

# TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

January 2023

Dear Eagles,

Texas Eagle Forum welcomes the New Year with renewed hope and pray wisdom and common sense will overtake our nation and state. We look forward to new leadership and direction in the Congressional House of Representatives, and to the opening of Texas' 88th Legislative Session in Austin. By standing on God's Word, the Constitution, and strong families, we can ask our leaders to exercise principle and refuse to compromise on bills that move us further to the left. We expect nothing less if they ever called themselves conservative.

### **2023 Legislative Year Begins**

On January 10th, our Legislators gather for 140 days of lawmaking: Senators and Representatives have already pre-filed over 1,500 bills, and thousands more will be filed before the March 10th deadline. As always, some of these bills will be very good; others will create great harm.

TEF is watching bills across many categories of law including election integrity, education, parental rights, and freedom from government overreach. All are critical to taking our nation back from the progressive Left. But good Texans are waking up and saying no more!

We have an uphill battle this session, but we are thankful for a handful of strong conservative members in our Texas House and Senate. Please pray their examples of servant leadership will influence fellow members, who seek the praise of man rather than the praise of God, as they perform their elected duties.

### **January Torch**

Gov. Greg Abbott has taken the bait and is making government intervention into children's mental health a headline-issue in Texas. In this issue of the *Torch*, we cover how our educational system is working to become the parent and arbitrator of student's mental health and thoughts.

At Texas Eagle Forum, we see how schools are enticed with federal and state money to blend indoctrination into every subject. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the conduit being used by schools across Texas to turn hearts and minds to the Left's vision for the future. We must demand this stop immediately. Parents require full protection of their constitutional rights to raise their children with their family's values, beliefs, and traditions.

Texas Eagle Forum is joined by many new groups in fighting for specific areas in parental rights this session. There is lots of work to be done, and we are thankful you are with us in doing this work. Please pray for our legislators, especially those who directly serve you, and be willing to make calls when necessary to let them know your opinion on issues of concern. Your calls and emails to your elected officials do make an impact!

(over, please)

## **TEF Leadership – Special Announcement!**

As we begin the new year, I want to share recent changes and additions to Texas Eagle Forum leadership.

For nearly 30 years, TEF has been blessed to have **Marilyn Statler** serving as Editor. She has been our rock for longer than she ever imagined when she decided to “do something” about the problems in our education system in the 80’s (See the March 2022 *Torch* for her story). I certainly could not have taken the position of TEF President if Marilyn hadn’t been willing to help teach me the ropes. Marilyn has spoken about “passing the torch” for several years, but thankfully for us, she stayed on until we found just the right replacement.

With this issue, we are excited to welcome **Jenn Vermeulen** as our new Editor. Jenn brings several years of experience working as a freelance writer and speechwriter, but mainly she has worked in education for the past 20 years. Her primary allegiance is to God and her family. She and her husband Roger are raising and homeschooling four amazing children, ages 18, 16, 14, and 12. Jenn is excited to use her gifts in furthering the fight in the battle for our nation. while feeling called deeper into our battle for the heart of our nation.

**Beth Biesel** will continue to serve as our Election Integrity Chair. Beth is organizing a Legislative Briefing at the Capitol on Jan. 24. The event will feature eye-witness accounts of fraud, subject matter experts and live demonstrations and will focus on making our elections accurate, transparent, and accountable.

**Karole Federick** will serve us as a volunteer consultant on education bills this session, and **Robert Canright** is leading TEF on constitutional issues, particularly regarding why TEF does NOT support a Constitutional Convention but is working to save our Constitution instead.

Each of these warriors is an expert in their area and bless TEF with their knowledge and abilities. Please join me in praising God for His bounty and provision throughout the years and for providing willing and capable servants to continue this vital work.

We are always looking to add issue Chairs to our TEF Leadership Team. They must be thoroughly vetted and understand our principles and values. Long-time Eagles make the best leaders. If you are interested in growing into a leadership position, please let me know! We would also be blessed with pro-bono legal help. We love reading law but sometimes have questions or concerns and a discussion with an actual attorney would be a great help.

We pray many blessing for you and your family in 2023. Thank you for being in the fight with us! Your financial gifts to TEF help us gather information, help teach others how to fight for our principles, and to take action in Austin when necessary. Thank you for being an Eagle in the great state of Texas!

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla  
President of Texas Eagle Forum

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