



## 2026 FFV Legislative Victory Report

### Good Bills Passed

#### SUPPORT

1. **Protecting Faith-based Content in BIP Counseling Programs Act (Rep. Blanco / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 491](#) / [SB 624](#)

**Description:** This bill allows for the inclusion of faith-based content in state-approved batterers' intervention programs. Recently, due to the actions of certain career bureaucrats with the Department of Children and Families, these BIP intervention programs were limited to secular organizations and content, limiting the resources available for individuals seeking rehabilitation to choose from. This action ultimately barred several longtime faith-based providers, even though many of those faith-based programs had shown tremendous success with record low recidivism rates. This legislation amends existing statutes to ensure that faith-based counseling is a permitted component of these programs.

2. **Church Security and Safety Act (Rep. Grow / Sen. Gaetz)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 95](#) / [SB 52](#)

**Description:** This provision allows volunteers to provide armed security at places of worship without needing a professional security license. In other words, it exempts these volunteers from existing licensure requirements, making it easier for churches and other religious institutions to use their own trusted members for security purposes. This could enhance on-site safety while reducing regulatory hurdles on houses of worship.

3. **Sharia Foreign Law and Terrorism Protection Act (Rep. Cassel / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1471](#) / [SB 1632](#)

**Description:** This measure reinforces Florida’s commitment to constitutional law by preventing courts from applying foreign or religious legal codes—such as Sharia law—when they conflict with fundamental rights. It also creates a framework to identify and penalize domestic terrorist organizations, cuts off taxpayer funding and school-based programs linked to those groups, and denies scholarships, tuition benefits, or employment opportunities within educational institutions to individuals or entities that promote or support terrorist activity, including mandatory expulsion for students who do so.

#### **4. The Local Government DEI Policy Repeal Act (Rep. Black / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1001](#) / [SB 1134](#)

**Description:** This bill restricts local governments from enacting policies or taking official actions that push DEI policies, including policies that classify and, in many cases, provide preferential treatment for individuals based on factors such as race, color, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. It ensures that counties and municipalities cannot impose regulations that override established state policies on these issues and would actually overturn conflicting local ordinances, such as local LGBT special rights bills. The legislation provides legal remedies for local government officials to be held accountable for failing to properly uphold true equality under the law.

#### **5. Medical Diagnosis in CPS Investigations (Rep. Bartleman / Sen. Sharief)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 47](#) / [SB 42](#)

**Description:** This bill adds safeguards against accusations of medical abuse against parents of children with select medical conditions, whose symptoms may be mistaken to be the result of abuse, but are medically provable to be the result of the condition. The bill was filed in response to cases where Child Protective Services had taken children with these conditions from their otherwise loving and fit parents and refusing to consider medical evidence to the contrary. This bill helps provide safeguards for both parents and children with these medical conditions to ensure parental rights are not undermined in these cases, unless actual proof can be provided.

#### **6. The Nigeria Christian Genocide Resolution (Rep. Daniels)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HR 761](#)

**Description:** In a rare and meaningful moment of bipartisan unity, the Florida House adopted — without objection — a resolution recognizing and condemning the ongoing persecution and slaughter of Christians in Nigeria. The measure affirms support for continued federal recognition of Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern due to severe religious freedom violations and targeted genocide of the Christian population and brings

attention to the global importance of protecting people of faith from violence and oppression. This was a House resolution only and did not require Senate support to be adopted.

## **Bad Bills Defeated**

\*This is only a sampling of the bad bills that we were able to ensure died this year; in total, at the beginning of session, we identified 25 bills that specifically undermined the walls of Life, Marriage, Family, and Religious Liberty and gratefully all died in session, without even one receiving a single hearing.

### **OPPOSE**

#### **1. Pregnancy Care Network Repeal Act (Rep. Skidmore / Sen. Arrington)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 6001](#) / [SB 242](#)

**Description:** This bill aims to eliminate the Florida Pregnancy Care Network, cutting funding and access to resources for women facing unplanned pregnancies. The legislation would reduce access to essential services such as prenatal care, parenting classes, and material assistance for expectant mothers.

#### **2. Right to Unlimited Abortion Act (Rep. Driskell / Sen. Davis)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1151](#) / [SB 1308](#)

**Description:** This bill creates a blanket “right to reproductive health”, which would put at risk potentially every prolife protection currently in law for mothers and unborn babies, explicitly stating the unborn have no rights under the law and implicitly allowing taxpayer funded abortion on demand until birth in Florida.

#### **3. Abortion and Transgender Procedures Act (Rep. Eskamani / Sen. Jones)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 681](#) / [SB 782](#)

**Description:** This legislation reverses all protections for the unborn, including allowing late-term abortions while removing long-standing protections for medical conscience and parental safeguards. Additionally, it allows gender reassignment procedures to be performed on minors, and mandates state funding for abortion and transgender surgeries and imposes new public disclosure mandates and penalties on health care providers that decline to participate in such activities due to conscience objections.

#### **4. Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses (Rep. Harris / Sen. Smith (C))**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 317](#) / [SB 336](#)

**Description:** This act would seek to add sexual orientation and gender identity as recognized categories in criminal defense law. The categories of sexual orientation and gender identity are subjective, undefinable, and legally fluid and have been repeatedly rejected by the Florida legislature in other areas of law. This bill could also be precedent for future attempts to criminalize any opposition to the LGBT movement in the future.

**5. Marriage Repeal Act (Rep. Driskell / Sen. Polsky)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 6019](#) / [SB 952](#)

**Description:** This bill codifies protections for anti-marriage policy into Florida state law, by repealing the language in state statute recognizing marriage as between one man and one woman.

**6. Hate Crimes Act (Rep. Rosenwald / Sen. Smith (C))**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1117](#) / [SB 1388](#)

**Description:** This bill broadens Florida's hate crime laws by expanding the offenses that qualify as crimes evidencing prejudice and increasing penalties for acts motivated by categories such as gender identity or sexual orientation. This expanded language could subject Christians and others with traditional religious views to charges of discrimination simply for opposing LGBT policies. This raises significant issues regarding prosecutorial overreach and the potential conflict between enhanced hate crime statutes and the constitutional protections for religious freedom and free speech.

**7. Sexually Transmitted Disease Act (Rep. Rosenwald / Sen. Smith (C))**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1223](#) / [SB 764](#)

**Description:** Currently, under state law, to *knowingly* donate blood, organs, or other bodily items that are contaminated by an STD (sexually transmitted disease) or to *knowingly* participate in intercourse while infected with an STD without informing the partner, is a felony. This proposal would seek to lower that criminal action to a mere misdemeanor.

**8. LGBT DEI Education Act (Rep. Nixon / Sen. Davis)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 677](#) / [SB 790](#)

This legislation rolls back long-standing parental rights and classroom safeguards by mandating sexual orientation, gender identity, and DEI content across K-12 and higher education, while limiting parents' access to information about their own children. It also

weakens instructional and library content standards, allowing potentially inappropriate materials to enter classrooms and curricula with reduced oversight or accountability.

#### **9. Recreational Marijuana Legalization Act (Sen. Smith (C))**

**Bill Numbers:** [SB 1398](#)

**Description:** This bill legalizes the recreational use of marijuana for adults in Florida, expanding access well beyond medical use. It raises serious concerns about public health, including increased risk of youth access and potential impacts on workplace safety and as it has done in other states, will contribute to long-term negative effects on societal well-being.

## **Good Bills that Fell Short this Session**

### **Protecting Life**

#### **SUPPORT**

#### **1. Fetal Development Education Act (Rep. Trabulsy / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1071](#) / [SB 1090](#)

**Description:** This bill revises several education policies—including prohibiting funding to DEI activism—to safeguard students and promote a positive learning environment. Most importantly, the mandates that public schools provide comprehensive fetal development training through age-appropriate educational videos designed to show students how the unborn baby grows in the womb. This proposal is another step in building respect for the sanctity of human life in the next generation. Additionally, the Senate version adds requirements for parents to opt their children into sex ed classes (rather than opt out as is current law) further safeguarding against the sexualization of Florida's children.

#### **2. Civil Liability for the Unborn Act (Rep. Greco / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 289](#) / [SB 164](#)

**Description:** This bill allows parents to file civil lawsuits for the wrongful death of an unborn child. It recognizes an unborn child as a separate legal entity and extends legal protections to ensure accountability in cases of negligent or intentional harm. The

legislation creates new avenues for parents to seek damages for emotional and financial loss resulting from the wrongful death of their unborn child, further humanizing the unborn in state statute.

### **3. Civil Action to Curb Illegal Abortion (Rep. Abbott / Sen. Martin)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 663](#) / [SB 1374](#)

**Description:** This legislation gives family members a clear way to hold abortion providers, particularly out of state ones, accountable when abortions are performed illegally under Florida law, while explicitly protecting women from being sued. This avenue is critical to curtail the distribution of illegal chemical abortions, placing responsibility on those out-of-state-actors who profit while breaking the law, and shielding Florida families from out-of-state efforts to punish or undermine the state's pro-life protections.

### **4. Informed Consent for IVF Treatments Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 993](#) / [SB 1044](#)

**Description:** This bill builds a clear regulatory framework around IVF by requiring thorough informed consent and written agreements before each cycle, ensuring patients fully understand how baby embryos will be created, stored, used, transferred, or disposed of. In practical terms, it promotes respect for the sanctity of human life by increasing transparency, limiting casual or undefined creation of human embryos, requiring intentional decisions about embryo outcomes, and holding providers accountable for ethical handling and long-term recordkeeping.

### **5. Surrogacy and Assisted Reproduction Act (Rep. Miller / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1487](#) / [SB 1680](#)

**Description:** This bill tightens surrogacy and assisted reproduction laws to close gaps that could allow criminals or otherwise disqualified individuals access to children. It strengthens child protection by barring disqualified persons from adopting through surrogacy, requiring background checks and licensing for surrogacy agencies and fertility clinics, mandating independent legal counsel for all parties, and ensuring surrogacy contracts are carefully reviewed before conception to safeguard the welfare of children.

## **Defending Marriage and Family**

### **SUPPORT**

#### **1. Materials Harmful to Minors Education Act (Rep. Bankson / Sen. McClain)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1119](#) / [SB 1692](#)

**Description:** This proposal strengthens restrictions on sexually explicit materials in Florida educational settings by replacing the Miller test, which historically dealt with adult obscenity laws and was not originally intended for content meant for children, with a more rigorous, child-focused standard of obscenity. This will ensure that sexually graphic and even pornographic are now subject to stricter scrutiny. The bill establishes harsher penalties for individuals and businesses that provide minors with access to such harmful content and also enhances parental rights by requiring increased transparency in school libraries and public venues regarding age-appropriate material. By shifting the focus away from the Miller test, this legislation aims to better safeguard children from exposure to explicit material that could be detrimental to their well-being.

## **2. Parental Rights in Healthcare Act (Rep. Kendall / Sen. Grall)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 173](#) / [SB 166](#)

**Description:** This act reinforces and expands parental rights in education and healthcare for minor children by addressing current restrictions that prevent parents from accessing records for children over the age of 13. It mandates that schools notify parents of any changes in their child's medical records and prohibits the use of bio feedback systems on minors without parent consent. Additionally, the legislation strengthens parental consent requirements for medical treatments and school surveys, ensuring that parents remain fully informed and involved in the decision-making process for their children.

## **3. Protecting Children from Gender Surgeries Act (Rep. Melo / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 743](#) / [SB 1010](#)

**Description:** This bill strengthens protections for minors by expanding penalties and accountability for health care practitioners who provide or assist in prohibited sex-reassignment drugs or procedures for children. It empowers the Attorney General to investigate and pursue civil action, imposes significant financial penalties, and ensures that any damages recovered are directed to the harmed minor rather than to the state.

## **4. A.I. User Bill of Rights Act (Rep. Rizo / Sen. Leek)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1395](#) / [SB 482](#)

**Description:** This proposal establishes clear protections for Floridians as artificial intelligence becomes more widespread, with a strong focus on privacy, national security, and protecting children. It limits state contracts with foreign-controlled AI companies, creates an AI Bill of Rights, requires parental consent and safety controls for minors using companion chatbots, mandates clear disclosure when users are interacting with AI, and

protects individuals from the unauthorized commercial use of AI-generated likenesses, while giving the state enforcement authority to hold violators accountable.

**5. A.I. Chatbots Minors Protection Act (Rep. Hunschofsky / Sen. Burton)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 659](#) / [SB 1344](#)

**Description:** This bill establishes strong guardrails for AI companion chatbots with a primary focus on protecting children and families. It requires verified user accounts and age checks, mandates parental consent for minors, blocks sexually explicit interactions involving children, and ensures users are clearly informed that they are interacting with artificial intelligence, while giving the state clear authority to investigate violations and enforce penalties against noncompliant companies.

## ***Preserving Religious Freedom***

### **SUPPORT**

**1. The Public School Religious Liberty Protection Amendment (Rep. Tramont / Sen. Massullo)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HJR 583](#) / [SJR 1104](#)

**Description:** This joint resolution reiterates protections for religious expression in K–12 public schools and, if approved by voters, would enshrine those rights in the Florida Constitution. It prohibits discrimination based on religious viewpoints, requires equal treatment of religious speech and clubs, allows faith-based perspectives in student work, permit voluntary prayer and religious activities on school grounds, mandates a daily moment of silence, allows religious expressions at certain school events, and ensures students and staff are not punished for their religious expression.

**2. Workplace Rights of Conscience Act (Rep. Plakon / Sen. McClain)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 641](#) / [SB 1642](#)

**Description:** This act protects state and local government employees, as well as contractors and organizations receiving state funds, from being compelled to comply with workplace gender identity policies. The legislation prohibits employers from mandating the use of specific pronouns or enforcing practices that conflict with an employee's sincerely held beliefs regarding gender. It also prevents any workplace requirements that force employees to affirm gender identities that are inconsistent with biological sex, thereby reinforcing freedom of speech and religious expression in employment settings.

Additionally, the bill ensures that workers are not penalized or punished for opting out of preferred pronoun designations based on their religious or biology-based beliefs. Nonprofits and corporations that receive state funding are also barred from imposing LGBT diversity training as a condition of employment.

### **3. Medical Rights of Conscience Expansion Act (Rep. Black / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 551](#) / [SB 670](#)

**Description:** This bill strengthens existing protections for doctors, nurses, and other health care workers who object to certain procedures based on their conscience or deeply held beliefs. It allows health care providers or insurers to take legal action if the state fails to protect within a set time and permits conscience violations to be raised as a defense in court or administrative proceedings, helping ensure medical professionals are not forced to choose between their faith, ethics, and their careers.

### **4. Student Free Speech in Public Schools Act (Rep. Borrero / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 835](#) / [SB 1006](#)

**Description:** This act strongly affirms the freedom of students and school employees in Florida's public schools to express their religious, political, and ideological beliefs without fear of punishment or favoritism. It ensures faith-based and viewpoint expression is treated equally in classrooms, clubs, clothing, and school events, protects voluntary participation by staff outside instructional time, and requires neutral, fair policies for student speakers—while preserving order in schools and giving families real legal recourse when these fundamental rights are ignored.

### **5. HealthSharing Freedom Act (Rep. Black / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 6015](#) / [SB 834](#)

**Description:** This proposal removes a minor regulatory burden upon faith-based nonprofit healthsharing ministries, allowing them full freedom of speech in advancing their mission and offerings to the public.

### **6. Local Religious Freedom Preemption Protection Act (Rep. Oliver / Sen. Martin)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1227](#) / [SB 1444](#)

**Description:** This bill prohibits counties, cities, and special districts from imposing local rules that substantially burden the free exercise of religion, especially regarding religious services and gatherings, by preempting such regulation to the state level. It ensures churches can hold services, meetings, and related activities on residential or commercial property without local zoning interference, prevents local governments from restricting

parking related to attendance, and makes conflicting local ordinances unenforceable—strengthening legal protections for religious freedom in Florida.

#### **7. Child Safety and Church Protection Act (Rep. Yarkosky / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 1331](#) / [SB 1600](#)

**Description:** This proposal helps church youth groups, Christian schools, camps, and other child-serving ministries strengthen child safety by setting clear, statewide standards for abuse prevention training and accountability for both staff and volunteers. It creates a recognized child-safety accreditation process, improves state data to prevent abuse, and offers the added benefit of potential insurance discounts—helping ministries protect the children in their care while demonstrating strong stewardship, credibility, and trust to families and communities.

### **Rebuilding the Walls of Culture**

#### **SUPPORT**

##### **1. The Government Flag Reform Act (Rep. Borrero / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 347](#) / [SB 426](#)

**Description:** This bill establishes guidelines on which flags may be displayed by governmental entities in Florida. It ensures that only official national, state, and municipal flags may be flown at government buildings, preventing the display of political or ideological flags, including the pride flags.

##### **2. Gambling Controls Act (Rep. Jacques / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 591](#) / [SB 1164](#)

**Description:** This legislation strengthens Florida's gambling laws by expanding criminal prohibitions, closing loopholes, and significantly increasing penalties for illegal gambling activities, including internet gambling, sports wagering, gambling houses, and slot machine trafficking. It also adds new offenses related to bribery and game manipulation, bans deceptive gambling advertising, criminalizes impersonation of gaming officials, and updates sentencing and bail standards to reflect the seriousness of repeat and organized gambling crimes.

##### **3. Medical Freedom Protection Act (Rep. Holcomb / Sen. Yarborough)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 917](#) / [SB 1756](#)

**Description:** This legislation strengthens medical freedom and parental rights in Florida by expanding exemptions to school-entry vaccination requirements and reinforcing the importance of informed consent. The bill requires that parents receive clear and complete information before a minor receives a vaccine and ensures that families are aware of their options regarding medical decisions for their children. It also prohibits discrimination based on a person's vaccination status and allows pharmacists to dispense certain medications, such as ivermectin, to adults as a behind-the-counter medication without a prescription. Taken together, these reforms aim to protect individual liberty in medical decision-making and ensure that families — not government mandates — remain at the center of personal health choices.

#### **4. The Charlie Kirk Remembrance Act (Rep. Benarroch / Sen. Martin)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 125](#) / [SB 194](#)

**Description:** The legislation honors the legacy of Charlie Kirk, by establishing his birthday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, as a state day of remembrance and authorizes the Governor to issue a statewide proclamation each year.

#### **5. Illegal Gambling Act (Rep. Trabulsy / Sen. Martin)**

**Bill Numbers:** [HB 189](#) / [SB 1580](#)

**Description:** This legislation strengthens Florida's gambling laws by expanding criminal prohibitions, closing loopholes, and significantly increasing penalties for illegal gambling activities, including internet gambling, sports wagering, gambling houses, and slot machine trafficking. It also adds new offenses related to bribery and game manipulation, bans deceptive gambling advertising, criminalizes impersonation of gaming officials, and updates sentencing and bail standards to reflect the seriousness of repeat and organized gambling crimes.