



THE TORCH

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Phyllis Schlafly fighting the ERA in 1972

Not Your Mother's Equal Rights Amendment

By **Carol Nyce**,
The Washington Times, 1/3/19

“**E**quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” (Equal Rights Amendment, Section I)

True to history, unprecedented violence and perversion has replaced God in our defiled land. Once a shining city on a hill, the land of the free and home of the brave has increasingly resorted back to the brutal darkness of paganism and its

ancient evils. Chief among them are child sacrifice, the shedding of innocent blood, and parading our sin like Sodom.

The Virginia General Assembly will be taking up the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in its upcoming session. It was decades earlier, in 1972, when this proposed amendment to the United States Constitution was first sent to the states for ratification. Support was initially broad. In the first year after the amendment was passed 22 states ratified it.

Then, for various reasons, the amendment lay dormant until recently when it regained currency, largely due to the #MeToo movement. What should give Virginia legislators pause as they consider the ERA this time around is the ongoing effort to redefine the term “sex.” If sex no longer means what the original proponents of the amendment intended, its ratification will have a completely different outcome than was originally intended. Ironically (no, tragically), it will be women—the very people this amendment was drafted to protect—who stand to lose the most.

The language of the ERA dates back to the suffragist leaders of the 1920s, who held to the age-old understanding of “sex” as meaning biological men and biological women. However, this age-old understanding is being challenged today.

In an expert declaration to a federal district court, for example, a professor from Duke University and director of the Duke Center for Child and Adolescent Gender Care, Dr. Deanna Adkins, stated: “From a medical perspective, the appropriate determinant of sex is gender identity.” Dr. Adkins argued that gender identity is “the only medically supported determinant of sex.” Her claim that “it is counter to medical science to use chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs, external genitalia, or secondary sex characteristics to override gender identity for purposes of classifying someone as male or female” is being parroted more frequently.

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If this new medical “science” and new definition of sex is adopted, ratification of the ERA will have the unintended consequence of erasing many of the gains envisioned by its early supporters.

If sex is redefined, women involved in athletics will lose. Just ask the high school girls in Connecticut who saw their hard years of training quashed as biological males were seeded in the same events. Just ask the women cyclists who saw a biological man atop the winner’s platform in the recent cycling world championships. Just ask the women volleyball players who will lose the opportunity to compete on an Olympic team when their slots are given to biological men whose testosterone gives them natural advantages in height and strength.

If sex is redefined, vulnerable women stand to lose their safe spaces—in women’s shelters, in prisons, in dressing rooms, in restrooms.

If sex is redefined, women stand to lose tangible monetary benefits. Women-only scholarships with the intent of promoting diversity will become obsolete. There will be no more women-owned business set asides for federal contracting. Lower auto insurance rates computed on sex-based actuarial statistics will become illegal.

If sex is redefined, women stand to lose in various venues originally designed to promote their prestige as fewer biological women are recognized. Witness: Time’s Woman of the Year was Caitlyn Jenner; Spain’s Miss Universe contestant is a man; the highest-paid female executive in the United States was known as a man for the first 40-odd years of life.

It’s ironic that many of the most vocal proponents for passing the ERA today are the same ones pushing for this new definition of “sex.” It is a quintessential case of “be careful of

what you ask for, because you just might get it,” with the unintended consequence being a loss of women’s rights. In the rush to jump on the gender ideology bandwagon, promoters of the ERA in today’s world need to be careful not to undermine the gains of the women who have gone before them.

Obviously, no legislator wants to be on record for voting against equality. However, in this case, that’s not what a “no” vote would mean. Instead, a “no” would be the sensible recognition that, in today’s world, the amendment could actually codify a loss of rights for women. Let’s hope Virginia legislators have the foresight to see what’s coming and that common sense prevails in the Commonwealth.

NOTE: The chance to ratify the ERA expired in 1982, with 35 states, including Texas, ratifying it (38 states were needed; five states later rescinded their vote). In 2017–18, Illinois and Nevada attempted to resurrect the amendment and “ratified” it. And Virginia hoped to become the 38th and final state to “ratify” the long-dead ERA. Thankfully, a Virginia House subcommittee struck it down in late January, but ERA proponents are expected to challenge the subcommittee in the full committee and House floor. If ratified, liberal judges will push for its resurrection, and the ERA will wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court. Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly, and her army of conservative women across the country, defeated ETA in 1982. Let’s keep it that way.

Carol Nyce is a Virginia mother of six and was a speechwriter for Jack Kemp when he was secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Sen. Bob Hall Hosts Texas Energy Security Summit

Since taking office four years ago, State Sen. Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) has sought to highlight the vulnerabilities facing the nation’s electrical grid system and Texas’ unique ability to lead the way in securing it.

At the Texas Energy Security Summit held last month in Austin, the senator renewed his efforts to warn the Texas public of the dire circumstances for continued inaction on hardening the grid. “Ignoring the threat does not make it go away,” said Hall.

While Hall has previously highlighted the security ramifications of failing to harden the state’s electrical grid, the event incorporated the economic benefits that would result should Texas take measures to fortify its grid infrastructure. According to Hall, there is an advantage unique to the state that provides it with the ability to act first. “Texas can serve as a model for the nation because the state has a self-contained electrical grid,” Hall said. That gives Texas an advantage over other states interested in economic prosperity through energy resiliency.

He also outlined how Texas could begin taking steps toward resiliency and reliability. “By establishing appropriate standards for energy resiliency and identifying critical infrastructure for immediate hardening of the grid at the state level, the state can

ensure a reliable source of power in any scenario,” he said. “Then, communities may prioritize coming into compliance with additional standards.” Standards include five critical areas: emergency services, communication systems, clean water and sewer services, health care systems, and financial services. Virtually all elements of civilized society fall into one or more of those categories, displaying how far-reaching the effects would be if Americans lost access to electricity.

“Preparation for a resilient state would begin with the creation of a Texas Grid Security Advisory Commission (TGSAC) under the direction of the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM),” Hall said. The Commission would have the ability to oversee the state’s efforts to bring critical grid infrastructure into a place of resiliency. In doing so, Texas can be the first to have the lights back on if they go out, a feat Hall says is very achievable if the state made the effort.

SOURCE: Destin Sensky, Texas Scoreboard, 1/17/19

NOTE: Securing Texas’ electrical grid is one of TEF’s 2019 legislative priorities.

Controlling the World's Youth Through Fear

By **Pat Carlson**, Eagle Forum Environmental Chairman, reporting on the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, 12/2018

Adolf Hitler once said, "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future." It is obvious this philosophy has been adopted by the United Nations, as it holds its latest and largest yearly climate change conference in Katowice, Poland, with over 50–75% of the attendees under the age of 40.

Conference of the Parties (COP24) reflects 25 years of saturating the world's youth in the dogma of global warming, or, as we now refer to it, climate change. Kids have been told all their lives that humans are killing planet Earth with all of our modern conveniences. Of course, the most advanced economies of the world are the most guilty of this crime with the United States being the worst offender.

One Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, learned about the crisis of global warming when she was seven years old and became so concerned that she quit talking and eating making herself ill. She is now a teenager and acts as though she carries the weight of the world on her shoulders trying to stop climate change. She has been skipping school one day a week or "striking," as she calls it, to bring attention to this crisis. She is a Swedish celebrity.

The United Nations is not going to miss cashing in on her fame. She is at COP24 and being held up as a hero. Her anguish over this is heart-wrenching. In just one interview she referred to the crisis as an "existential threat," the "biggest crisis humanity has ever faced," and "we must try to save what we can save." She has had an audience with UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, as well as other heads of state, telling them "they are behaving like children." She is being used as a pawn by the UN to further their cause. What adult can resist the impassioned plea of a child asking for help?

Hitler also said, "I use emotion for the many and reason for the few."

COP24 offers workshops and flashy displays with interactive booths to draw attention to all the new, innovative technology meant to stop global warming. What is forgotten in the discussion is most of the new technology is being developed with the help of government subsidies and still requires large amounts of energy. But the energy that can replace coal, nuclear, and fossil fuels has yet to be developed and will be much more expensive than traditional energy.

Many of the workshops at COP24 are promoting socialism as the form of government the world must have to overcome global warming. In one workshop they are told "biodiversity and cultural equality is all part of the same equation when talking about climate change" and by "focusing on these issues holistically,



COP24 · KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

youth all over the world can collaborate." Equity, climate justice, and human rights are mentioned repeatedly in every venue.

Reinforcing the fears and pushing the dialogue at COP24 is the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), predicting the world has only eleven years to keep the temperature from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius. But, interestingly enough, the IPCC predicted in 2000 that Earth's temperature would rise by one degree Celsius by 2010. This did not happen. The IPCC's computer model predictions have consistently proven to be wrong.

The fact is, according to satellite readings, Earth's temperature has been in a pause for the last 20 years and has had no significant additional warming. Furthermore, Don Easterbrook, Professor Emeritus of Geology at Western University, is one of several scientists who say the Earth is cooling. Prof. Easterbrook predicts Earth's temperature will cool 3/10th's of a degree Fahrenheit over the next 20 years and will continue that cooling trend for several decades.

Climate change is just a smoke screen for the U.N.'s hidden agenda to have a centralized government giving it the ability to globally regulate and redistribute wealth from rich countries to poor countries, and, of course, to itself. The global warming lie has deprived the youth of the world the hope of a prosperous future. That hope has been replaced with fear.

President Trump is showing great courage and true leadership in pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement and questioning the whole human-induced global warming claim.

NOTE: According to The Dallas Morning News, 27 climate scientists, researchers, and professors from Texas universities sent a letter last month to Gov. Greg Abbott requesting a meeting on what Texas needs to do to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Ian Dalziel, a geosciences professor at UTA said in a statement that "global temperatures are rising, climate and sea level change are happening, and it's clear that humans are responsible." Texas Railroad commissioner Wayne Christian sent his own letter to Gov. Abbott, calling the Texas scientists "climate catastrophists," and said climate change is "far from settled science." He urged Texas to "be thoughtful in crafting new rules and regulations." TEF agrees.

Christian Wokeness

Two recent incidents have exposed the assault that religious education is under in America. Vice President Mike Pence's wife Karen was attacked for her decision to teach art appreciation at a Christian school. Then, a few days later, left-wing journalists and social media trolls attacked a group of boys from Covington Catholic High School, in Kentucky, who were in Washington, D.C., for the March for Life. Relying on selectively edited videos and their own prejudices against Christian conservatives, they depicted the boys as callous bigots who were mocking an elderly Native American man. Footage later emerged that completely exonerated the boys. But, that didn't stop violent threats from pouring in against the teens and their school. To the Left, the very idea that a religious school in America would be allowed to teach that life is sacred and that marriage is God's institution is beyond the pale. After the Karen Pence incident happened, the hash tag "expose Christian schools" trended on Twitter. The Left uses the term "woke" to describe someone who has become alert to an injustice in society. SOURCE: Gary Bauer, End of Day Report, 1/22/19

Pastors Challenge The "Fairness for All Act"

The U.S. Pastor Council, a network of local Pastor Councils that was founded and grew from the flagship Houston Area Pastor Council (the team that led the defeat of lesbian former Mayor Annise Parker's pro-LGBTQ "Equal Rights Ordinance" in 2015), is criticizing the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) Association and Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) for formally endorsing the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in federal nondiscrimination law. Rev. Dave Welch calls it, "The Great Evangelical Sellout" and writes the groups are "yielding moral truths for perceived temporary protections." He urges the rejection of the Fairness for All Act, as well as its LGBTQ-sponsored cousin, the Equality Act.

SOURCE: WND.com, 1/3/19

Texas Taxpayer Boondoggle

TEXRail is a taxpayer black hole. Updated numbers from the Federal Department of Transportation back up that assessment. Over \$530 million federal tax dollars have been funneled into the project. In addition, Texans statewide have been made to fork over \$46 million for this, and taxpayers in Tarrant County are now on the hook for \$20 million in bond debt. People in Grapevine have shelled out over \$111 million in sales taxes, while taxpayers in Fort Worth—through the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, now known as Trinity Metro—have been bled close to \$250 million, and that doesn't include ongoing operating costs. Like all the other train boondoggles, including the neighboring DART in Dallas County, taxpayers are forced to subsidize 90 percent of the operating costs.

SOURCE: The Texas Minute, 1/7/19

U.S. Birth Rate Well Below Replacement Levels

New federal data released by the Center for Disease Control reveals that American women are having less and less children needed to sustain the current population. In 2017, all but two states (South Dakota and Utah) had birth rates below replacement level. The total U.S. birth rate was about 1.765 children per woman. The U.S. needs a birth rate of at least 2.1 children per woman to replace the current population of the country without experiencing population decreases. In all 50 states and the District of Columbia, white women had birth rates below replacement level. Black women in the U.S. only had above replacement-level birth rates in 12 states, while Hispanic women had the largest share of birth rates throughout the states. Births among Hispanic women were above replacement level in 29 states. The U.S. is now less than half of what it was in the 1950s. Demographers predict, based on current trends, for the U.S. birth rate to remain below replacement level into the year 2100.

SOURCE: breitbart.com, 1/13/19

Quote of the Month

"One by one, people are losing their First Amendment-guaranteed rights to free speech in America at the hands of a shortsighted, bullying mob and a band of feckless corporate capitulators setting de facto restrictions on both free expression and freedom of religion."

~ WND columnist Joseph Farah, "Three Reasons Free Speech in America Is Endangered," wnd.com, 1/13/19

Great American Quote

"The State governments possess inherent advantages, which will ever give them an influence and ascendancy over the National Government, and will for ever preclude the possibility of federal encroachments. That their liberties, indeed, can be subverted by the federal head, is repugnant to every rule of political calculation."

~ Founding father Alexander Hamilton in a speech to the New York Ratifying Convention, 1788

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