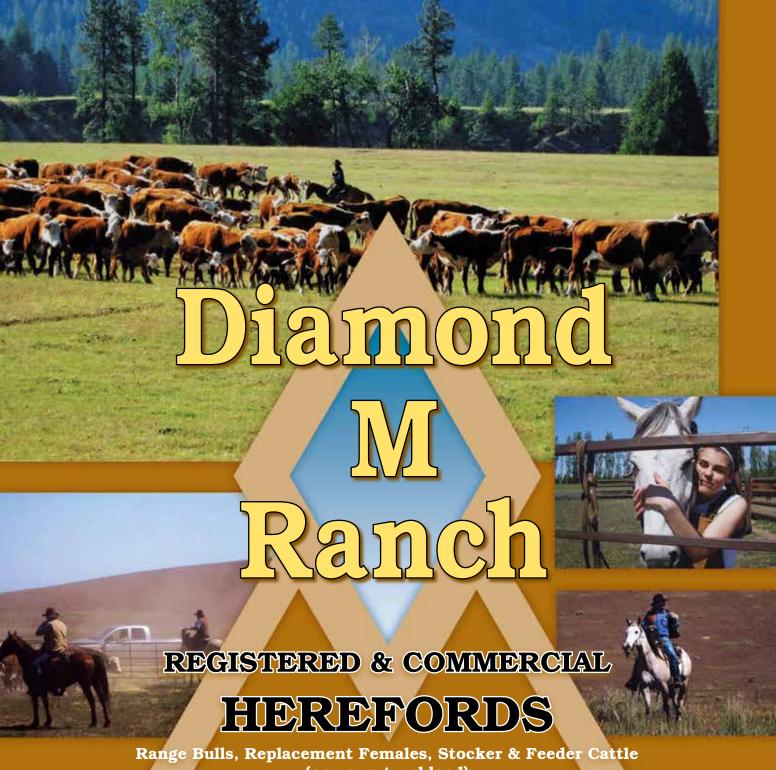
A major with 17 years of active service and identified as "Member 6" related his experience with a medical exemption. The major had previously contracted COVID and recovered well with little complication and no hospitalization. This officer has a heart condition that is prevalent but sufficiently under control, allowing him to remain active duty. At 17 years in, he is still a few years out from a retirement position that would greatly impact his family. "Privately I've been told that I qualify for a medical exemption, but the pressure

put on the medical staff is such that none of the doctors are willing to officially sign off." The major has similarly endured constant harassment over his refusal to get vaccinated, and remains steadfast to the point that he carries his resignation papers with him in his pocket. "This is total nonsense; we have thousands of soldiers deployed in combat zones overseas and none of them have received the COVID vaccine. They are still accomplishing the mission."

As the conference concluded, the service members warned of the national security crisis and extreme peril our nation will face when a vast number of experienced service members are driven out of the military en masse by the mandate. A reporter asked each of the participants on the call to estimate the actual number of service members vaccinated based upon their observations. Because of the differing standards and treatment of soldiers based on vaccine status, the members said it is pretty apparent. The answer: less than half.

Ignoring the rank-and-file: A significant number of service members do not want the COVID vaccine. Even when going through the official channels, service members have been ignored and harassed by their superiors for refusing the vaccine.





(one or a truckload)

A Fifth Generation Ranching Family Engaged In Accenting The Hereford Influence

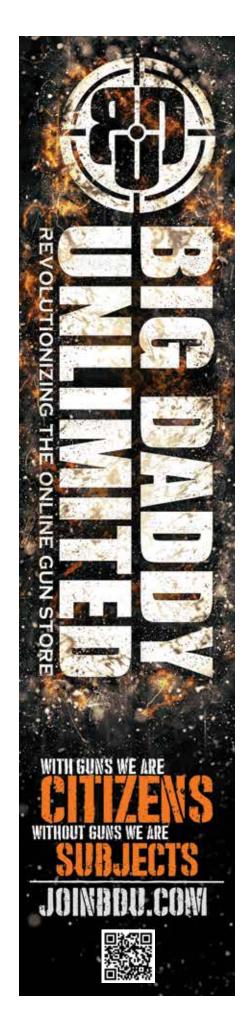
Box 99 Laurier, WA 99146 Len: 509/684-4380 (Summer phone)

The Diamond M Ranch Family Len & Pat McIrvin Bill & Roberta McIrvin Justin & Kaleigh Hedrick

646 Lake Rd. Burbank, WA 99323 Len: 509/545-5676 (Winter phone & address)

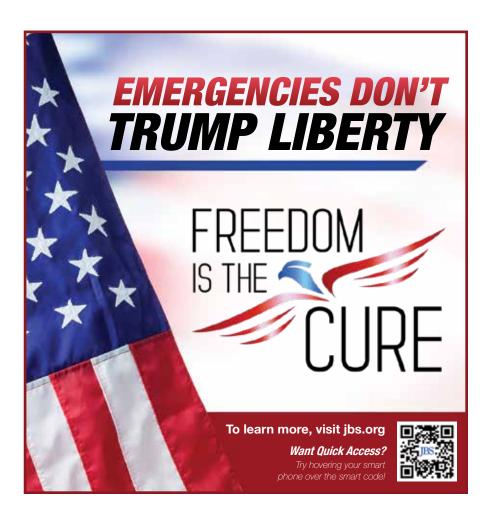
"This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!"

Mathan & Natasha Knapp





MetroMaterialsTesting.com



HOW TO NULLIFY COVID VACCINE MANDATES

It is proper for states to prohibit the abuse of rights, even in cases when employers impose vaccine mandates based on federal overreach. Government, after all, should protect basic rights.



Informed consent: While millions of Americans have rolled up their sleeves to receive the COVID vaccines, millions have chosen not to. In the face of vaccine mandates from employers and various governments, some state legislators are fighting to preserve freedom of choice.

by Robert M. Owens, J.D.

ichigan's H.B. 4471, styled the "Informed Consent in the Workplace Act," is a fine example of what states are doing to protect workers from vaccine mandates. Its passage, and the passage of similar measures across the nation, will require significant grassroots effort.

The media-inspired crescendo of calls for employers to force vaccine mandates upon their employees under threat of termination has created a new round of COVID terror in the American workplace. "My constituents have been calling me in tears," reported Michigan State Representative Beth Griffin, chairwoman of the Michigan House Subcommittee on

Workforce, Trades and Talent, "saying the media's lack of coverage from emerging peer reviewed studies is horrible ... and they are angry because only one side of this vaccination issue and discussion is acceptable."

Florida and Montana have passed legislation prohibiting employers from making employees demonstrate proof of vaccination status. Similar legislation of various types is pending or planned in 39 additional states. However, these legislative moves have come up against stiff opposition. In response, legislators are turning to their constituents for help. For example, on August 30, hundreds of patriotic Americans gathered in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for a rally hosted by State Senator Mike Azinger and Delegate Roger Conley.

As reported by television station WTAP, the legislators called upon Governor Jim Justice to initiate a special session for the purpose of protecting workers from vaccine mandates: "[Conley] says if Justice doesn't call a special session, he is asking constituents to ask legislators to support doing so."

The establishment media is hiding the fact that, while this movement to prohibit employer vaccine mandates is driven by Americans of many different backgrounds, the effort is fully supported by scientists, doctors, and frontline healthcare workers armed with the best and latest peer-reviewed research data. As Representative Griffin stated, "Our Michigan businesses are being done a monumental disservice ... by politically motivated government agencies."

The initial hearing for H.B. 4471, a bill to prohibit employers from enforcing a vaccine mandate on employees, provided a complete case study on the matter. The hearing featured witnesses to address the constitutionality of states taking action to protect workers, the scientific evidence to support the bill, the fairness of the proposed legislation, ample evidence of the need for swift action, and the enormity of constituent support for the law. The hearing also highlighted the sources and reasons for opposition.

Constitutionality

Is it constitutionally permissible for states to ban employers from enforcing vaccine mandates?

Longtime U.S. Representative Dr. Ron Paul of Texas was noted for pointing out that any bill he considered first had to pass a test of constitutionality. If Congress didn't have authority under the Constitution to act, he didn't need to read the rest

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of the bill. Dr. Paul thus became affectionately known as "Dr. No" by constitutionalists who appreciated his principled stand.

Regarding the issue of states banning employers from forcing vaccine mandates upon their employees, the lawfulness of state prohibitions of such policies has come into some debate among conservative and libertarian thinkers.

Republican South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, for example, has come out strongly in opposition to protecting workers from vaccine mandates. "When leaders overstep their authority, that is how we break this country, and if government starts acting unconstitutionally, even if it's doing something that we like, that's a dangerous path to walk down," she said. "It is not conservative to grow government and to tell businesses what to do and how to treat their employees."

Constitutional expert William Wagner, a former federal judge, past legal counsel to the U.S. Senate, and distinguished professor emeritus of the University of Florida and Western Michigan Law School, strongly disagrees with Governor Noem's constitutional analysis. In the Michigan hearing on H.B. 4471, Wagner specifically gave the proposed legislation a constitutional endorsement.

Wagner pointed out that states have significant legislative powers regarding the health, safety, and welfare of the population. This is clearly differentiated from the limited and enumerated powers granted to the national government by the U.S. Constitution. State governments have much broader "police powers." Wagner testified that "the law is rationally related to a legitimate government purpose" and cited provisions of the Michigan Constitution. The cited provisions of the Michigan Constitution that empower the legislature to act in this area are prevalent in other state or commonwealth constitutions throughout the United States.

State laws on safety conditions in the

workplace, maximum number of hours of regular pay before overtime pay applies, mandatory opportunities for lunch breaks, and similar types of regulatory provisions are commonplace and accepted, even in South Dakota. Accordingly, prohibiting an employer from forcing an employee to inject something into his or her body seems like an odd place for Governor Noem to cling to laissez-faire principles.

Wagner pointed out that the proposed law is legally beneficial to businesses as well, because the practical enforcement of vaccine mandates could well lead to ruinous litigation resulting from infringement of sincerely held religious beliefs and medical exceptions that exist in federal law, as further detailed in this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN (see page 10).

Scientific Evidence

Any suggestion that vaccines are not 100-percent safe, 100-percent effective, and perfectly suitable for all people of all ages is a sure way to get banned by Facebook or YouTube. The same media sources that trumpet this vaccine myth are pushing the narrative that "Bunker Joe" won the 2020 election in what they claim was the fairest, most secure election in the history of all elections. Anyone not infected with a severe case of Trump Derangement Syndrome is rightfully skeptical. Not unlike the election analogy, evidence as to the potential dangers of the mRNA vaccine is both clear and abundant, and the basis for skepticism is well founded.

Dr. Christina Parks holds a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology from the University of Michigan Medical School. Testifying in favor of H.B. 4471, Dr. Parks stated, "Vaccine requirements and mandates are based upon the faulty assumption that the vaccine in question prevents transmission of the pathogen." Regarding the mRNA vaccines, she pointed out "they were never designed to do that." Dr. Parks further cited the July 30 media statement from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle Walensky that new data demonstrates that "Delta infection resulted in similarly high SARS-CoV-2 viral loads in vaccinated and unvaccinated people." Dr. Parks stated that policy cannot be based upon "the hope of what we think something will do or want it to do," but rather "what the data actually tells us."



A hands-off approach: South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, considered by many a freedom-loving conservative, is against legislation to outlaw vaccine mandates. She says the government should not interfere with private business decisions.

Citing new peer-reviewed scientific data on the Delta variant of COVID, Dr. Parks pointed out that the vaccines are geared to a different virus. And the medical evidence is clear that the nature of the mRNA vaccine is such that not only does it not prevent infection by the Delta variant, but people who are vaccinated and then infected with the Delta variant are at "increased risk" of even more severe reactions and potential for hospitalization than an unvaccinated person.

Dr. Parks further pointed out that "as a Ph.D., I am a member of the most vaccine hesitant group" because "as Ph.D.'s we actually know how to read peer reviewed scientific studies." Dr. Parks, who is herself black, also notes that "70% of African-Americans have not taken this vaccine. Why? Because they don't trust their government." The reasons for distrust include the CDC's "Tuskegee Experiment" and the 2012 incident in which whistleblower William Thompson revealed that the CDC shredded evidence that the MMR vaccine caused increased rates of autism in black male children. Concluding this thought, Dr. Parks noted that since black people have good cause to distrust the CDC, employer vaccine mandates in the workplace could have an overtly racist impact of excluding the black population from the workforce and educational opportunities.

Dr. James Neuenschwander, M.D., is a board-certified physician with 30 years of experience in integrated and emergency medicine. Dr. Neuenschwander's testimony in support of H.B. 4471 addressed the safety and the medical justification of the vaccine. Citing the studies published relating to the Pfizer vaccine, the doctor pointed out that the rate of severe side effects of the vaccine is 10.7 percent for minors and 8.8 percent for adults. "These are the kind of side effects that knock you off your feet, keep you in bed, keep you from participating in life." The rate of major side effects in the mRNA vaccine is more than double the rate of the worst of nonmRNA vaccines.

What about the worst side effect — death? "The answer is we just don't know.... The studies are too small." However, Dr. Neuenschwander cited the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, or VAERS, which is co-sponsored by the



Keep getting your shots: Israel is one of the most-vaccinated nations on Earth, yet still sees COVID outbreaks. The vaccines' efficacy wanes fairly quickly, prompting Israeli officials to talk of a third and even a fourth round of the shots.

CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is widely accepted that vaccine injuries are significantly underreported to VAERS, but historical data is useful and reporting in VAERS has shaped public policy in the past.

Over the course of the entire history of VAERS, from its inception in 1991 to 2019, there were a total of 9,864 total vaccine-related deaths reported, sourced from all vaccines given in that time frame. In comparison, in only eight months there have been a reported 12,791 deaths from just the mRNA COVID vaccines. Other major side effects short of death, ranging from dangerous blood clots to miscarriages, are occurring at a similarly high rate when compared to other vaccines. Concluding on this point, the doctor stated, "Remember we will be using a potentially dangerous medical product on otherwise healthy people."

Turning next to the medical justification for the vaccine, Dr. Neuenschwander again cited the studies used to approve the mRNA vaccines. With all the media attention given to the notion that vaccines stop or at least slow down transmission of the virus, one would think that this point would have been studied at length. If you made that assumption, you would be wrong. In fact, according to the CDC's own paperwork on that critical point, there is "no data available." Shockingly, this information was not even required of the pharmaceutical companies, and there was no attempt to collect the information. Dr. Neuenschwander pointed out that his 10-year-old nephew had to be tested weekly to play Little League baseball, but apparently this same requirement was too much to ask of Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson. Further, the doctor pointed out that in Israel, where mass vaccinations have been carried out with ruthless efficiency, the vaccine failure rate has been found to be as high as 60 percent. Lastly, the doctor noted that the clinical studies to approve the vaccines specifically excluded pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions. Yet despite this omission, the vaccine mandates would apply equally to them.

Worse than just failing to stop the transmission of COVID, Dr. Neuenschwander said, can be blamed the mass-vaccination program for the creation of the new variants of the virus. "It is not the unvacci-

FREEDOM IS THE CURE

While state legislators in many states clearly see the need to pass legislation that prohibits vaccine mandates, it is not prudent to simply assume they will get the necessary laws passed without significant grassroots activism.

NUREMBERG CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS*

- Voluntary consent is essential
- The results of any experiment must be for the greater good of society
- Human experiments should be based on previous animal experimentation
- Experiments should be conducted to avoid physical/mental suffering and injury
- No experiment should be conducted if it is believed to cause death/disability
- The risks should never exceed the benefits
- 7 Adequate facilities should be used to protect subjects
- Experiments should be conducted only by qualified scientists
- Subjects should be able to end their participation at any time
- The scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment when injury, disability, or death is likely to occur

*The information herein is a summary of the code.

nated that are creating the new [vaccineresistant] strains, it's the vaccinated ones that are." Worse yet, vaccinated persons are more likely to be asymptomatic "super spreaders," as the scientific data is conclusive that both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons carry the same viral load.

Dr. Neuenschwander concluded with a study of 265,000 persons who were infected with COVID that the overall reinfection rate was less than 0.1 percent. This study was consistent with others,

including one done at Cleveland Clinic. Accordingly, given the efficacy of natural immunity, the idea of forcibly inoculating these people with a potentially dangerous vaccine is just plain stupid.

Alternative Measures

Dr. Avery Jackson, M.D., is a board-certified neurosurgeon with more than 20 years of experience. This doctor pointed out that physicians taking medical directives on how to treat their patients from gov-

ernmental authorities is not just wrong, not just contrary to the Hippocratic Oath, but illegal. In testimony, Dr. Jackson went through the Nuremberg code of medical ethics to painfully and methodically lay out how each point has been violated by the current mass-vaccination program. This code of ethics was established in the wake of World War II due to the horrors of the medical experiments performed in Nazi concentration camps. Dr. Jackson juxtaposed all these issues with the fact that the pharmaceutical companies are relieved from liability from vaccine injuries.

Noting that not everyone who has back pain should have spinal surgery, Dr. Jackson next turned to the issue of ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine: "The vaccine can kill or hurt you, let's do this first." Dr. Jackson suggested that it makes far more sense to use conservative, noninvasive treatments first. He pointed out his clinical experience having people recover from COVID, and the fact that peer-reviewed studies from around the world support the use of these "FDA approved drugs with a proven safety profile." The doctor lamented how the scientific data on these treatment modalities has been suppressed: "It's loaded with malfeasance."

Dr. Jim Culver, M.D., is a double board-certified physician trained at the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Culver is not an "anti-vaxxer" and has personally received many different types of vaccines. He has personal experience with two patients who have died from the COVID vaccine and another whose blood platelet count dropped so significantly that he nearly died as well. Conversely, he has had 40 patients with COVID whom he treated with ivermectin. In every case, the patients recovered well with no complications. In concluding his remarks, Dr. Culver stated, "If Dr. Fauci had a patent on ivermectin, I'm sure that would be his number one recommendation"

Follow the Money

Dr. Moehanid Talia, M.D., is board-certified in internal medicine and has been on the COVID front line since the inception of the pandemic. His experience with the virus inspired him to explore its origins. What he found shocked him. He noted that the virus started with a concept known as "gain of function," the process of taking a

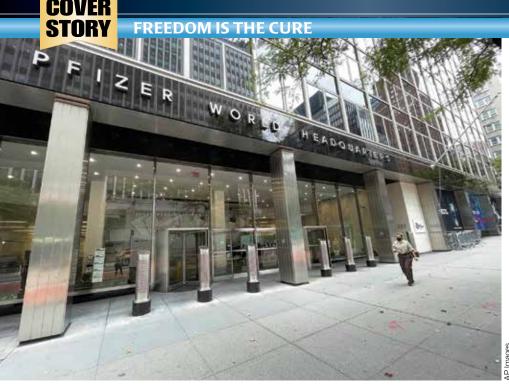
LEGISLATION STATE BY STATE

Multiple state bills protecting employees from employer vaccine mandates have been introduced this year. This list is a sampling of them.

	Legislation	Pending	Passed	Special Note
Alabama				SB267 does not protect employees from employer vaccine mandates
Alaska	HB 175	Х		Referred to State Affairs and Judiciary
Arizona	SB 1648	Х		Stalled in committee
Arkansas	SB 719	Х		
California	AB 327	X		Applies to employers that do business with the state only
Colorado	HB 21-1191	Х		Bill postponed indefinitely
Connecticut				
Delaware				
Florida	SB 2006		X	Prevents employers from demanding proof of vaccine status
Georgia	Planned for 2022	Х		Nov. 15 is first opportunity to file bills
Hawaii	HB 241	Х		
Idaho	HB 140, 301	Х		
Illinois	HB 3682	Х		Only applies to vaccines under EUA
Indiana	SB 74	Χ		
Iowa	HF 330, SF 555	Χ		
Kansas	SB 213	Х		
Kentucky	BR 358	Х		
Louisiana	HB 579	Х		
Maine				
Maryland	HB 117	Х		
Massachusetts				
Michigan	HB 4471	Х		
Minnesota	HF 2541, SF 2424	Х		
Mississippi	HB 719	Х		Failed in committee

	Legislation	Pending	Passed	Special Note
Missouri	Planned for next session	Х		Sen. Bob Onder, Sen. Bill Eigel
Montana	HB 702		Χ	
Nebraska				LB643 does not protect employees
Nevada				
New Hampshire				SB220 does not protect employees
New Jersey	AB 5607, SB 3681	Χ		
New Mexico	SB 408	Х		
New York	AB 4602, AB 7100	Х		
North Carolina	HB 779	Χ		
North Dakota	HB 1301	Х		
Ohio	HB 248	Х		
Oklahoma	Planned for next session	Х		Sen. Warren Hamilton
Oregon	SB 771	X		Current law pro- tects health-care workers from vaccine mandate
Pennsylvania	HB 262, SB 471	Х		
Rhode Island	HB 5989	Х		
South Carolina	HB 3511, SB 177, HB 3711	Х		SB177 excludes certain health- care workers
South Dakota	HB 1159	Х		
Tennessee	SB 1308	Χ		
Texas				
Utah	SB 208	Х		
Vermont	HB 283	Χ		
Virginia				
Washington	HB 1305	Х		
West Virginia	Planned for 2022	X		Senator Mike Azinger, Del. Roger Conley
Wisconsin	AB 25, SB 5	Х		
Wyoming	Working draft	Х		Next Session is Feb. 2022

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Big money for Big Pharma: Pfizer is on track to make tens of billions of dollars in profits from sales of its COVID vaccine. Vaccine companies stand to gain the most from vaccine mandates and sales of regular booster shots.

virus from an animal and manipulating it so that it will impact humans. In the case of COVID, he noted, the virus started in a bat and then scientists used ferrets to adapt it to humans. Ferrets have the same ACE 2 (Angiotensin-converting enzyme) receptors as humans. From that point, Dr. Talia discovered the research of Dr. David E. Martin, Ph.D., and sought to verify the same. Dr. Talia concurs with Dr. Martin that there has been a process of over 120 patents scattered over 20 years that has resulted in the creation of what we know today to be SARS CoV-2. Dr. Talia noted that there are three specific points of evidence that prove this point: 1) the cleavage site for the SARS COVID virus, 2) the spike protein, and 3) the ACE 2 binding site. Records further conclusively show that the vast portion of the funding on this research was approved by NIAID under the direction of Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr. Talia then connected Dr. Fauci's contact at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Ralph Baric, to the Wuhan Virology Lab in China.

This recount by Dr. Talia of the history of COVID through "gain of function" research was the introduction to more startling information: "Pfizer made \$3.5 billion in the first

quarter of 2021 and projects to make \$26 billion by the end of the year. Moderna made \$1.75 billion in the first quarter of 2021 and they anticipate that these vaccines will be needed for years to come."

Understanding the Opposition

The lone opponent to testify against H.B. 4471 was Brad Williams from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. Williams stated that the legislation "represents big government overreach" and called the measure a "one-size-fits-all" attempt to deal with COVID. Williams claimed that it is far better for federal and state regulators, not elected officials, to set health and safety standards. While not citing any data to support his position, Williams claimed that many workers are sitting at home and not working because they fear going to a workplace with unvaccinated co-workers. He suggested that he represented business owners of all types, but as pointed out by Representative Gary Eisen, himself a small business owner, the money behind the chamber's testimony seemed to be more concentrated in big business. Commented Representative Eisen, "none of these guys asked my opinion!"

Nationwide, opposition to bills similar to Michigan's H.B. 4471 has been spearheaded by "woke" corporations operating through front organizations such as chambers of commerce and radical leftist politicians and activists. In many respects, this coalition mirrors the same conglomerate of big business and leftist radicals that promotes unlimited illegal immigration and amnesty. For big business, it is an opportunity to exploit labor, and for the radical Left, it is an opportunity to exert control and further destroy any notions of individual liberty.

Freedom Is the Cure

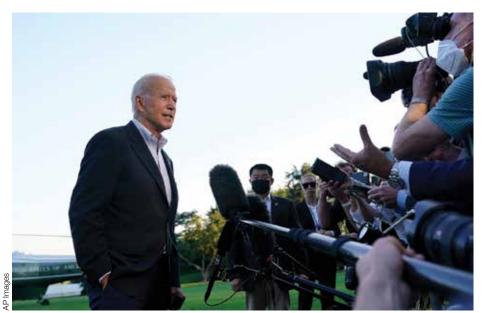
Concerned citizens must understand that freedom is not a spectator sport. While state legislators in many states clearly see the need to pass legislation that prohibits vaccine mandates, it is not prudent to simply assume they will get the necessary laws passed without significant grassroots activism. Dedicated patriots are needed, and here is the game plan: Seek out pending legislation in your state that accomplishes the goal of prohibiting vaccine mandates. Understand that some currently proposed laws are sufficient, and some are too weak. In either case, make a point of contacting the bill's sponsor.

Joe Biden's mRNA vaccine mandates issued September 9 will affect as many as 100 million Americans. The new measures include a vaccine mandate for all federal workers and contractors, and a requirement that large companies must mandate vaccines or regular testing for employees. Accordingly, the use of nullification at the state level is more critical now than ever before. If there is no pending legislation in your state, make calls and create relationships to find a sponsor. Perhaps host a town hall on the issue. Work with the sponsor to build grassroots support for a good bill with amendments as necessary to make sure it has the necessary provisions to make a difference. Organize phone calls and put constant pressure on committee members to see the bill through to a floor vote in both houses of your state legislature. If and when hearings occur, make sure they are well-known and wellattended by fellow patriots.

Lastly, never forget to make sure prayer is an important part of your recipe for success. ■

JOE BIDEN THE 25TH AMENDMENT'S FIRST VICTIM?

There is no question that President Biden's faculties are declining — a trend that was already apparent during last year's campaign. But what is the proper response?



Sleepy Joe: President Joe Biden is, according to many, showing signs of dementia and is unable to effectively lead the country. Calls for his removal via the 25th Amendment are becoming more frequent.

by Michael Tennant

fter the disastrous events in Afghanistan, we must confront a serious question: Is Joe Biden capable of discharging the duties of his office or has time come to exercise the provisions of the 25th Amendment?"

That August 16 tweet from Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.) brought to the fore one of the concerns many Republicans — and, privately, a few Democrats — have expressed since last year's presidential campaign. Is the 78-year-old Biden, the oldest man ever to occupy the Oval Office, competent to lead our nation? If not, what can be done about it?

Michael Tennant is a freelance writer and regular contributor to The New American.

Sleepy, Dopey, and Grumpy

One needn't be a partisan to see that Biden's faculties are not what they once were. Biden used to be a competent, if gaffe-prone, public speaker who could respond to questions — even challenging ones — without consulting a teleprompter. He'd never have made senator and vice president otherwise.

During the presidential campaign, however, it became clear that the Biden of 2020 was not the Biden of 2012. Much of his campaign was conducted from his home via video; for months, he made no in-person appearances. Although some of this could be attributed to coronavirus lockdowns and Biden's own age-related vulnerability to the virus, it made for a very low-energy campaign that, in turn, suggested the candidate himself lacked

vigor — hence then-President Donald Trump's nickname for him, "Sleepy Joe." When Biden did begin turning up in public, he frequently called a "lid" on campaign events in the morning, which further hinted at a lack of energy and led some to suspect that he was suffering from "sundowning," a symptom of dementia that manifests itself in "increased confusion, anxiety, agitation, pacing and disorientation beginning at dusk and continuing throughout the night," according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Biden's appearances were often marked by "struggles to get out a standard line," PolitiFact conceded in a piece otherwise devoted to defending Biden against attacks on his cognitive abilities. At a virtual appearance last October, he even forgot the name of his opponent.

When challenged, Biden frequently became testy and insulted the person who had addressed him. When a college woman questioned his ability to "win the national election" after he finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses, Biden called her "a lying, dog-faced pony soldier." Asked by CBS' Errol Barnett if he'd taken a cognitive test to put to rest any questions about his mental fitness, the candidate ridiculed him, suggesting it was akin to asking Barnett to take a test to prove he wasn't "a junkie."

Biden's faltering was so obvious that an August 2020 Rasmussen poll found that 59 percent of likely voters, and nearly half of those identifying as Democrats, thought it unlikely that he would finish even a single term. A June 2020 Zogby poll revealed that 55 percent of likely voters thought Biden was "in the early stages of dementia"; 32 percent of Democrats shared that opinion.

"A lot of Democrats will tell you, at

least privately, that he does not have the mental acuity that he even had a couple of years ago," *The Hill's* Joe Concha told *Fox* & *Friends* at the time.

Matters haven't improved since Biden took his oath of office. THE NEW AMERICAN online reported in July:

As president, Biden has forgotten the name of the secretary of defense and the Pentagon, managed to fall *up* the stairs to Air Force One, called [Vice President Kamala] Harris "President Harris" (in a redo of when he referred to her as "President-elect Harris" after the election), confused Syria with Libya at the G7 summit, just to name a few times.

More recently, he needed to consult a pocket note to answer a question about which he had *literally* just been briefed. During that embarrassing episode, he was also driven to near-total mental shutdown by the fact that while fumbling with the question, he was paying for a purchase at a fruit stand.

Then came the bungled Afghanistan withdrawal — and Biden's similarly bumbling attempts to explain away all the chaos, refusing to admit that any mistakes had been made or that any of the disastrous side effects of the United States' departure could have been foreseen.

Questioning the Commander

Which brings us back to Senator Scott. "Does this guy have the capability to lead the United States and be commander in chief of the most powerful and lethal military force ever created in the history of the world?" he asked Miami radio host Brian Mudd in the aftermath of the withdrawal. "If he does not, then we have got to do something about it."

Scott isn't the only Republican in Congress questioning the president's competence. Representative Ronny Jackson (R-Texas), who served as physician to the president in the Obama and Trump administrations, has been sounding the alarm on Biden's mental state for more than a year now.

Jackson told Fox News' Sean Hannity in July that, in his opinion, either Biden's advisors will convince him to resign "or



Who's in charge? The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November of 1963 demonstrated the need to have a plan in place should a president be not physically or mentally able to govern. Kennedy lived for about one hour after being shot.

they're going to have to use the 25th Amendment to get rid of this man."

From JFK to XXV

But how, exactly, would that happen?

The Constitution's original articles make no provision for the removal of a president except by impeachment and trial, which are reserved for executives accused of "high crimes and misdemeanors." Until 1967, there was no legal way to oust a president who, though physically or mentally unfit to lead, either refused to resign (or at least temporarily step aside) or could not express his intent to do so.

However, after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Congress began taking a hard look at amending the Constitution to address such situations. The problem facing the nation was expressed by *New York Times* columnist James Reston in a piece published the day after Kennedy's murder:

For an all-too brief hour today, it is not clear again what would have happened if the young president, instead of being mortally wounded, had lingered for a long time between life and death, strong enough to survive but too weak to govern.

Would the powers of the presidency have remained in Kennedy's incapable hands? If so, how would they have been exercised? Would Jacqueline Kennedy and members of the Cabinet have continued to exercise them through a shadow government, pretending that all was well with the president, as Woodrow Wilson's wife and advisors did after he was incapacitated by a stroke? Would the powers have devolved to Vice President Lyndon Johnson? There simply were no constitutional provisions, laws, or precedents to address such a crisis. As long as the president lived and did not expressly resign, he remained in full possession of the powers of his office.

The urgency was such that within four years of Kennedy's death, Congress passed and the states ratified the 25th Amendment in hopes of settling the matter once and for all.

The 25th Amendment has four sections. All concern presidential succession or disability, but Section 4 is the one to which Scott and Jackson referred. That section sets forth the procedures by which the president may be divested of his powers because of a perceived disability, and also how he may regain them. Note that the president cannot be *removed* from office by this provision; he can only be rendered powerless.

In order for a president to be declared disabled under Section 4, the vice president, in concert with "a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide," informs the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House in writing that the president "is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." At that moment, the president is relieved of his powers, and the vice president becomes acting president.

Should the president seek to regain his powers at any time thereafter, he must inform the same congressional leaders in writing "that no inability exists." If the vice president and the principal officers (or other body) do not contest the president's declaration, his powers are restored. If they do contest it, Congress must assemble (if not already in session) and consider the matter. If, within 21 days, Congress, by a two-thirds vote in each chamber, opts to continue the president's disabled status, the vice president remains acting president. "Otherwise, the president shall resume the powers and duties of his office."

While Section 4 is quite specific about the procedures involved, it is silent on the matter of just what constitutes an "inability" on the president's part. According to Yale Law School's reader's guide to the 25th Amendment, "The framers specifically rejected any definition of the term, prioritizing flexibility."

Veepers Creepers

Thus far, Section 4 has never been invoked, though there have been a few close calls. Activating the provision was considered twice during the Reagan administration, first when Reagan was shot and then several years later when some aides claimed he was "inattentive and inept," but it was ultimately deemed unnecessary in both instances. Trump, too, faced two calls to use Section 4 against him, after he fired Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey and following the January 6 Capitol riot. Both attempts, which were clearly politically motivated, withered on the vine.

But Biden is a different story. When a sizable percentage of Democrats — including, it seems, his own press secretary, who has admitted she doesn't want him taking questions from the media — is convinced that he's losing it, and after he completely botched a major military maneuver, few would view stripping him of his powers under Section 4 as a Republican *putsch*. That is especially true given that (a) the initial declaration of inability would come from Harris and officials appointed by the president and (b) any challenges to it would be adjudicated by a Congress wholly controlled by members of the president's own

party. Furthermore, the prime beneficiary of such an action would be Harris, who would become acting president.

Then again, Harris' potential elevation might be the biggest obstacle to Democrats getting behind any move to dethrone Biden. Although the far-left vice president, then a senator, was considered a frontrunner for the Democratic Party's 2020 presidential nomination and had a record-tying first day of fundraising, her support evaporated so rapidly that she pulled out of the race before a single vote had been cast.

"Her performance as vice president has shown her to be an arrogant selfpromoter, someone unlikely to appeal to rank and file voters," observed John F. McManus, president emeritus of The John Birch Society, which publishes THE NEW AMERICAN. Assigned by Biden to deal with the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, she dawdled for weeks, only showing up for (in McManus' words) "a glorified photo op" after Trump announced he would be visiting the border. "POLITICO," McManus penned, "has made note of the 'toxic work environment' in her vice presidential office." Pollster Bill McInturff tweeted that Harris has "an unprecedented 'very negative' rating [among first-year vice presidents] on @NBCNews survey tracking." Little wonder then that, according to Axios, "Democrats are privately reconsidering the idea of Harris as Biden's heir apparent."

Party Poopers

For now, only Republicans appear to be interested in disempowering Biden via the 25th Amendment. According to FloridaPolitics.com, Scott "admitted that his idea has no traction with Democrats," and Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said he didn't "foresee that happening."

Democrats, of course, don't want to hand Republicans even such a relatively hollow victory, and they would surely be loath to admit that they knowingly shepherded a mentally declining man to the highest office in the land. But if Biden's condition deteriorates to the point that his unfitness to lead can no longer be denied, they may be forced to take the difficult and painful step of discharging a president whose lifelong dream was to call 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue home.



Madam president: While many are calling for Biden to be removed from office, few seem to consider the fact that Vice President Kamala Harris would then become president. This is something few, if any, conservatives would want.

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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Reddit to the Rescue

Five-year-old Jonas Holloway loves manta rays and ocean creatures of all kinds. When he asked his mother, Tiffany, for a stuffed manta ray for his fifth birthday, which was August 16, his struggling mother knew she couldn't afford to buy one, so she used her sewing skills to make him one. She was so proud of how it turned out that she shared the photo of the finished product on Reddit. Her post quickly became the number-one post on the online forum and inspired an outpouring of kindness from the community far and wide.

Tiffany Holloway had posted on Reddit on August 2 to explain her soon-to-be five-year-old wanted a stuffed manta ray for his birthday. Jonas, whose hero is Steve Irwin, loves sea animals, but for his single mother, purchasing a new one simply was not an option.

Holloway told the *Washington Post* she had just \$2 in her savings account, and the cheapest stuffed manta ray she found was \$20.

Holloway and her four boys recently left a domestic-violence situation, and the single mother is doing her best to keep her head above water while caring for her four children. Instead of purchasing a stuffed animal for her son, she used Jonas' old blue baby blanket to make an adorable stuffed manta ray, using buttons for its eyes.

"I sat on the couch until 1 in the morning, poking myself with that needle until I'd finally finished sewing it together," said Holloway. "I took two buttons off one of my blouses and used those for eyes."

Proud of her work, Holloway shared the photo of her homemade manta ray on her August 2 Reddit post.

"I figured I'd be lucky to hear from a couple of people," said Holloway. "I thought I might get teased because the button eyes aren't on straight."

Instead, Reddit readers responded with incredible kindness. More than 60,000 people liked her photo, and her post received tons of positive comments and offers for her family, the *Post* reported. Before long, hundreds of readers were

sending stuffed manta rays, squids, and other sea-animal toys.

"He has so many stuffed sea animals there is barely any room for him on his bed but he insists on sleeping with all of them," Tiffany told Good News Network (GNN).

One Redditor, who wished to remain anonymous, went so far as to purchase a \$100 gift card for the family to visit the Blue Zoo so that Jonas could see live sting rays in person.

Another Redditor, Jennifer Prokop, purchased tickets for Tiffany and her four boys to visit the Oklahoma City Zoo, and additional tickets to feed the sting rays, an experience that Jonas greatly enjoyed, according to his mother.

"Jonas got to see and touch and even feed his favorite animal," Tiffany told GNN. "Jennifer and I have become fast friends. She is an amazing kind person with a big heart."

Tiffany said they fed the stingrays for well over an hour.

Prokop also created a GoFundMe page to help Tiffany and her children. The \$2,500 goal set for the page was quickly surpassed, and hovered around \$10,000 as of August 23.

Tiffany said the generosity from the Reddit community has made her son happier than he has been in a long time.

"Me and my son are domestic violence survivors, and Jonas is a child that rarely smiles because of all the trauma he's been through," she told GNN. "This outpouring of love and kindness has brought an oh-sorare smile to his face — and that is worth more to me than anything else."

Holloway said the experience has also been important for her own psyche. Currently unemployed, Holloway has been taking classes at a local community college to become an EMT. She recently emptied her savings account to fly her mother to Oklahoma from Hawaii.

"I've been having a tough time financially and was feeling like a failure as a parent until this happened," she said.

"I Am"

A teacher in Atlanta is helping her students to become confident and see their worth by starting their day with self-affirmations.

In a video that went viral, fourth-grade teacher Neffiteria Acker is shown holding a mirror with the words "I am" attached while students shout positive affirmations to their mirror reflections.

"I am smart!" one student declared.

"I am a good person," said another.

A young boy affirmed, "I am strong and independent."

These are just some of the many wonderful self-affirmations the students declared at the start of their day.

"The idea came from a practice that I do with myself and my 5-year-old daughter," Acker told Today.com. "When we're on our way to school, I have her repeat affirmations to me, starting with, 'I am.' Usually I just ask her to tell me something good about herself. She'll say, 'I'm a fast eater,' or, 'I'm a fast runner.' Then I'll add to it: 'You're also really brave. So why don't you say, "I'm brave.""

"It boosts her confidence. It boosts my confidence as a woman and a mother. So I figured, why not add that into the classroom?"

Another teacher, Cierra Levay Broadway, was so moved by what she was witnessing that she decided to video the moment and share it online.

"It was a really great moment," she told Today. "I really got chills when I saw the kids and heard what they were saying for their affirmations. For a lot of them, it was their first time ever doing that."

The two teachers told Today that it was important for the kids to remember what makes them special.

"We teach in a pretty rough neighborhood in Atlanta, and a lot of those kids don't hear that at all," Broadway said. "They hear a lot of negativity about themselves.... It's good to plant those seeds here."

According to the teachers, the students love the affirmation routine and are especially excited about the attention they've gotten since the video was posted to social media.

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

PASI AND PERSPECTIVE

THE CONFIRMATION BATTLE OF CLARENCE THOMAS

Justice Thomas took his seat on the Supreme Court 30 years ago, after having survived a smear campaign not unlike the gauntlets other conservative judicial nominees have had to endure both before and since.



by Steve Byas

mericans sat glued to their TV sets as Clarence Thomas, a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, responded to last-minute charges by an obscure law-school professor at the Uni-

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versity of Oklahoma College of Law. With the hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee winding down, and Thomas's confirmation seemingly secured, Professor Anita Hill had unleashed 11th-hour accusations against him, charging that Thomas had sexually harassed her while he was her supervisor at the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission during the Reagan administration.

"I cannot imagine anything that I said or did to Anita Hill that could have been mistaken for sexual harassment.... I have not done what she has alleged, and still do not know what I could have possibly done to cause her to make these allegations," Thomas told the committee.

The story of the battle over the confirmation of Clarence Thomas to the nation's highest federal court really begins four years earlier, with a previous nominee, Robert Bork.

"Borked"

After President Ronald Reagan nominated Bork to an associate justice's post on the Supreme Court, the American Left was quite concerned. Bork was an advocate of following the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution, and that philosophy in a Supreme Court justice was a potential roadblock to the agenda of American progressives.

Since the Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, which declared that the right of a woman to have an abortion was somehow a "right" hidden somewhere in the penumbras of the Ninth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, an energetic pro-life movement has sprung up with the ultimate goal of getting the Supreme Court to reverse itself. On the other hand, a similarly energetic movement calling itself pro-choice has arisen to defend the decision.

Bork, a former law professor at Yale and a former solicitor general of the United States (an official who leads the legal team in the Justice Department arguing the government's side in cases before the Supreme Court), was nominated by Reagan to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 1982. As the Republican Party had a strong majority in the U.S. Senate,

PAST AND PERSPECTIVE



Borked: Robert Bork was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 to a post on the Supreme Court. Little did he realize that he would face such gross distortions of his record and character by Senator Edward Kennedy and others that his confirmation would be denied.

which confirms (or rejects) judicial nominations, Bork was easily confirmed.

After Bork took his place on the D.C. Circuit, it was considered only a matter of time before he would be named to the Supreme Court, as membership on that circuit is considered a steppingstone position to the Supreme Court. As such, not only was Reagan primed to tap Bork, the progressives who did not like his originalism philosophy (that judges should follow the Constitution, not their personal views) were also ready to oppose him.

Having been a law professor who was quite prolific in writing academic articles enunciating his originalist positions, plus having a long tenure on the D.C. Circuit, Bork had left a long "paper trail" for his enemies on the Left to challenge — or to distort.

Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy (D-Mass.) led the charge against Bork with a broadside on the floor of the Senate. "Robert Bork's America is a land in which women would be forced into back-alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, schoolchildren could not be taught about

evolution, writers and artists would be censored at the whim of government," Kennedy claimed, "and the doors of the federal courts would be shut on the fingers of millions of citizens for whom the judiciary is often the only protector of the individual rights that are at the heart of our democracy."

I remember watching Kennedy's rant and shaking my head with a laugh. No one could take this demagoguery seriously, I thought. I was wrong.

Kennedy's opening salvo was used as a template for the Left's unfounded attacks upon Bork, and his nomination was eventually scuttled in the Senate, 58-42. The attacks were so severe that a new word entered the lexicon of American politics. Anyone so attacked is now said to have been "Borked."

Senator Kennedy added that Reagan should not be allowed to "impose his reactionary vision of the Constitution on the Supreme Court and on the next generation of Americans."

While Reagan was hardly a "reactionary," Kennedy had, perhaps unintentionally, touched on what Supreme Court battles are all about. Presidents, whether Ronald Reagan or Franklin Roosevelt, eventually leave office, but the men and women they place on the Supreme Court extend their influence far beyond a president's tenure in office. This is particularly the case when judges routinely overstep the constitutional boundaries of their office and engage in what is commonly called judicial activism.

The Nomination of Clarence Thomas

This October marks the 30th anniversary of Thomas' confirmation battle, which ended with his ascension to the Supreme Court. While there is little in the one term of President George Herbert Walker Bush for constitutionalists to remember with fondness, the naming of Thomas to the Supreme Court was clearly a plus.

Thomas might very well be the most consistent constitutionalist on the High Court today.

When Bush sent Thomas' nomination to Capitol Hill, he evidently did not know just how strong of a constitutionalist Thomas was, according to Thomas. One reason for this was that, remembering the savage beating taken by Robert Bork, the administration did not want to go through that gauntlet again. The Democrats had a majority in the Senate, and because of that Bush needed to nominate someone whom the Democrats would have a hard time attacking in the manner they had savaged Bork.

Thomas had not been a law professor like Bork, and had done very little writing that could be similarly distorted by the Left. During the confirmation proceedings, then, Thomas was expected to bob and weave like a boxer and not let the Democrats score any direct hits. He certainly was to avoid taking any hard position on *Roe v. Wade*, for example.

Secondly, Clarence Thomas was not a white guy like Bork, but rather an African-American. Republicans assumed that the Democrats would be reluctant to savage a black man, fearing the possibility of offending an important voting bloc depended upon by the Democratic Party.

At first, the Democrats tried to seize upon some statements Thomas had made concerning "natural law." It seems that Thomas believed that the rights of Americans — indeed all human rights — came from God, and because of this, governments that violate them are violating natural law. It appears that the attack was

intended to argue that Thomas believed unborn children have a natural right to life.

This was an odd attack, considering that this theory of the purpose of government—the belief that rights come from God—is clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence. Even Ted Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy, had said so in his 1961 inaugural address: "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God." Such a bold statement today by a Democratic politician might get him run out of the party.

In the end, this tactic did not work, as it was difficult to argue that there was something wrong with a founding principle of the country. Thomas made it through the grilling of the Senate Judiciary Committee largely unscathed, and it appeared his confirmation was secured.

After all, Thomas had an amazing story, the type of story that was the fulfillment of the American Dream. Born in Georgia, Thomas grew up in a rather poor household, essentially reared by his grandfather, who was a no-nonsense type of man. Somewhat "radical" (self-described) in his early days, Thomas was bright enough to gain admission to Yale Law School, where he

When Bush sent Thomas' nomination to Capitol Hill, he evidently did not know just how strong of a constitutionalist Thomas was, according to Thomas.

excelled. With the passing of time, Thomas had drifted into a much more conservative stance, both socially and politically.

Reagan Hires Thomas

When Reagan was elected president in 1980, he understandably had political reasons to bring more conservative blacks into his administration. He named Thomas to lead the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Education, a department that Reagan had actually wanted to abolish. But with Democrats still in control of the House of Representatives, that was not likely to happen.

It was in this position that Thomas first met Anita Hill. "Shortly after I started work," Thomas recalled in his autobiography, *My Grandfather's Son*, "Gil Hardy called me and asked me to 'help a sister' who was leaving his firm." Hardy

died in 1989 — two years before Thomas's confirmation hearings — but in 1981 he was one of Thomas' closest friends. A black lawyer, Hardy was a partner in the Washington law firm of Wald, Harkrader, and Ross.

The "sister" was Hill. Thomas asked if Hill was a Republican, and was told that she was not. Thomas explained to Hardy that it would be "all but impossible to shepherd a political appointee through the vetting process unless the person had been a longtime Reagan supporter." Only because Hardy was such a close friend did Thomas relent and agree to interview Hill.

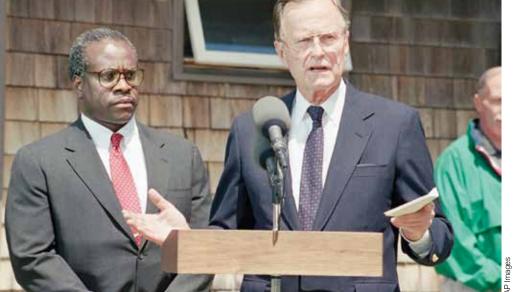
Interestingly, during the interview, Thomas asked her why she was leaving a prestigious law firm to work for an obscure civil-rights agency. Hill told Thomas that her "options were limited." According to Hill, her boss — a partner with the firm — had asked her for a date, and when she declined, he began giving her unpleasant work assignments and poor performance assessments.

Thomas then asked her for her opinion of President Reagan. "I detest him," Hill said. Knowing it was impossible to hire her as a political appointee, and remembering how difficult it was to find a good job himself after graduation, he hired her as a non-political employee instead.

The next year, Reagan asked Thomas to head up the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Thomas told the staff that he was leaving the Department of Education for the EEOC, and Hill asked to go with him. Thomas tried to dissuade her, but she was persistent.

"You're a rising star. I want to go with you," Hill pleaded.

Thomas relented, despite Hill having no experience with employment law. Near the end of 1982, Chris Roggerson, Thomas' chief of staff, told Thomas that Hill's performance was falling short of expectations, and she was often late finishing her assignments. Another concern Thomas had was that Hill "seemed far too interested in



Game changer: In July of 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced the nomination of Clarence Thomas to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Because Thomas would cause a significant shift in the ideology of the court, it was expected that his confirmation hearings would be brutal. They were even worse than expected.

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As George Orwell wrote in his classic dystopian novel 1984, those who control the past can control the future. This is exactly what the character assassination of Clarence Thomas was all about.



False charge: Anita Hill, a law professor from the University of Oklahoma, was a proud progressive Democrat who disliked President Ronald Reagan, the man who had brought Clarence Thomas into his administration in the early 1980s. Ultimately, Hill's accusations failed to stop Thomas' confirmation before the Senate, as her charges lacked sufficient evidence.

my social calendar. She regularly inquired about my after-hours activities and on more than one occasion had asked me if she could accompany me to professional functions."

When Roggerson took a job in California, Hill demanded Thomas choose her as his replacement, noting that she was also a Yale Law School graduate, whereas two others under consideration had only gone to Duke and Boston College, respectively. When Thomas tapped Allyson Duncan (the Duke grad) for the position, Hill was outraged, accusing Thomas of picking her because of her lighter skin (Duncan was a lighter-skinned black woman).

It was not long after this incident that Thomas was invited to speak at an EEOC luncheon at Oral Roberts University's (ORU) law school in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Knowing that Hill had grown up near Tulsa, and still had family there, Thomas suggested that she could attend the conference as well. Hill readily agreed, and flew out a few days before the seminar. Thomas, on the other hand, took an early morning flight the day of the luncheon, and returned home the same day.

In her book *Speaking Truth to Power*, Hill wrote that she and Thomas rode on the same plane to Oklahoma, and that Thomas had asked her to sit in the back of the plane with him. But, considering that Thomas was not even on the same plane as Hill, this would have been impossible.

When Thomas arrived at the seminar, Charles Kothe, the dean of the law school,

told Thomas that Hill had performed well at the seminar, and he asked Thomas for permission to speak with her about joining the faculty. Thomas told Kothe that Hill had family ties in Oklahoma, and she was, in fact, looking for a new job. Kothe offered Hill a job, and she accepted. In her book, Hill expressed some concern about the "conservative ideology" of the school. (One suspects that Kothe assumed that Hill was a conservative, since she was working for Thomas.)

Three years later, Hill contacted Thomas and asked that he speak at an EEOC function in Tulsa. Thomas shared one of the head tables with Hill and Kothe (who by this time was actually working for Thomas at EEOC). Kothe was planning to drive Thomas to the airport the next morning, but Hill showed up for breakfast and insisted that she drive Thomas in her new Peugeot. Thomas recalled, "She was excited about the car [and she] seemed happy.... She called me from time to time after that, but so far as I can remember, I never saw her again."

Interestingly, Hill neglects to mention in her book that she volunteered to drive Thomas to the airport.

Hill continued to call Thomas, "almost always when she wanted something," Thomas remembered. She usually spoke with Diane Holt, who was Thomas' secretary at EEOC. Holt logged the calls, and would often take messages when Thomas was out of the office. Hill even called Thomas at his home periodically until he moved and changed his phone number.

Hill's 11th-hour Attack on Thomas

There is no indication that Thomas had given Hill much thought during the contentious confirmation hearings, certainly no indication that he feared she might accuse him of sexual harassment. Then, with predictions that Thomas might receive in excess of 60 votes, he received a phone call that two agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) needed to come by and speak with him. While Thomas wondered what they could possibly need to know this late in the confirmation process, he recalled in his autobiography, "I feared the worst."

Hill had contacted Harriet Grant, nominations counsel to the Judiciary Committee, desiring to make an anonymous allegation against the nominee, and let the committee

conduct an investigation. The chairman of the committee, Senator Joe Biden (D-Del.), refused to allow anonymous allegations. Hill decided to give up her anonymity and go public. The charges would be turned over to the FBI for an investigation. Although Hill made the allegations in an affidavit, beginning with the words "I swear," she neglected to have it notarized.

The FBI agents told Thomas that there was "an allegation of sexual harassment" from Hill. Thomas found the ugly accusations incredible. "I could have cried," Thomas recalled. He told the agents that he had been dating another woman at the time of the allegations and that he had helped Hill get a job at the ORU law school, and even mentioned that she had volunteered to drive him to the airport following the second ORU seminar.

When the story broke, Thomas' chances of being confirmed dropped immediately. In fact, despite the effort of Republicans on the committee to push the nomination to the floor for a vote, they finally agreed to a delay so more hearings could be held. In short, the votes were no longer there for Thomas to be confirmed without additional testimony that would focus on Hill's charges.

Thomas recalled that it was not the first time that Hill had made such charges about a supervisor. As noted earlier, when Thomas hired Hill at the Department of Education, she had claimed that one of the

partners at her former place of employment had sexually harassed her. Thomas told a fellow appeals court judge that he had never been attracted to Hill, claiming she had bad breath.

Diane Holt, Thomas' secretary, remembered that Hill was a liberal feminist. Hill had, according to a story in the *Washington Post*, been critical of Thomas for his conservative views. "He doesn't relate to people who don't make it on their own," Hill claimed of Thomas. Because of this, some of Thomas' defenders argued that Hill's motivation was political — that she was lying to keep a conservative critic of *Roe v. Wade* off the court.

Senator John Danforth, a Missouri Republican for whom Thomas had worked, was livid at what he considered a last-minute hit job: "First, this was a last-ditch attempt to defeat a nomination that we had thought we had won. The Hill story was identical to the weekend-before-the-election attacks made by losing candidates against winning candidates. Just as last-minute political attacks should be dismissed by the voters, so this last minute attack should be dismissed by the American people."

While one can certainly sympathize with Danforth's position, it is a sad commentary that while many people agree with him that lies are often told to win a political race, many of those same people tend to believe such lies. In the case of Hill's allegations,

many of Thomas's supporters in the Senate were hesitant to note the obvious political intent to keep Thomas, a constitutionalist, off the court. The Republicans had no doubt expected that Democrats would be reluctant to attack a black nominee, for fear of alienating black voters. What they had not considered was that the Democrats perhaps had a greater fear of elevating a conservative black man to the Supreme Court, which could cause some blacks to be more sympathetic to conservative causes in general, and the Republican Party in particular. In other words, the greater fear was that Clarence Thomas could begin a process of peeling chunks of the black vote away from the Democrats.

The Borking of Clarence Thomas

The charges leveled against Thomas in an attempt to derail his confirmation were not about his interpretation of the Constitution, or even about abortion, but were a personal attack on his character. Charging Thomas with sexual harassment gave the Democrats an opportunity to go on offense. Now, if the Republicans continued to defend Thomas, they could be charged with defending a man against a woman's charges of sexual harassment. In short, feminism would trump racist accusations, especially with Hill being a black woman.

It appeared that Thomas' nomination was sunk. After all, it is difficult to prove a negative — that he had not harassed Hill. Probably the majority of Americans — at least in 1991 — could not believe someone would lie about sexual harassment for political purposes.

After Hill went before the committee to make her charges, Thomas was brought back to offer a rebuttal. In a statement laced with controlled anger, Thomas said, "When I stood next to the president in Kennebunkport, being nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States, that was a high honor. But as I sit here, before you, 103 days later, that honor has been crushed."

Thomas continued, detailing the personal pain he had endured throughout the process. "From the very beginning charges were leveled against me from the shadows — charges of drug abuse, anti-Semitism, wife-beating, drug use by family members, that I was a quota appointment, confirmation conversion and much, much more, and now, this."



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As the senators sat silent, Thomas certainly knew that his primary audience was the American public. "I have complied with the rules. I responded to a document request that produced over 30,000 pages of documentation. And I have testified for five full days, under oath. I have endured this ordeal for 103 days. Reporters sneaking into my garage to examine books I read. Reporters and interest groups swarming over preposterous and damaging rumors. Calls all over the country specifically requesting dirt."

Then, in a dramatic conclusion, Thomas said, "This is not American. This is Kafkaesque. It has got to stop. It must stop for the benefit of future nominees, and our country. Enough is enough."

Of Hill's specific allegation, Thomas was blunt. "I would like to start by saying unequivocally ... that I deny each and every single allegation against me today that suggested in any way that I had conversations of a sexual nature or about pornographic material with Anita Hill, that I ever attempted to date her, that I ever had any personal sexual interest in her, or that I in any way ever harassed her."

Finally, Thomas summed up his feelings about the whole confirmation process. "The Supreme Court is not worth it.

No job is worth it. I am not here for that. I am here for my name, my family, my life and my integrity. I think something is dreadfully wrong with this country, when any person, any person in this free country would be subjected to this."

Combined with powerful testimony from former employees of Thomas, who directly refuted Hill's case, the hearings concluded with a dramatic swing in Thomas' favor in the court of public opinion. His subsequent confirmation by the Senate was a result of this change. At the close of the hearings, about two-thirds of Americans polled thought Thomas, not Hill, was telling the truth.

One of those testifying for Thomas was Janet Brown, who had worked for Thomas. She told the committee that she had been sexually harassed in the workplace years earlier, and she found the experience "humiliating." She said that Hill's testimony was astonishing. "Let me assure you that the last thing I would ever have done is follow the man who did this to a new job, call him on the phone or voluntarily share the same air space again."

But not only did Hill follow Thomas to a new job, she also called him on the phone, multiple times. Thomas' secretary at EEOC recalled several such phone calls

after Hill had left the agency. Telephone logs indicated there were 11 calls from Hill (this would not include the times that Thomas was present and available, and she put the call on through).

One phone call from Hill even left the hotel room number where she was staying in D.C.

Unfortunately, once Thomas was confirmed, conservatives believed the battle was over. Whereas two-thirds of Americans believed Thomas over Hill at the conclusion of the hearings, a little over a year later, the public now believed Hill, by a margin of 53-37 percent, according to a poll by the *Washington Post*.

What had happened? The Left would have no doubt preferred to block Thomas' nomination altogether. Failing that, however, they desired to destroy his reputation, so his opportunities to be a role model for African-Americans would be diminished. When conservatives went on to other issues, progressives did not. They never concede an issue or a situation.

As George Orwell wrote in his classic dystopian novel 1984, those who control the past can control the future. This is exactly what the character assassination of Clarence Thomas was all about. As Thomas said during his powerful testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991, "This is a circus. This is a national disgrace. And from my standpoint as a black American, as far as I am concerned, it is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks who in any way think for themselves, to do for themselves, to have different ideas."

Compare the reaction of the Left to the allegations against Thomas to those against President Bill Clinton. Of the 26 senators who had voted against Thomas' confirmation and were still in office in 1998, all of them voted to keep Clinton in office.

Even Anita Hill defended Clinton, arguing in a *Newsweek* article that the two situations "are quite different." Appearing on *Meet the Press*, Hill supported the defense of Clinton by prominent feminist leaders. "We live in a political world, and the reality is that there are larger issues other than just individual behavior."

From that short statement, I am sure readers can judge for themselves that there are many people willing to lie in order to advance what they consider "larger issues."



Founders' intent: The Framers of the Constitution did not envision that the Supreme Court would become as powerful as it has. But as much as modern devotees of our Constitution lament this perversion, each nomination made to the Supreme Court becomes a critical battle in preserving our republican form of government intended by the Founding Fathers.



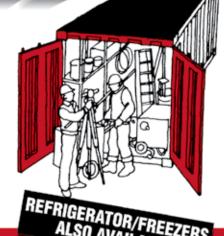
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Scary Stalker Shot

Valdosta Today reported on August 23 about an incident in southern Georgia involving a man being followed home by a dangerous criminal with bad intentions. Police say that 25-year-old Lyndon Williams followed a man who left his place of employment and was returning home. Williams drove behind the victim, who was completely unaware that he was being followed. Once the victim parked in his driveway, Williams darted out of his vehicle and ran up to the man with a handgun drawn in an apparent attempt to rob him. Thankfully, the victim had his own handgun, and shot Williams before Williams was able to fire his gun. Valdosta Today reported that police had concluded their investigation and determined that the victim acted lawfully, and the shooting was a justified case of self-defense.

FBI "Terror Watch List" May Be Used to Strip Gun Rights

Prominent gun-rights advocate John Lott and Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) co-authored a September 4 op-ed in the Washington Times that squarely took aim at the FBI and its so-called terror watch list. Lott and Massie warned the list might be used to make an end-run around the Second Amendment. The editorial was entitled "FBI abuses 'no-fly list' to infringe on Second Amendment rights," and explained that the no-fly list, which had its origins in the early years of the post-9/11 "war on terror," has grown to an astronomical two million names! Democrats have long called for banning anyone who is on the list from being able to buy guns and, if enacted, such a law could end up stripping two million Americans of their gun rights. As Lott and Massie explained, "being on the watch list doesn't mean that you are guilty of anything. You can be on the list simply because the FBI wants to interview you about someone you might know. As of 2014, about 40 percent of people on the watch list were under 'reasonable suspicion' despite having 'no affiliation with known terrorist groups.' People can get nominated for the list by various government agencies, and no oversight agency exists to ensure that these additions are justified."

Lott and Massie named high-profile Democrats, such as Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and former President Barack Obama, who have called for banning gun sales to people on the list. Lott and Massie also detailed many common problems with the list, including "false positives" by which a person with a similar name to someone on the list can end up in legal limbo. Lott and Massie drew parallels to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which has its own share of problems. They wrote, "Since the NICS background checks began in 1994, there have been 3.8 million initial denials. In 2017 alone, there were 112,000 initial denials for supposedly prohibited purchases. But, by June of the following year, the federal government had only prosecuted twelve people for trying to buy a gun. Almost all the cases were dropped upon further review. The simple reason for this is that they were mistakes — in other words, they weren't real cases."

Ultimately, Lott and Massie took issue with the fact that since there is no due process for someone who is put on the list. it's unfair to use placement on the list as grounds for stripping the person of such a crucial right as the right to bear arms. In conclusion, Lott and Massie argued that the approach is just as foolhardy and downright dangerous as other anti-gun proposals, and wrote that the "terror watch list would likely only stop law-abiding people from purchasing guns. People shouldn't lose their right to protect their families because some unnamed bureaucrat put their name on a list for some unknown reason. With Democrats in complete control of Washington for the first time since they started pushing this legislation, we'd better keep an eye on what they might try to sneak into this year's budget."

Taliban Victory Reminds Us That the Second Amendment Works

In a July speech, Joe Biden mocked Second Amendment supporters who argue that an armed citizenry can protect against government tyranny, mumbling, "If you wanted or if you think you need to have weapons to take on the government, you need F-15s and maybe some nuclear weapons." Biden was obviously trying to imply that small arms would be insufficient against a major military power such as that of the United States, but in a month's time, the exact opposite proved true when U.S. forces retreated from Afghanistan, essentially handing the Taliban a victory after nearly 20 years of war.

Much has been written about America's embarrassing defeat at the hands of the Taliban, but political pundit Michael Brendan Dougherty wrote a column back in 2017 for National Review in which he made the argument that the Taliban's successes against the United States proved that the Second Amendment works. By that point in the conflict, the Taliban had basically fought the United States to a standstill using nothing more than conventional firearms. "Civil society and good lawyers are all the defense you need against a non-tyrannical government. But a tyranny, an invader, or a pretendergovernment are more effectively resisted with guns. Sometimes people put [the anti-gun] argument more baldly. They ask something like this: 'Do you really think Bubba in camo gear hiding in the forest is going to take on the U.S. military? The U.S. military has nuclear weapons!' Who exactly do you think has stymied the U.S. in Afghanistan for 16 years? The Taliban is made up of Afghan Bubbas.... They use a mix of Kalashnikovs and WWII-era bolt-action rifles. Determined insurgencies are really difficult to fight.... With just the moral support of the society they are living in, and a number of rifles, a small group of men can make it impossible for tyrants to rule."

While the thought of America descending into a bloody insurgency that lasts for years is a terrifying one, the only thought that is more upsetting is the American government becoming a nightmarish tyranny that can't be resisted by its subjects.

— PATRICK KREY

Security Sham in Progress with Border-crossers, Afghan Evacuees

ITEM: The Economist (August 28-September 3 issue), in discussing problems of those fleeing from Afghanistan, merged that situation critically with the Biden administration's overall immigration policies. "The administration," noted the London-based publication, "is frequently attacked as soft on immigration. Tucker Carlson, a TV host, and Stephen Miller, an adviser to President Donald Trump, have warned of the supposed threat posed by Afghan refugees."

ITEM: Politico correspondent Anita Kumar in an August 30 piece tried to be reassuring: "A senior administration official said Afghans 'undergo robust security' that includes 'biometric and biographic security screenings conducted by our intelligence, law enforcement and counterterrorism professionals who are working quite literally around the clock' to vet Afghans before they're allowed in the United States. In many cases, the refugees are taken to a third country, such as Qatar or Kuwait, where they undergo additional screening."

ITEM: Writing about the increasing number of illegal aliens streaming across the southern U.S. border, Politico's Kumar said (August 2): "Millions of immigrants — from those seeking to escape their countries to international students — are now waiting for Trump-era policies to be overturned."

Joe Biden, she said, "vowed to immediately reverse the Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies. The president rescinded some policies quickly through executive actions but other changes have required lengthy, cumbersome regulatory processes, or face legal challenges or a recalcitrant Congress reluctant to swiftly change laws."

ITEM: Vanity Fair, in an August 26 column entitled "The Right-Wing Afghan-Refugee Panic Is Reaching a Fever Pitch," charged that "Republican politicians and Fox News personalities are stoking fears



What border? The U.S. border with Mexico is essentially wide open during the Biden administration. The surge of illegal border-crossers even has Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas saying the situation is "unsustainable" and we will "lose."

about the U.S. taking in Afghans trying to flee the Taliban." The evacuated people "have gone through a stringent vetting process — one that involves 'biometric and biographic security screenings,' a senior official in Joe Biden's administration said this week. But of course, if you ask conservative media stars, none of this is nearly enough."

ITEM: Addressing possible terrorist concerns, Biden press secretary Jen Psaki said during a press briefing on September 1 (as reported by the White House): "I can absolutely assure you that no one is coming into the United States of America who has not been through a thorough screening and background check process. And there are many individuals ... who have not been through that process and they have gone to lily pad countries, as that process has been completed."

CORRECTION: If the U.S. vetting of Afghan refugees is handled as well as the security debacle on our virtually open southern border — where hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens pour over monthly — we are in double trouble.

Former Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott, recently retired, warned in August that suspected terrorists were crossing the Mexico-U.S. border "at a level we have never seen before." That's no exaggeration. Alejandro Mayorkas, Joe Biden's homeland security secretary, announced in August an increase of encounters of 13 percent on the southern border from the already large number during the previous month (212,672 migrants in July, compared to around 188,000 in June). He has tried to keep the dire situation quiet, but his private comments were leaked to Fox News. Agents were told in Texas by the secretary: "A couple of days ago I was down in Mexico, and I said look, you know, if, if our borders are the first line of defense, we're going to lose, and this is unsustainable."

That, to be sure, is not what he says in public.

Those migrants in question are, keep in mind, the ones detained at the border — excluding the "got-away" aliens. Breitbart.com has uncovered some of those numbers, reporting in late August that the migrants crossing the border thus far in FY 2021 had reached more than 340,000, according to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) source. That figure is an "estimate of the total number of migrants believed to have escaped into the U.S. interior without capture or apprehension by Border Patrol agents."

Apparently, more than 40,000 had escaped being caught during the previous month or so. Said Breitbart:



On average, 1,100 migrants avoid capture daily. In 2020, an estimated 69,000 migrants managed to avoid apprehension by the Border Patrol.

The metric is usually not officially released. The number is determined by counting migrants who ultimately escape apprehension after being observed by surveillance systems.

The figures (if not public awareness) are the same if reported by "right-wing" media or ignored or distorted by leftists. The *New York Post* is one publication that hasn't looked the other way. In a recent article, after reporters went on patrols with Border Patrol personnel, the *Post* said that this is "the crisis that Biden is either ignoring — or doesn't care that it's happening."

Agents in the El Paso (Texas) Sector, noted the September 4 piece, had at that point detained almost 156,000 illegals in fiscal year 2021, "almost triple the 54,396 in all of FY 2020." Nearly 80 percent "of those making the crossing are single adults, a significant change in the demographics over the last few years that saw more families crossing the border and giving themselves up to Border Patrol agents."

What happens to those caught? That too is a concern — since some are resettled domestically. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has officially demanded that the Biden administration stop sending illegal aliens to his state. In his late-August missive to Secretary Mayorkas, the GOP governor said:

My office has received information indicating that ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], sometimes with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has chartered flights transporting illegal alien adults and children to Florida.

Given the overall lack of transparency, I am concerned that the federal government is running its own massive human smuggling operation, surreptitiously resettling illegal aliens in the various states without consultation or even advance notice to state leadership.

Huge numbers are involved. An analysis cited this summer by Andrew Arthur of the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) attempts to count overall totals of aliens encountered and not caught, concluding that "the true number of migrants who have entered illegally this year is close to 1.6 million." In his CIS piece ("Report: Just 68% of Illegal Border Crossers Get Caught"), Arthur commented about the "more than 1.582 million migrants" who by then had

actually attempted to enter illegally in FY 2021, and more than 500,000 of them successfully evaded Border Patrol agents.

That is a staggering number of people, greater than the population of Kansas City, Mo. The United States government has no idea who they are, whether they are criminals or terrorists, or where they are going.

The leftist mass media would prefer that the public hear as little as possible about how the Biden administration has lost control of the nation's borders. If it's bad for Joe, the less they tend to show. When the official CBP border encounters jumped to a 21-year high of 212,672 in July, the television network silence was deafening. As the Media Research Center's "Newsbusters" put it,

while the reality along the border is worse than ever, coverage of the crisis on the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts has slowed to a trickle: Just four minutes and 20 seconds for the entire month of July (including weekends), down an astonishing 96 percent from the Biden-era peak of 113 minutes in March.

And on August 12, when the terrible July border statistics were released, none of the three broadcast evening newscasts bothered to even mention them — but all three found time for the latest developments in the legal soap opera surrounding singer Britney Spears.

That, recall, is a very far cry from the ceaseless broadcast denunciations of supposed immigration degradations in the Trump years.

Now the same Biden team superiors that have made a show about ordering federal immigration enforcement agencies



Security lapse: Thousands of Afghan "refugees" are entering the United States, with few of them being properly vetted. This poses a massive security risk, but the Biden administration seems unconcerned.

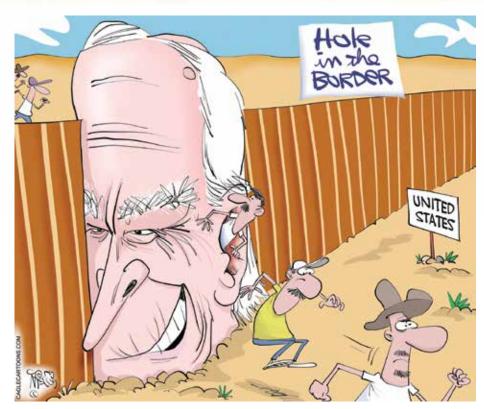
not to use (proper and legal) terms such as "illegal alien" — because it might hurt the feelings of such aliens — are going to be in charge of vetting fleeing Afghans.

Sure, many evacuating Afghans did work with and for Americans. Yet countless others did not. Enforcing security is not supposed to be a popularity contest; it's a means to protect the nation. To cite just one example: How sure are we that none of the horde of terrorists released by the Taliban from prisons in Afghanistan will not try to slip into our country?

Mark Krikorian, the director of the Center for Immigration Studies, is blunt, saying, "The problem is that the agency tasked with Homeland Security is being run by people who don't take that [security] mission seriously." And the evacuation from Kabul, as Krikorian wrote in an article entitled "Kabuki Vetting of Afghans," was so "haphazard and rushed that many, perhaps most, of those extracted were not such previously screened people. Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) told the Washington Times that of the 2,000 Afghans housed at a base in his state, not one had the Special Immigrant Visa for Afghans employed by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government."

What is done if potential threats are found? They won't be deported back to Afghanistan and are unlikely to be welcome over the long term in those "lilypad" countries the evacuees reached after leaving Afghanistan. Krikorian is probably correct when he also concludes that they will be resettled in the U.S. regardless of the vetting outcome. As he puts it:

The whole notion of holding Afghans offshore until they're vetted is a charade. Those who don't have a Special Immigrant Visa are simply being "paroled" into the U.S. Immigration parole in a work-around whereby the executive can temporarily let in visa-less foreigners for humanitarian reasons. But like so much else in our dishonest immigration system, "temporary" in this case means permanent. Every Afghan we extracted



from Kabul will be able to live here for the rest of his life.

There will be some political pushback. And you can depend on leftists in the mass media to disparage such "hardliners" and tar them as heartless fiends.

Keep in mind that vetting depends on reliable information. Do top Biden administration officials think the Taliban will check their local records for us? American personnel doing the task on the line will undoubtedly do their best. Yet, as Robert Spencer reported for PJ Media, one official "familiar with the process admitted: 'CBP on the ground has old tech and they don't know how to use it, integrate it.' Even worse, 'there's not enough people to process' all of the refugees."

Twenty-six Republican senators, led by Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, told the president that they were "concerned by reports that ineligible individuals, including Afghans with ties to terrorist organizations or serious, violent criminals, were evacuated alongside innocent refugee families."

They asked (among other questions): "Of the more than 57,000 Afghans who are not American citizens, green-card holders, or SIV applicants or their families, how many had no pending immigration application or status with the United States prior to being airlifted?"

Somewhat surprising considering its leftist slant, the *New York Times* does not seem to be buying all the tales being spun by the White House. As we write, the *Times* has just reported that "Mr. Biden and his aides have insisted that the evacuation of Kabul after the Taliban seized the city on Aug. 15 was done as efficiently as possible. But State Department emails and documents from the Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and Defense Departments, as well as interviews with officials and refugee advocates, suggest otherwise."

If Biden has really lost the *New York Times*, he could be in dire political straits. One wonders if he realizes that. After all, he's got a one-track mind, and the traffic on it is very light. ■

— William P. Hoar

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BY SELWYN DUKE

Everything Is Bigger in Texas — Even the Anti-life Lunacy

that we're quite close to the ancient world, that they were really just like us," said Oxford ancient history lecturer Josephine Quinn in 2014, talking about Carthaginian infant sacrifice. The "truth is," she continued, "that they really weren't."

While true that even some contemporary cultures (e.g., the Taliban) are alien to us, never mind B.C.-era, North African pagans, we may have a bit more in common with the Carthaginians than the academic thinks. Those

ancients, after all, sacrificed babies because they wanted better lives. The common explanation for their bloody habit, said Quinn, was "that the gods 'heard my voice and blessed me." Today's infant sacrifice is likewise driven by a desire for "better lives," though the god worshiped isn't Ba'al Hammon but materialism, hedonism, and "self-ism."

This "religious" zeal is on full display in the response to the new Texas prenatal infanticide law. Having taken effect September 1, it essentially bans abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detectable (at approximately six weeks' gestation). Making it unique — and possibly allowing it to get around the flawed *Roe* v. Wade decision, say analysts — is that the law doesn't permit the Texas government to enforce it. Rather, "private citizens may bring a civil enforcement action against someone who performs an abortion in violation of the law or assists someone in obtaining an illegal abortion," writes the Daily Signal. It's apparently effective, too: National Review reports that prenatal infanticide mills have, as of this writing, been scared straight and that "much of the machinery of abortion" has "ground to a halt in Texas." Critics lament that with the law prohibiting 85 percent of prenatal infanticide, many "clinics" (i.e., killing centers) will be forced to close. To abortionists this is a matter of profit, after all, not principle.

One argument not currently heard much from the "professional" abortion enablers is "My body, my choice!"; they discarded that (proving they never meant it), though it will be resurrected when convenient again, upon becoming Branch Covidians and deciding people should be coerced into donning face diapers and taking untested drugs based on no sound science whatsoever. It's a matter of faith, apparently — a dark variety.

Good theologians instruct that proper faith is "an act of the will informed by reason," but our neo-Carthaginians want prenatal infanticide for no good reason. Speaking of dark faith, among



these modern blood seekers is the Satanic Temple, which the IRS recognizes as a legitimate "church" and which states on its website that women in Texas seeking prenatal infanticide are welcome to "undergo" its "Satanic Abortion Ritual" (using baby-killing drugs). Interestingly, the Satanists call the heartbeat measure "likely unconstitutional" and "an unjust law" — the standard Democrat line.

Now, there was a time when finding yourself aligned with Satanists would make you wonder if maybe, just perhaps, you were on the wrong

side. But not today. In fact, some leftists are making the temple seem tame. And while Joe Biden and CNN's Jeffrey Toobin — the latter of whom once, while married, pressured a mistress to have an abortion — just called the Texas law "outrageous," "religious" reformer Frank Schaeffer really took the cake. Speaking on MSNBC, he likened the "American evangelical right-wing movement" to "an American Taliban that is weirdly similar in so many ways to the Middle Eastern Islamist terrorists." It perhaps escaped him that the Taliban are also quite adept at killing, though their body count pales in comparison to that of Schaeffer's proprenatal-infanticide fanatics. But this is a man who even more recently, hopefully tongue-in-cheek, called for "drone strikes" on the "worst offender" anti-mask/vaccine podcasters. Again, so much for "My body, my choice!"

This really is all largely about convenience, about what the late Mother Teresa lamented when saying, "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish." While some pregnant women are scared, too many people will say they're not "ready" for a child or that one would "interfere" with their education or careers or would be too expensive. Whatever the rationale, it all would be moot if they'd accept that if they're not ready for a baby, they're not ready for sex.

Is it a coincidence that the *Roe* opinion (1973) closely followed what rightly should be called the Sexual Devolution? Would prenatal infanticide, not to mention 2012's contraception-mandate debate, ever have been a hot-button issue if people were content reserving sexual activity until marriage? Moderns insist on indulging the mistake of free sex, and babies must pay for it — with their lives.

In fairness, though, we're not actually like the Carthaginians. Quinn estimates that they had approximately 25 ritual infant sacrifices yearly, while we're up beyond 600,000. So even accounting for the population difference, we make them look like pikers.



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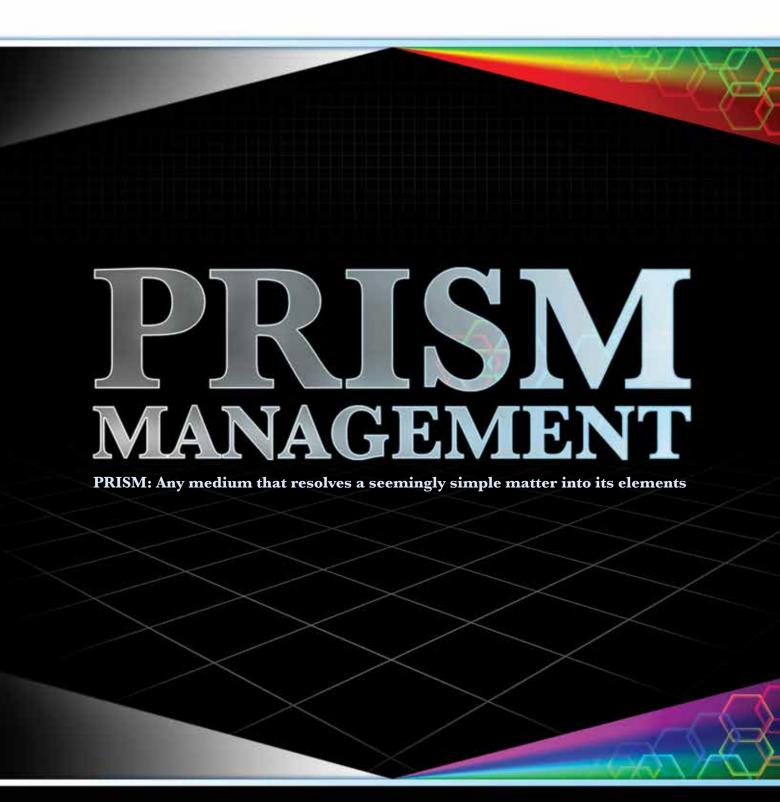
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