



State Solutions. National Impact.

SUMMER 2019

One Year Later

The Network Fights to Defend
the Rights of Workers
in a Post-*Janus* Landscape

Workers and activists rally outside of the US Supreme Court during the *Janus v. AFSCME* oral arguments. The ruling means that five million public servants in 22 states no longer have to pay a government union as a condition of employment.



Tracie

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OUR VISION

State Policy Network is pursuing a vision of an America where personal freedom, innovation, opportunity, and a more peaceful society help all Americans flourish. State Policy Network was founded to support the growth of a collaborative and entrepreneurial network of state think tanks, including 64 independent state think tank affiliates and more than 90 associate partners.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

State Policy Network's mission is to work side-by-side with these leaders to catalyze thriving, durable freedom movements in every state, anchored with high-performing, independent think tanks.

OUR STRATEGY

- Incubating think tanks and accelerating their development through strategic planning, training, and coaching;
- Connecting talented state leaders so they can learn, challenge, and grow together, with the aim of cultivating state solutions that collectively yield national impact; and,
- Defending the 50-state think tank network by disseminating best practices, critical resources when members are attacked, and fighting assaults on free speech and donor privacy.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

One of the things that most inspires me as president and CEO of State Policy Network is being able to see a 30,000-foot view of the 50-state freedom movement. It is sometimes hard to see when you're focused on your day-to-day life or the news happening in your state. But I'm here to tell you that change is happening in states across the country. Thanks to your ongoing partnership, we are gaining momentum and empowering state think tanks to make a difference in their communities.

Most states have wrapped up their legislative sessions, and we have seen significant victories brought by the Network as a result. The reforms we fight for are so much more than short-term political wins. They have tangible, long-lasting effects on real people.

A few examples of the power of the Network: This year, Arizona broke down barriers to meaningful work for millions of people by passing the first-ever universal recognition of occupational licenses. You'll read more about that effort, as well as efforts in other states to improve job opportunities, in this issue. Other states like Tennessee advanced policies giving families greater choice in education, realizing that our children are not always best served in a "one-size-fits-all" system. And states like Mississippi have passed laws protecting charitable organizations and individuals like you from the government demanding your private information.

This past June also marks the one-year anniversary of the historic *Janus v. AFSCME* US Supreme Court case brought by the Network in partnership with dedicated supporters. Thanks to you, we helped thousands of workers exercise their voice and choice about government union membership. We also celebrated a major victory for workers in May when the Department of Health and Human Services ended the veiled practice of "dues skimming," which took millions of dollars every year from home healthcare providers' Medicaid support checks. Now, workers can keep more of their hard-earned money, and government unions will need to focus more on providing member services rather than funding bloated political campaigns. In time, we expect this to mean even bigger wins for freedom and the issues that matter most to you and this Network.

The 2020 election cycle is upon us, and who knows which way the political tide will turn as candidates make various promises. But what you can count on—what will outlast any political cycle—is the promise that we will always be here, providing the tireless drumbeat of principled ideas and steadfastly resisting harmful ones. Because of your generosity, SPN will continue accelerating the power of the Network to improve the lives of everyday citizens, in state after state, year after year.

Sincerely,

Tracie Sharp

President & CEO



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visit spn.org/staff

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Janus: One Year Later SPN Partners with Network Leaders to Preserve the *Janus* Ruling and Protect Workplace Freedom

This summer marks the one-year anniversary of one of the most significant US Supreme Court decisions of the last year: *Janus v. AFSCME*. Members of the network brought this case to fruition, and with the strength of our state partners and your support, we have made great progress supporting millions of workers in embracing their newfound freedoms.

Early indicators show that some of the largest public-sector unions in the country are feeling the effects. For example, AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union) reported a membership drop of eight percent, and SEIU (Service Employees International Union) reported a five percent drop since December 2018. The NEA (National Education Association) saw a 2.8 percent drop in membership 60 days after the ruling. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a federal rule

this past May ending the practice of “dues skimming,” which allowed state governments to take up to \$150 million a year in union dues out of Medicaid support checks for hundreds of thousands of home healthcare providers. Our efforts with the Network in educating policymakers and connecting state leaders to Washington, DC, were integral in this victory.

But the fight to protect workers is far from over. Public-sector unions are working with policymakers to pass laws giving them an unfair advantage and making it difficult for members to resign. On the national level, 2020 Democratic candidates are lobbying for union support and making promises to roll back right-to-work laws. The reason is clear: In 2016, unions spent \$1.7 billion bankrolling political agendas. Both unions and political supporters understand the importance of maintaining as many dues-paying members as possible in spite of the *Janus* decision.

With your dedication and support, SPN and the Network can continue defending workers, protecting the *Janus* ruling, and educating workers about their options.

One of the most effective ways SPN has leveraged the *Janus* opportunity is to bring leaders together to strengthen and accelerate state efforts so they reverberate throughout the country.

JOIN US FOR THE SPN 27TH ANNUAL MEETING

We invite you to attend the SPN 27th Annual Meeting, and see firsthand how your support is making a difference with leaders and state-based solutions that are having national impact.

Please join us for this event in Colorado Springs, CO, October 29–November 1, 2019.

Learn more at spn.org/annualmeeting

SPN's Workplace Freedom Training Summit Sharpens Iron with Iron

More than 30 groups in the Network are engaged in workplace freedom reform—a number that has more than doubled in the last four years. Your investment in SPN creates opportunities for the Network to sharpen iron with iron—in other words, it empowers us to get smarter, better, and faster by learning from each other.

This spring, SPN brought together 45 Network leaders to do just that. The Workplace Freedom Training Summit provided a platform for labor reform leaders to share best practices, identify cross-state opportunities, and learn from each other's experiences on the ground in a post-*Janus* policy environment.

“The greatest thing about getting together is the boost it gives you to know you're not alone in the trenches,” said Benita Dodd, vice president of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation.

“I find myself with tunnel vision sometimes, based on what's important for Florida. Sometimes it's easy to lose sight of the fact that battles have been fought, and won, in other states that we can learn from,” said Sal Nuzzo, vice president of policy at James Madison Institute.

Panels of experts discussed some of the common challenges and opportunities Network groups face in defending workers:

Right now, Network groups are fighting back against union abuse in the courts. At the Summit, leaders highlighted examples of workers facing barriers when trying to leave their unions. While these cases can be long and tedious, groups are already achieving wins for the workers they represent. Just recently, SEIU paid \$28,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by the Freedom Foundation on behalf of a home caregiver in Washington state after a union organizer forged her signature on a membership form.

Network leaders discussed bright spots in states with legislative and executive branch opportunities to expand worker freedoms. States have introduced more legislation to support workers and roll back the undue influence of government unions in the last two years than in the last two decades. Since *Janus*, there have been at least 39 pro-worker bills advanced in 18 states.

For example, states like Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania have introduced reforms that would let union members represent themselves instead of unions (worker's choice)—something they currently cannot do under right-to-work or *Janus*.

Experiments are underway in states to educate workers about their choice to leave their union. Network leaders shared lessons from their campaigns and previous wins in

// ... WE ARE LOCAL, WE HAVE BOOTS ON THE GROUND, AND WE HAVE AN ENDURING PRESENCE AND COMMUNICATION WITH THESE WORKERS. FOR US IT'S AN ONGOING ISSUE, NOT A ONE-TIME CAMPAIGN.

Maxford Nelsen
Director of Labor Policy
Freedom Foundation

right-to-work states. For example, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy is taking lessons from Michigan's right-to-work victory and applying it to campaigns across multiple states.

“If you want to know what the country could look like post-*Janus*, look to Michigan, because it provides a five-year example,” said Mackinac's executive vice president Michael Reitz. Since Michigan passed right-to-work, the Michigan Education



ABOVE: • Network leaders share experiences on the ground as they work to defend the *Janus* ruling and support workers in their states.
OPPOSITE: • SPN convened more than 45 Network leaders to share best practices and strengthen their workplace freedom efforts.



Mailee Smith, staff attorney at the Illinois Policy Institute, discusses strategies for wading through complex union data to find the truth about union spending.

Association lost 30 percent of its membership, and that figure is similar across a number of other unions.

Looking across the country, Reitz sees promising trends. “The amount of interest that we’re seeing is very promising, and the number of people engaging with content, asking questions, and making phone calls suggests to us that the number of people who will exercise their First Amendment rights is only going to go up,” he said.

Network groups are working to build long-term investments in their communities. “A large part of the success we’ve seen goes back to the fact that we are local, we have boots on the ground, and we have an enduring presence and communication with these workers,” said Maxford Nelsen, director of labor policy at the Freedom Foundation. “For us it’s an ongoing issue, not a one-time campaign. That staying power and persistence over time has been key and will continue to be.”

The Summit enabled groups to collaborate on efforts to improve union data transparency. “Public sector unions are not transparent about their spending with the public or their members. It’s important for us to dig into the data and see how they’re spending their money so workers can make an informed choice,” said Mailee Smith, staff attorney at the Illinois Policy Institute. When Network groups crunch the numbers, patterns begin to emerge that show workers how their money is really spent. For example, she notes that the NEA spends more on its own officer and employee benefits than on representing its workers. Over the last 5–6 years only 12 percent of NEA’s spending has been on representational activities.



NETWORK LEADERS
SHARE EXPERIENCES
ON THE GROUND AS
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THE *JANUS* RULING AND
SUPPORT WORKERS IN
THEIR STATES.

All of these efforts to advance workplace freedom are tested, refined, and improved when we come together. That’s why your support goes a long way in providing opportunities like the Workplace Freedom Training Summit to bring leaders together to incubate the best strategies and take them back to their states.

“There are things you only learn through the experiences and expertise of others. That’s the value of coming together—to see that multi-state effort,” said Eric Peterson, director of policy at the Pelican Institute.

For the past 27 years, SPN, in partnership with our donors, has worked with think tanks in the Network so they have the resources, connections, and capabilities to face any policy battle—gearing up for such a time as this.

SUPPORT SPN

For more than 27 years, State Policy Network and our thousands of supporters across the country have been committed to building a durable freedom movement in every state. Your investment has empowered this Network to achieve victories that improve our economy, job opportunities, healthcare, education, and so much more.

With your gift today, SPN can continue its unique and important work to connect leaders, ideas, and resources so that our movement achieves lasting, national impact.

Donate today at spn.org/donate



Getting People Back to Work The Network Removes Barriers to Jobs and Opportunity with Groundbreaking Policy Reforms

The US is experiencing higher levels of employment than at any other time in the last 50 years. More people working means greater economic growth and a safer, brighter future for our children and our grandchildren. Often, it is the top reason why people choose to move from one state to another.

Several economic factors contribute to greater employment. One of the most important factors is creating a policy environment that encourages work and doesn’t impose unnecessary barriers to gainful employment. Your support has helped SPN and the Network fight for reforms to our welfare system, criminal justice system, and occupational licensing regime. This has expanded opportunities to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Spotlight: Occupational Licensing

We believe all Americans deserve the chance to make a living doing what they love. But for some industries, that means getting a permission slip from the government on top of hours of training and fees that impose burdens on people seeking work. In the 1950s, five percent of workers had an occupational license. Today, that number has grown to 23 percent. And according to the Institute for Justice, licensing laws could cost the economy hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in lost output.

With your support, SPN has partnered with state think tanks to help clear paths to entrepreneurship through occupational licensing and other job creation reforms.

One such partner is the Platte Institute in Nebraska—the first state to pass the Occupational Board Reform Act in 2018. The law requires a regular review of established licensing laws and removes barriers for workers with conviction histories. *The Wall Street Journal* called Platte’s work a model for licensing reform.

“There are many rough days on the path toward job licensing reform,” said Adam Weinberg, Platte’s director of communications and outreach. “When you do this over and over, you see the opportunities you create, your state being made better, and lives being made better—and that’s worth everything.”

By participating in an SPN working group, the team at Platte



The Platte Institute joined workers in their “Strong Jobs Nebraska” campaign to end outdated occupational licensing laws.

refined their “Strong Jobs Nebraska” campaign that featured compelling stories of real people affected by outdated licensing laws. Those experiences resonated with policymakers and helped them realize that the stakes are high when it means someone does or doesn’t have a job, or someone does or doesn’t have a future, in their state.

“SPN and our fellow think tanks were our biggest support network; they accelerated our efforts and encouraged us to keep going when we faced challenges. The group gave us the tools to create an issue campaign for comprehensive reform and helped us put the pieces together to see it through to fruition,” said Weinberg.

This year, the Network saw a major victory when Arizona passed the first-ever universal recognition of occupational licensing in the country. Now, if someone is licensed in one state, they don’t have to worry about losing their livelihood when they move to Arizona.



The Goldwater Institute helped behavioral health counselors like Annette Stanley continue working by reforming occupational licensing laws. Stanley sought an Arizona license when she moved there from Kansas, but because she owned her own practice, the state of Arizona would not recognize the hours she accumulated for her Kansas license.

This reform builds on years of work by the Goldwater Institute to expand job opportunities, including the 2017 Right to Earn a Living Act that placed the burden of proof on the government, rather than the worker, to justify arbitrary licensing restrictions. Reforms based on this law have been taken up in other states and in partnership with other Network groups.

“This is one area where our movement—the broader state-based SPN movement—has been very successful in working together to identify good stories, cases, and solving problems on the ground in their own states,” said Jon Riches, director of national litigation at Goldwater.

These recent reforms affect more than 30 industries, increasing the accountability of regulators for their decisions and improving job opportunities for Arizonans.

Spotlight: Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal justice reform has been a priority issue in many states for years—long before Congress passed the historic First Step Act in 2018. These reforms give inmates a chance to rebuild their lives after prison and end the cycle of unemployment and reincarceration.

In many ways, the First Step Act is a culmination of all the reforms and innovations the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) has championed for more than a decade.

“This is one of those topics where the federal government had

to look within its own house and fix its process by looking to the success of the states,” said Derek Cohen, director of TPPF’s Right on Crime project.

Right on Crime was launched in 2005 as a response to the incarceration crisis in Texas, which faced a prison population of more than 150,000 prisoners. By showing lawmakers opportunities to rehabilitate and educate offenders, TPPF got the attention of the Texas Legislature and crafted a national model for reform in 2007. Since then, eight Texas prisons have closed, the prison population has decreased by 30,000, and the crime rate has reached its lowest point since 1967.

Texas-inspired criminal justice reforms have since made their way to numerous states, including Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. TPPF is working across the country to support Network groups in their efforts.

Other Network groups like Empower Mississippi are solving their challenges with poverty and jobs through criminal justice reform. Over the past year, they launched campaigns and built bridges across the aisle to help with the passage of the Criminal Justice Reform Act and the Fresh Start Act in 2019. The Criminal Justice Reform Act helps thousands of ex-offenders receive essential treatment and get a job when they re-enter their communities. The Fresh Start Act focuses on reforming occupational licensing laws that prohibit ex-offenders from working in certain professions.

For four of Empower Mississippi’s five-year history, they focused on education reforms. However, CEO Grant Callen saw an opportunity to take on a new issue after discussing the organization’s priorities with Network peers and SPN colleagues.

That critical support helped inspire him to take the leap and secure major victories for people to re-enter civil society and the workforce.

“There’s no substitute for taking on an issue while everyone is talking about it . . . while it has momentum,” said Callen. “It’s important to strike when the iron is hot and go as bold and ambitious as you can, because the opportunity may not always be there.”

Spotlight: Welfare to Work

Even when the economy is thriving and unemployment is low, states still have to confront the impact of an outdated and ineffective welfare system. Millions of able-bodied Americans are trapped in a cycle of dependency in a system that disincentivizes work and prevents them from escaping crippling poverty.

Network organizations have confronted the problem by offering reforms that encourage work and focus on supporting the truly needy.

Welfare reform has been an integral part of the Foundation for Government Accountability’s (FGA) mission to “lift people out of dependency, restore dignity and self-sufficiency, and empower them to take control of their futures.” Throughout 2018, FGA achieved 105 wins for welfare reform in 33 states. On Medicaid work requirements, they helped achieve wins in 17 states.

FGA developed first-of-its-kind research that tracked the impact of work requirements across demographics, welfare programs, and states. Kansas and Maine were the first two states they investigated and tracked, and the results were amazing. They found that by imposing work requirements, incomes went up, and people found work in more than 600 different industries. This inspired them to work with SPN and the Network to replicate the tool in other states.

“The biggest benefit SPN has given us is just knowing there’s someone I can call with the relationships in each state and the opportunities to come together to strengthen our efforts,” said Whitney Munro, FGA’s vice president of communications.

One of the groups that connected with FGA was the Mississippi Center for Public Policy (MCPPE), which led its own efforts to make the state a leader in welfare reform. MCPPE played a key role in passing the HOPE Act in 2017, which establishes work requirements, eliminates abuse of the system, and saves taxpayers millions of dollars every year.

The passage of the HOPE Act represents a three-year effort and an exercise in persistence for Jameson Taylor, MCPPE’s vice president for policy. Instead of going for a piecemeal approach, he made the bold case for comprehensive reform, and it worked.



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Whitney Munro
Vice President of Communications
Foundation for Government Accountability

“I wanted to start with an ambitious policy that makes the moral case for why we want to do this, and let the political process play out,” he said. “Let’s set the bar high, and show that the poorest state in America can pass the gold standard of welfare reform. This will help other states know they can do this too.”

States like Georgia are ripe for comprehensive welfare reform in the near future. The Georgia Center for Opportunity (GCO) has been working on both the state and federal levels to ensure this important issue becomes part of the agenda. They aim to reduce welfare “cliffs” where benefit drop-offs unfairly punish workers for earning more and moving up the economic ladder.

By promoting their “Success Sequence” and removing barriers to opportunity through research, advocacy, and grassroots delivery, GCO is changing the state. With the help of SPN, they are also leading an anti-poverty working group so states, especially in the southeast where poverty rates are high, can collaborate on reforms. By working with groups across multiple states, they are able to leverage a network of experience of best practices and identify distinct state policy reforms that can develop into scalable models that ultimately drive federal reforms.

“We are concerned about the single mom in the system trying to get out of it. She’s juggling jobs and kids and put in a situation where she’s offered a raise that she can’t really take. We have stories from around Georgia where that has happened,” said Eric Cochling, GCO’s executive vice president. “We have to reform the system for that mom.”



ALABAMA

ALABAMA POLICY INSTITUTE • alabamapolicy.org

Alabama Policy Institute celebrated 30 years as the leading conservative voice in Alabama with an event at the Hangar at the USS Alabama. Speakers included former Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, and former State Senator Phil Williams.

Former Attorney General Sessions praised API, remarking that “legislators, county commissioners, and judges are influenced by API, because you base your positions on truth. That, especially today, is incredibly important.” Sessions also spoke about his experience as the Attorney General, detailing both a tenuous relationship with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and an especially efficient Department of Justice in promoting the rule of law.

Caleb Crosby, API’s president and CEO, said, “To have an event like this, with so many people who care so deeply about our state—and to get the opportunity to honor Mayor Sandy Stimpson—is really something special.”

ALASKA

ALASKA POLICY FORUM • alaskapolicyforum.org

Alaska Policy Forum has tracked the performance of Alaska’s public-school students for years. A recent series of charts prepared by APF put to rest the shameful narrative that Alaska Native children are to blame for the state’s poor performance. The Forum used National Assessment of Educational Progress data reflecting the entire economic and ethnic spectrum of Alaskan children. The APF charts clearly show that the early childhood literacy problem is not with any one ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic class. Early childhood literacy in Alaska is at crisis proportions across the entire economic and ethnic spectrum.

Past solutions have not helped, and APF is driving discussions toward solutions which have proven effective in other states. The Forum supports a policy reform called Read by 9, which includes early intervention, parental involvement, and science-driven instruction. APF is working with stakeholders across the state to ensure that every child gets the fundamental skills they need to succeed.

ARIZONA

GOLDWATER INSTITUTE • goldwaterinstitute.org

Goldwater Institute has published a new revised edition of “The First Line of Defense: Litigation for Liberty at the State Level,” a blueprint for working in courtrooms, legislatures, and communities nationwide to empower people to live freer, happier lives.

Intended primarily for freedom-oriented organizations seeking to establish new litigation centers, the booklet explains the promises and pitfalls of litigation for freedom, provides tips on how to more effectively promote constitutional principles, and addresses the costs and benefits of advancing liberty in the courtroom. It offers pointers on coordinating with policy analysts, lawmakers, and administrators, to protect individual rights.

Goldwater is proud of the robust litigation network that exists among SPN today and is looking forward to what the next decade will bring.

Obtain a hard copy of “The First Line of Defense” by contacting the Institute.



ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS POLICY FOUNDATION • arkansaspolicyfoundation.org

Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a measure reducing the number of Arkansas state agencies from 42 to 15, a reorganization that emerged from **Arkansas Policy Foundation’s** Efficiency Project, which recommended consolidation. A state fiscal estimate recently concluded that reorganization will save \$15 million annually, largely through attrition of state government employees. There are 1,400 fewer state employees than in 2015 when the Project began. Savings from the Efficiency Project have allowed the Hutchinson administration to achieve fiscal policy goals, including the reduction of state corporate and individual income tax rates. Governor Hutchinson signed measures reducing both taxes earlier this year.

In a statement, Governor Hutchinson said the Policy Foundation’s Project “was instrumental in beginning the movement to better serve the citizens of Arkansas” through streamlined government operations.

CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA POLICY CENTER • californiapolicycenter.org

California Policy Center is continuing to educate Californians on public policies that aim to improve the state’s democracy and economy. The Center has hosted training sessions for local elected officials through the California Local Elected Officials project. It held its first 2019 session in Orange County. More than 50 elected officials learned how to dissect a government “Comprehensive Annual Financial Report,” address issues like cronyism, and learn best practices for communicating with constituents.

CPC is also growing its Parent Union. With more than 1,000 members, and more joining every week, CPC community organizers are educating parents about their rights and their children’s right to choose a quality education. Recently, CPC has begun to work with the California Charter School Association. CCSA advances the public charter school movement through state and local advocacy. Currently, there are four bills being debated in Sacramento that would curb public charter schools’ ability to operate within the state.

FREEDOM FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA • freedomfoundation.com

Freedom Foundation of California filed a federal class-action lawsuit against the California Teachers Association on behalf of five teachers barred from stopping the dues deductions from their paychecks. Teaming up with leading free speech attorney and California Republican National Committee Committeewoman Harmeet Dhillon, Freedom Foundation filed suit against the CTA, the National Education Association, and state Attorney General Xavier Becerra, as well as several local school districts.

Bethany Mendez, the lead plaintiff, contacted Freedom Foundation after numerous attempts to stop the dues deductions from her paycheck failed. Freedom Foundation’s Mari-ah Gondeiro-Watt represented the plaintiff.

In an op-ed in *The Hill*, Dhillon wrote, “The unions feel threatened by charters and the *Janus* decision, in part because groups like the Freedom Foundation have informed workers of their rights, resulting in more than 40,000 public employees, many of them teachers, leaving their unions on the west coast.” That number has now surpassed 50,000 people in the states in which Freedom Foundation operates.





PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE • pacificresearch.org

Pacific Research Institute has launched a new Center for Medical Economics and Innovation, which will research and advance policies showing how a thriving biomedical and pharmaceutical sector benefits both patients and economic growth. Wayne Winegarden, PRI senior fellow in business and economics, will serve as director.

Timely research and commentary relating to medical innovation will be available at the Center's new website: medecon.org.

PRI also has announced a 40th anniversary celebration cruise, from Mallorca to Rome, Oct. 2–10. The cruise will also celebrate the 40th anniversary of co-host, The Claremont Institute. Nationally-renowned conservative scholars will discuss liberalism and the polarization of American politics; single-payer healthcare; Brexit and populism around the world; the legacies of Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Winston Churchill; and the past and future of American conservatism. Learn more about the cruise at ci-pri.com.

COLORADO

INDEPENDENCE INSTITUTE • i2i.org

In a column for the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, **Independence Institute** Senior Fellow Rob Natelson pointed out that the National Popular Vote's plan would create a pure "plurality" system for choosing the president. He noted that all countries with such systems are developing nations—Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, the Philippines, and Mexico—and that their experience shows NPV facilitates corruption. Even in honest elections, NPV encourages a fractured field, and the majority of voters usually have voted against the winning candidate. Natelson has spoken at civic clubs in Boulder, Longmont, Denver, and Centennial, Colorado on the subject and been a guest on Colorado and other states' radio shows.

DELAWARE

CAESAR RODNEY INSTITUTE • caesarrodney.org

The **Caesar Rodney Institute** reports that "Delaware has the third highest per capita healthcare expenditures among all the states and ranks 30th in healthcare outcomes." The Institute looked at the last 10 years and noted significant increases in earnings for Delaware's healthcare industry and earnings for nursing care, hospitals, and ambulatory care. At the same time, Delaware's spending on Medicaid is \$770 million—the largest expenditure in the state's budget. The Institute calls for the state to reevaluate these climbing numbers. It wants the state to look specifically at reforming certificate-of-need laws, which require healthcare providers to obtain state regulatory permission before opening new healthcare facilities, expanding existing ones, or purchasing new equipment. By creating these barriers, Delaware's Health Resources Board could be cutting off competition that may lead to more affordable costs for both healthcare providers and patients.

FLORIDA

FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY • fga.org

The **Foundation for Government Accountability** released new research showing just how well Arkansas' Medicaid work requirement was working. Arkansas' Affordable Care Act expansion enrolled 54 percent more able-bodied adults than ever promised—nearly half of whom were not working. After the state implemented the Medicaid work requirement, enrollment began dropping, with 14,000 Arkansans leaving the program because of increased income. More than 9,200 expansion adults found employment, and taxpayers were on track to save at least \$300 million per year. The work requirement was changing lives across the state, as the research showed, along with real-life stories of those who found the power of work. The research countered the false narrative that the work requirement was harmful. Instead, thousands were able to experience work, putting them on the path toward independence.

JAMES MADISON INSTITUTE • jamesmadison.org

In a transformative 2019 Florida Legislative Session, policymakers, a new governor, and **James Madison Institute** made bold strides cementing Florida as a beacon for conservative principles. The Florida Legislature charted a course for patient-centered healthcare reform, expanded school choice in ways every other state is marveling at, protected and encouraged small businesses, took the first step down the path of reforming the criminal justice system, and passed a number of other principled reforms that will touch the lives of Floridians. The Legislature also maintained the state government's status as one of the leanest in the country. This session saw an unparalleled level of energy and commitment to the principles that are central to JMI's mission. Policymakers enacted initiatives from five of the six policy priorities JMI had set, leaving Florida a better state for entrepreneurs, Americans needing better healthcare choices, and parents wanting better futures for their children.

GEORGIA

GEORGIA PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION • georgiapolicy.org

Education choice reforms were stymied in the first half of Georgia's two-year legislative session. Education Scholarship Account legislation is dead for the year after the Senate rejected a bill that would have provided ESAs to just 0.5 percent of Georgia's public-school students in its first year of operation. An even narrower ESA added to House legislation failed, as well.

Georgia Public Policy Foundation published a study by University of Georgia economics professor Jeffrey Dorfman demonstrating that public-school students who remained in a school district would not be financially hurt if a student left with an ESA that did not exceed the district's funding from the state.

On the healthcare front, legislators took promising steps in several areas in which the Foundation proposed reforms, including waivers, certificate-of-need, reciprocity, and telehealth.

The Foundation continued its series of public events with guest speakers, including Georgia Congressman Doug Collins and David French of the National Review Institute.





HAWAII

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII • grassrootinstitute.org

The **Grassroot Institute of Hawaii** successfully fought against two proposals by the Hawaii legislature: to increase the state's general excise tax, already one of the highest sales and use taxes in the country, and a government housing program that would build and offer low-cost leasehold homes to residents.

There are other bills still alive in the 2019 session that echo trends across the country. Several bills seek to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The state public employees union is looking for the statutory right to demand more information about new employees and start a new-hire orientation program. And there have been multiple tax hikes and new taxes proposed, including an effort to replace the fuel tax with a carbon tax.

The Grassroot Institute continues to educate the public, highlighting budgetary concerns and demonstrating how such proposals will raise the cost of living.

IDAHO

IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION • idahofreedom.org

The **Idaho Freedom Foundation** championed numerous victories for freedom in Idaho's 2019 legislative session. Due in large part to IFF's intellectual ammunition and analysis, a new law ensures Idahoans get to vote before the government goes into debt for extravagant projects. A barrage of wealth-redistribution plans and programs were defeated, and Idaho established a law which permanently opens labor union negotiations to the public. In addition, multiple occupational licensing requirements (for dental therapists, military veterans, and others) were rolled back, and Idaho is set to expand state-to-state license reciprocity next year.

IFF also attacked Idaho's flagrant spending practices by providing fiscally responsible analyses of agency spending. As a result, several egregious budgets were amended rather than rubber-stamped. And IFF helped kill a \$10 million grab for unneeded legislative office space. Better yet, IFF helped define 2019's fiscal narrative and kick start the Idaho Legislature on a new, more financially conservative path.

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE • illinoispolicy.org

The **Illinois Policy Institute** team surpassed ESPN, Verizon, AJ+ and PwC at the 40th Annual Telly Awards, which honor the best work in video and television. Awards included: a silver in Online Documentary Series for "Forgotten Illinois," a video and photojournalism project chronicling the stories of Illinoisans from "forgotten" towns across the state; a bronze in Online—Social Issues for "The Pardon," a short film about Illinois' broken criminal justice system; a bronze in Social Video Series—Public Service and Activism for "You're Rich," a video commercial series about the truth of Governor J.B. Pritzker's proposed progressive income tax; and a bronze in Online Comedy Series for "CYBTFS!?", a comedic video series sharing solutions with cynical Illinoisans. Austin Berg, director of content strategy, was also honored as a 2019 Buckley Award winner by America's Future Foundation for advancing liberty by using creative, personal storytelling to launch a unique solutions journalism initiative.

KANSAS

KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE • kansaspolicy.org

Kansas Policy Institute launched Kansas Justice Institute, a new public interest litigation center. Sam MacRoberts joined as litigation director and general counsel, and he is responsible for developing and implementing KJI's comprehensive litigation strategy. Through education, advocacy, and litigation, KJI will work to limit the size and scope of government. The Institute will represent people who cannot afford to prevent government from interfering with their constitutional rights. Learn more at kansasjusticeinstitute.org.

KENTUCKY

PEGASUS INSTITUTE • pegasuskentucky.org

This spring, State Policy Network welcomed **Pegasus Institute** as a new state think tank affiliate. The Institute is a first of its kind, millennial-led, state-based think tank whose mission is to provide public policy research and solutions that help improve the lives of all Kentuckians. The Institute is closely tracking Kentucky's economic growth. In June, the Institute examined how Kentucky's payroll was performing compared to neighboring states. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data from March 2019 to April 2019, Kentucky added approximately 4,000 individuals to payrolls. Institute President Jordan Harris considers this uptick part of a larger positive trend. He writes, "For Kentucky, virtually every indicator of economic growth is moving in a positive direction right now. The state's labor force is among the largest in history, there are more people employed than ever before, and individuals seeking unemployment have decreased by more than 60 percent since the height of the Great Recession."

LOUISIANA

PELICAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • pelicaninstitute.org

The **Pelican Institute for Public Policy** regularly releases deep-dive policy papers about its Jobs and Opportunity Agenda for Louisiana. Each policy paper—ranging from tax reform to K-12 education reform to criminal justice reform—offers solutions for abandoning the broken status quo and bringing jobs and opportunity to Louisiana. The release of these policy papers culminated in the Pelican Institute's inaugural Solutions Summit in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The summit brought together policy experts, legislators, and Louisiana leaders to discuss solutions to some of the state's biggest policy challenges, including tax and budget reform, K-12 education reform, legal and regulatory reform, criminal justice reform, and tech and innovation policies, among others. Other highlights included a gubernatorial forum and a closing toast to Louisiana from Congressman Garrett Graves. Media across the state covered the event, and legislators, legislative candidates, and policy leaders attended.



MAINE

MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER • mainepolicy.org

Maine Heritage Policy Center CEO Matthew Gagnon and Director of Communications Jacob Posik spoke at a Tax Day Uprising rally hosted by Maine Taxpayers United at the Maine State House. Gagnon and Posik called on state leaders to use Maine's existing surplus and projected revenues to reduce Maine's tax burden instead of growing the state budget to \$8.041 billion as proposed by Governor Janet Mills.

MHPC policy analyst Adam Crepeau teamed up with the Pioneer Institute's Bill Smith to write a *Portland Press Herald* op-ed, warning Mainers about the impact a proposed drug price cap commission would have on healthcare innovation in the state.

MHPC helped defeat legislation that would impose local-option sales taxes, prevent charter schools from marketing, mandate the use of snow tires on all vehicles between October and April, and countless other harmful bills that would restrict freedom and opportunity in Maine.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE • mdpolicy.org

The latest findings from the Maryland Business Climate Survey, a joint partnership between the **Maryland Public Policy Institute** and the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute were published in the *Baltimore Business Journal*. The survey found the majority of Maryland businesses remain optimistic about the economy and poised for future growth. State lawmakers are increasingly using the survey's findings as proof that more should be done to help Maryland's small businesses.

MPPI's groundbreaking research on public pension reform was featured in *The Washington Post*. In a joint op-ed with the Mackinac Center in Michigan, the Institute's Carol Park argued that Maryland should emulate Michigan's recent pension reforms, starting with a transition to 401(k)-style plans commonly found in the private sector.

The Baltimore Sun also featured the Institute's insights on public education spending. Institute President and Chief Executive Officer Christopher B. Summers was interviewed for a piece about state legislators increasing education spending by nearly \$4 billion with no funding source.

MASSACHUSETTS

PIONEER INSTITUTE • pioneerinstitute.org

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required by a 2010 law to rank school district performance across the state. But are these rankings reliable data for informing critical policy decisions, such as setting caps on charter public schools? **The Pioneer Institute** took a closer look in its latest study, which uncovered a high degree of error in the Student Growth Percentile that DESE now uses as 25 percent of its formula for determining school district rankings. According to the Institute's research, "While the SGP may have a role to play as part of discussions around holding districts accountable for performance, it should not be used for high-stakes policy decisions, including which districts are eligible for an increase in the charter public school cap." The Institute's director of education, Jamie Gass, recommends the state use "absolute proficiency" as a more effective measure of determining which districts are eligible for a higher charter school cap.

MICHIGAN

MACKINAC CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY • mackinac.org

Road funding is one of the top issues facing Michiganders, and the **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** has been vocal about free-market solutions. Media has sought the Center's comment on the governor's 45 cents-per-gallon gas tax hike. Michigan's ineffective no-fault auto insurance and Medicaid work requirements have also been hot-button issues in Michigan.

David Guenther, senior strategist for state affairs at the Mackinac Center, developed a guide for lawmakers on how to make government programs produce the maximum results for taxpayers. Guenther delivered the "Questions for Appropriators" to every lawmaker in Lansing and wrote an op-ed for *The Hill* about the importance of legislators being fiscally responsible.

The Mackinac Center is also celebrating a civil asset forfeiture reforms victory. The Michigan Legislature passed a package of bills requiring a criminal conviction before law enforcement can permanently keep a person's property.

MINNESOTA

CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT • americanexperiment.org

Center of the American Experiment designed EmployeeFreedomMN.com to help public employees make educated decisions about their union membership. The website answers common questions about what the *Janus* case means for them and what kind of representation non-union members are entitled to if they resign from the union.

The Center also recently launched the Greater Minnesota Outreach Project to learn about concerns for residents who don't live in the Twin Cities metro area. The Center has visited 15 Greater Minnesota cities—meeting with local chambers of commerce, mayors, CEOs, county commissioners, industry associations, and service groups—to build alliances with like-minded Minnesotans.

Why the focus on Greater Minnesota? The Center believes the growing urban orientation of Minnesota's policymakers in St. Paul shortchanges Minnesotans who choose to live outside metropolitan areas. Minnesota as a whole deserves representation that transcends the influence of simple population density.

FREEDOM FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA • freedomfoundation.com

The **Freedom Foundation of Minnesota** filed an amicus brief in support of Public Record Media in their attempt to compel state government agencies to comply with Minnesota's Government Data Practices Act. At issue are public records surrounding the 2017 bid by the State of Minnesota to Amazon Inc. to locate a second corporate headquarters in Minnesota.

To comply with Amazon's request for proposals, the Minnesota bid was deemed "private data" and a copy was not made public. While Minnesota's bid to become the second headquarters of Amazon was ultimately unsuccessful, Public Records Media sued in district court to obtain a copy of the final proposal submitted by the state. Now that the Dayton administration has left office, gubernatorial appointees are saying that a copy of the proposal wasn't retained. A date for a hearing before the Minnesota Court of Appeals will likely be scheduled sometime this summer.





MISSISSIPPI

EMPOWER MISSISSIPPI • empowerms.org

Empower Mississippi reports that lawmakers voted to increase funding for Mississippi's Special Needs Education Scholarship Account program by \$2 million, creating around 300 new scholarships for children with special needs in Mississippi.

Not only will children with special needs have access to a brighter future as a result of action taken this session, Mississippians leaving the prison system will face fewer barriers to work, thanks to the Fresh Start Act and the Criminal Justice Reform Act. The Fresh Start Act eliminates unconstitutional and bureaucratic rules imposed by occupational licensing boards that prevent ex-offenders from working. The Criminal Justice Reform Act focuses on drug intervention courts, driver's licenses, and expungements.

These are steps in the right direction, but safely reducing Mississippi's costly incarceration rate must be addressed. Empower Mississippi is committed to ensuring that all Mississippians have the opportunity to pursue meaningful work and support themselves and their families.



MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY • mspolicy.org

Mississippi Center for Public Policy led the push for donor privacy legislation, which resulted in Governor Phil Bryant signing House bill 1205. This will protect and ensure the privacy of individuals who donate to charitable causes in Mississippi.

"We are very proud that Governor Bryant has signed into law a piece of legislation that reinforces the American tradition of anonymous speech and the freedom of association to which citizens are entitled," said Jon Pritchett, president and CEO of Mississippi Center for Public Policy. "Mississippi has now proudly defended the rights of citizens to support causes about which they care deeply."

The new law, authored by Rep. Jerry Turner and championed by Rep. Mark Baker, allows a nonprofit to defend itself in court if its confidential donor list is leaked by a rogue government agency or bureaucrat. Mississippi became the second state in nation, after Arizona, to enact proactive legislation.

MISSOURI

SHOW-ME INSTITUTE • showmeinstitute.org

In 2016, Kansas City's city council unanimously voted to commission an analysis of the city's economic incentives programs to evaluate their effectiveness and examine the processes in place for awarding incentives. The study cost taxpayers \$350,000 and was finally completed in August 2018—16 months after the original deadline. It included the impressive claim that "each incentive dollar invested generated \$3.83 in additional tax revenue." However, the study's authors arrived at that number by simply tallying the economic activity that occurred after incentives were in place and attributing 100 percent of that activity to the incentives. In part because of this glaring methodological error, the study could not help policymakers determine if some incentive programs might be more effective than others, nor could it help gauge the likelihood that development might take place if no incentives were awarded. To set the record straight, the **Show-Me Institute** released "Kansas City's 2018 Study of Economic Development Incentives: An Examination of the Process and the Product." In the report, Institute Director of Municipal Policy Patrick Tuohey examines the process that led to the study to help explain why it was so flawed.



NEBRASKA

PLATTE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH • platteinstitute.org

The **Platte Institute for Economic Research** championed a new law which expands Nebraska's cottage food law. Cottage foods are non-potentially hazardous homemade foods, like bread, fruit pies, cookies, and jams and jellies.

Until now, home-based food producers could only offer their products at farmers markets. The existing law created obstacles to generating enough income to grow a business or obtain a small business loan. Now, Nebraska's cottage food producers can sell their foods from home, or even ship their products sold online.

"Expanding Nebraska's cottage food law has been a truly nonpartisan effort to remove barriers for Nebraskans and make new opportunities possible all across our state. Within a matter of months, new small businesses can get their start in rural and urban areas of Nebraska. And existing cottage food operators can reach out into countless new markets for selling their products," said Platte Institute Executive Vice President Kimberly Chalek.



NEVADA

NEVADA POLICY RESEARCH • npri.org

The **Nevada Policy Research Institute** testified before the Senate Committee on the harm a minimum wage increase would inflict on small businesses and the workers they may no longer be able to employ. NPRI also appeared in *Nevada Business* to explain how taxpayers, not politicians, make campaign promises come true. Despite the Governor's pledge that there would be "no new taxes," Nevada lawmakers have floated ideas that would involve increases. Proposals include extending the Modified Business Tax, which NPRI explains is a tax on employment; empowering local fire districts with their own taxing authority; and hiking minimum wage. NPRI urged taxpayers to take a closer look at the costly realities of these ideas: "From a political perspective, this micromanaging politicking makes sense," wrote NPRI's Michael Schaus. "After all, politicians get to play the 'good guy' while forcing the rest of us to figure out how to fund their so-called 'solutions.'"



NEW HAMPSHIRE

JOSIAH BARTLETT CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY • jbartlett.org

The **Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** helped defeat two separate single-use plastics bans (straws and plastic bags) despite a Democratic majority in the state Legislature. The Center's research, published in the local press, helped reframe the debate and show the bans to be more problematic, and less effective, than proponents claimed. The Center also exposed deceptive polling designed to fool lawmakers and the public that a state-run commuter rail proposal had massive levels of public support. The Center showed how commuter rail boosters left out vital information to get the favorable poll result they wanted.





NEW JERSEY

GARDEN STATE INITIATIVE • gardenstateinitiative.org

Garden State Initiative held its second Annual Economic Policy Forum in New Brunswick. New Jersey's leading policymakers and influencers joined an audience of more than 100 for an interactive discussion of the state's competitiveness and alternative ideas to improve its business climate, affordability, and reining in the size and cost of government. Moderated by Rhonda Schaffler, NJTV News business correspondent, the event featured Andrew Haughwout of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who presented the State of New Jersey's economy relative to the region. Following his presentation was a discussion of New Jersey's business climate with business owner and Senator Declan O'Scanlon (R) and Paul Harencak, vice president of LPS Industries, a leading manufacturing firm based in northern New Jersey, and board member of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey. Senate President Steve Sweeney (D) and Senator Steve Oroho (R) discussed upcoming state budget negotiations and proposals to reform—and potentially reduce—local state spending.

NEW YORK

EMPIRE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY • empirecenter.org

After a decade of advocacy by the **Empire Center for Public Policy**, the State of New York finally made the two-percent property tax cap permanent in the budget for fiscal year 2020.

Unsurprisingly, however, the budget was riddled with other problems, such as Governor Cuomo's last-minute raise and rising healthcare costs.

Empire Center's transparency website, seethroughny.net, also released MTA payroll data and Port Authority payroll data. Long Island Railroad overtime hikes were so high that *The New York Post* published Empire's data on their front page for two days in a row.

NORTH CAROLINA

CIVITAS INSTITUTE • nccivitas.org

North Carolina has seen a concerted effort to enforce the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion provision. Big government proponents, the healthcare lobby, and rogue "conservative" legislators have sought to take taxpayers and the truly needy down a path of unsustainable spending.

Civitas Institute continues to lead the charge against this healthcare takeover by providing numerous resources for legislators, reaching out to the public with vital information, and engaging with the media.

Civitas has strategically placed and published op-eds on Medicaid expansion and has produced resources for legislators and policymakers, including: a "By the Numbers" infographic, a "Why Medicaid Expansion is Wrong for North Carolina" ebook, statewide public opinion polling in 2018 and 2019, and "Medicaid Expansion: Hurting the Needy. Harming the Economy." Civitas has produced a documentary-style video on the harms of Medicaid Expansion. It also hosted a "Medicaid Expansion: Myths & Realities" panel.

JOHN LOCKE FOUNDATION • johnlocke.org

As North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper pushes state policymakers to expand Medicaid and add roughly 500,000 able-bodied, childless adults to the program, **John Locke Foundation** analysts Joseph Coletti and Jordan Roberts highlighted the sleight of hand evident in the financing scheme Cooper and his allies seek to use: the Medicaid provider tax.

Writing for *The Daily Signal*, Coletti and Roberts explained why providers have been eager to support the tax: they net more than they pay in taxes.

JLF's Mitch Kokai joined the Pelican Institute's 2019 Solutions Summit to share keys to North Carolina's multi-year reforms to the tax code, regulatory environment, and spending plan. As North Carolina lawmakers craft the next state operating budget, JLF's Becki Gray urged them to reject pressure to ramp up spending and borrowing and to focus on providing accessible, affordable healthcare, not by expanding Medicaid, but by reforming scope-of-practice rules, repealing certificate-of-need laws, and embracing innovations such as telemedicine.

OHIO

THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE • buckeyeinstitute.org

Policymakers have raised the idea of new taxes to fix a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall Alaska is facing. To help them make informed decisions, **The Buckeye Institute's** Economic Research Center partnered with Alaska Policy Forum on a study that analyzed the impact of four proposed tax plans.

"Unsustainable Spending: The State of Alaska's Budget and Economy" used a dynamic scoring model, developed by economists at Buckeye's Economic Research Center, to give Alaska policymakers a better understanding of how each proposal would affect the state's businesses, families, economy, and state revenues.

Previously, Buckeye's ERC partnered with Wyoming Liberty Group on "Fiscal Policy, Theory, and Measurement: The State of Wyoming," and on a review of Wyoming's fiscal health. The ERC has also partnered with Louisiana's Pelican Institute on "Addressing Louisiana's Budget Shortfall: Strategies for Growth," and on an analysis of tax increase proposals being considered by the 2018 session of the Louisiana State Legislature.

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA COUNCIL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • ocpathink.org

Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs has achieved several early victories: Legislation requiring transparent reporting of state agencies' use of federal money has cleared both chambers of the Legislature. Governor Kevin Stitt has been sent a bill that modernizes Oklahoma's judicial district lines to reflect current population trends.

OCPA continues to fight to improve oversight of state spending through additional reforms, enact multiple criminal justice reforms, and to raise the cap on a tax credit for private-school scholarships.

With several like-minded organizations, OCPA hosted a public event featuring Mark Janus, the plaintiff in the US Supreme Court case that ended forced payment of union dues by nonparticipating government workers. OCPA continues to push for legal changes that will protect this hard-won worker freedom.





OREGON

CASCADE POLICY INSTITUTE • cascadepolicy.org

Eric Fruits, vice president of research at **Cascade Policy Institute**, was invited to provide testimony to the Oregon State Legislature's House Committee on Revenue regarding the impact of tobacco tax increases on cross-border sales and smuggling. Fruits cited the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's research on cigarette smuggling. Legislative staff indicated that Fruits' testimony would inform their estimates of the tax revenues from the proposed 150 percent tax hike on tobacco products in Oregon.

FREEDOM FOUNDATION OF OREGON • freedomfoundation.com

Freedom Foundation of Oregon's singular focus on government unions in Oregon has resulted in 15,500 people leaving their unions and stopping paying dues. SEIU 503, Oregon's largest government union, has experienced a 26 percent drop in dues payers, while the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), has lost 31 percent of its members.

Freedom Foundation launched a texting campaign, sending out tens of thousands of text messages to public employees, informing them of their rights under *Janus*. The number of responses from people who wanted to opt out, desired legal representation against their union, thanked Freedom Foundation for helping them opt out in the past, or had never heard of the *Janus* decision was overwhelming.

Worried about their membership losses, the unions leaned on their state lawmakers to introduce legislation that would boost their coffers while making it harder to opt out of membership. House bill 2016 is a union wish list that would require public employers to pay union shop stewards for participating in union activities. Freedom Foundation is prepared to file suit if the legislation is signed into law.

PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION • commonwealthfoundation.org

The Keystone State has stripped licenses from more than 20,000 non-driving offenders each year, hurting working people's ability to provide for their family.

Commonwealth Foundation's consistent intellectual leadership and advocacy among lawmakers on both sides of the aisle has led to Governor Wolf signing a law ending the suspension of driver's licenses for certain non-violent, non-driving offenses. When that crucial reform went into effect, CF celebrated the victory on its own merits and for what it could mean for further corrections reforms. CF is urging lawmakers and the governor to build on this momentum and enact a follow up to 2012's successful Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which helped reduce crime and lower the prison population, while saving money.

The second phase of JRI will address inefficiencies in the state's probation and parole systems among other meaningful reforms. These reforms promise safer communities, fairer sentencing, and smarter spending—promises that CF is pushing to become reality.

RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR FREEDOM & PROSPERITY • rifreedom.org

The **Rhode Island Center for Freedom & Prosperity** released a study on the impact excessive collective bargaining costs are having on Rhode Island residents. The study found residents were paying an extra \$888 million a year to support compensation programs for government works—a total which breaks down to \$3,500 per family of four. The Center points out that devoting taxpayer money to government union costs means there are fewer resources for other important services, such as maintaining school buildings and roads: "For example, with cumulative potential savings of almost \$600 million per year, in just three to four years, localities across the state would be able to pay for necessary repairs and upgrades to their crumbling school buildings, estimated to total more than \$2 billion . . . if they did not exorbitantly pay for collectively bargained, union-provided services." See the full study at rifreedom.org/unions.

SOUTH CAROLINA

PALMETTO PROMISE INSTITUTE • palmettopromise.org

Two years ago, South Carolina's state-owned utility company, Santee Cooper, and another energy provider, SCE&G, announced they would abandon construction of two nuclear power plants that had cost \$9 billion. Thousands would be out of work and, thanks to the Base Load Review Act, several million utility customers would be on the hook for electricity that would never be produced. That's when **Palmetto Promise Institute** got involved. PPI released three major reports and a score of analysis, relying on some of the best minds in economics and the utility business to get hard numbers. In June 2019, it all paid off. By joint resolution, the South Carolina General Assembly has charted a path forward for Santee Cooper. The State Department of Administration will oversee a process, harnessing the power of independent expertise, that culminates in three options: one for sale, one for a management contract, and a proposal from Santee Cooper for "self-improvement."

SOUTH DAKOTA

GREAT PLAINS PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE • greatplainsppi.org

Great Plains Public Policy Institute was featured in *The Orange County Register* with an alternative perspective on fracking. In the op-ed, Institute President Ron Williamson highlighted a paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, which found that "[f]racking helped save the lives of roughly 11,000 Americans each winter from 2005 to 2010." He observed that, for Americans trying to make ends meet on lower incomes, winter can be a dangerous time. Even small increases in energy costs can force low-income households to endure colder home temperatures to reduce their home heating bills. In some cases, this prolonged exposure to cold can contribute to serious illnesses or even death. Williamson contended that fracking has helped increase natural gas production and lower prices in a way that is beneficial for Americans' health and quality of life. According to Williamson, "Lawmakers and regulators can't afford to ignore these health benefits when making policies that affect natural gas production."





TENNESSEE

BEACON CENTER OF TENNESSEE • beacontn.org

Beacon Center of Tennessee President and CEO Justin Owen, Vice President of Communications Mark Cunningham, Board Chairman John Cerasuolo, Senior Fellow Julie Warren, and policy hero Debra Nutall were asked to speak at the right-left Unrig Summit in Nashville on political discourse, corporate welfare, occupational licensing, and criminal justice reform.

Several A-list stars, including Jennifer Lawrence and Ed Helms, are involved in Unrig along with the organization RepresentUs, which annually hosts the Unrig Summit. RepresentUs aims to put partisan politics aside, bring both ends of the political spectrum together, and focus on finding solutions to fix broken systems. This meeting draws a national focus and allowed the principles of freedom and liberty to reach an audience that might not be reached in any other way. Beacon connected with groups from across the state and country to help advance free-market principles and decrease the gap between both ends of the political spectrum.

TEXAS

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION • texaspolicy.org

Texas Public Policy Foundation fought to affect change in the Lone Star State. The dominating theme of this session was property tax reform and relief. TPPF experts testified before committees, met with legislators, wrote op-eds, met across the state, and spoke with members of the media to promote TPPF's plan. In addition to the coordinated efforts of TPPF experts, the Foundation launched a six-figure radio and digital campaign calling for real property tax relief for Texans.

Outside of the Foundation's property tax reform efforts, TPPF was victorious against the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its Endangered Species Act Lawsuit. It also advocated for the end of taxpayer funded lobbying and has been working to insert commonsense analysis into the energy debate.

UTAH

LIBERTAS INSTITUTE • libertasutah.org

Two years ago, **Libertas Institute** persuaded Utah's legislature to pass the first "lemonade stand law," exempting minors from having to obtain a permit or license to operate their small, infrequent businesses. The bill passed easily, positioning Utah as the only state in the nation to create a free market for minors. The Institute then launched the Children's Entrepreneur Market—a summertime series of farmers market-style events where the kids are in charge.

Libertas also worked with a Denver mother whose children's lemonade stand was shut down by authorities. Partnering with a supportive legislator and using Libertas Institute's model language, she was able to get a similar law passed in Colorado earlier this year.

Utah and Colorado now have a free market for minors, protecting them from the heavy hand of bureaucracy while they experiment with entrepreneurship. Libertas Institute is eager to work with other states to continue the trend.

SUTHERLAND INSTITUTE • sutherlandinstitute.org

Sutherland Institute's support led to all four of the following bills being passed:

HB 166 – Down Syndrome Nondiscrimination Abortion Act provides that (1) the state makes available resources for medical professionals to share with parents given a prenatal Down Syndrome diagnosis, and (2) if the federal courts allow a ban on abortions targeted at eliminating individuals with Down Syndrome, such a ban would go into effect in Utah.

SB 91 – Acceptance of Competency Based Education requires institutions of higher education to recognize competency-based education programs or transcripts on the same footing as a traditional high school diploma for purposes of higher-ed admission, scholarships, and financial aid.

HB 110 – Rural Economic Development Incentives expands the beneficial impact of the bill Sutherland proposed and supported through its enactment in the 2018 general session. It modifies the maximum grant amount the Governor's Office of Economic Development may award to a business entity as part of the rural employment expansion grant program.

HB 431 – Expungement Act Amendments allows for the automatic expungement or deletion of charges for which an individual is acquitted, charges that are dismissed with prejudice, and certain convictions, and creates processes for automatic expungement and deletion.

VERMONT

ETHAN ALLEN INSTITUTE ethanallen.org

The **Ethan Allen Institute** has been educating Vermont citizens on the unintended harmful consequences that could arise from ideas being proposed by state leaders. Responding to some Vermont activists who are calling for the Vermont Department of Health to implement a blanket chemical ban, Institute policy analyst David Flemming appeared in local press to discuss the cautionary tale of banning DDT and the importance of gathering scientific data before setting bans. He advised " . . . It is better not to supplant science with politics in the first place. Vermonters can create this separation of science and politics by requiring that a public health authority review all available scientific evidence before banning any chemical." The Institute also flagged an attempt by Vermont lawmakers to pass a primary seat-belt law unnoticed and spoke out in local media to explain how this regulation represented an unnecessary overreach of state government into everyday life.

VIRGINIA

THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • thomasjeffersoninst.org

The **Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy** board of directors has named Chris Braunlich as the new president of the Institute.

Braunlich has served as vice president of the Institute and previously served in leadership positions at the Center for Education Reform, the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, and the National Association of Manufacturers. A former Capitol Hill chief of staff and one-time Republican candidate for Virginia State Senate, he was elected to two terms on the Fairfax County School Board and appointed to the Virginia State Board of Education by Governor Bob McDonnell. There, his colleagues elected him to serve as president during the last 18 months of his term. Braunlich follows president Mike Thompson who will remain as chairman and is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia.





VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • virginiainstitute.org

The **Virginia Institute for Public Policy** and the Tuesday Morning Group coalition developed seven healthcare priorities within three legislative models. These priorities are focused on addressing the supply-side of the healthcare equation, seeking to increase access to the growing telehealth market by removing licensing barriers and remote patient monitoring to the full extent that technology is available. Additionally, the Virginia Institute's healthcare initiative aims to loosen restrictions on doctors and organizations who provide charity care in underserved communities as well as to address barriers restraining direct primary care in the Commonwealth.

With a strong showing from the Tuesday Morning Group coalition, including Americans for Prosperity and the Middle Resolution Political Action Committee, five of the seven priorities were signed into law. Now, the Virginia telemedicine model is informing legislation in North Carolina and Alabama.

The Virginia Institute also is expanding its healthcare initiative, building and solidifying strategic partnerships, and working with telehealth providers and coalition partners to draft suggested regulatory changes, at the request of the Trump Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

WASHINGTON



FREEDOM FOUNDATION OF WASHINGTON • freedomfoundation.com

Thanks to the **Freedom Foundation of Washington** more than 18,000 Washingtonians have opted out of government unions to date.

Washington unions are now leaning on their state officials to protect them. The Washington State Legislature sent House bill 1575 to Governor Jay Inslee, which would make it easy for unions to initiate dues deductions from public employees' wages. But the employees wouldn't be able to cancel the deductions, and unions would be shielded from legal liability for illegally seizing money from government workers' wages. Freedom Foundation attorneys believe this bill is unconstitutional and are prepared to file suit if it becomes law.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson brought a revenge lawsuit against the Freedom Foundation. It cites Freedom Foundation's pro bono legal assistance to private citizens amounts to campaign contributions that should have been reported to the state. The state Supreme Court ruled 5-4 against Freedom Foundation. Freedom Foundation appealed the decision to the US Supreme Court.



WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER • washingtonpolicy.org

When Seattle illegally imposed a city income tax in 2017, **Washington Policy Center** wondered why. WPC filed a public records request for the details. Thanks to a recent legal settlement with the City of Seattle, WPC can now answer that question.

Along with paying WPC's attorney fees in the lawsuit settlement, Seattle provided WPC with a 2014 city legal memo that clearly stated that Seattle is prohibited from imposing an income tax.

City attorneys made it clear that Seattle was restricted from imposing an income tax by law and the constitution. Yet they did it anyway. The State Court of Appeals heard the income tax case on June 6. What WPC uncovered (Seattle knew the income tax was illegal when imposing it) played heavily. WPC's victory has received extensive media, including coverage in *The Seattle Times* and KIRO, KVI, and KOMO radio stations.

WEST VIRGINIA

CARDINAL INSTITUTE • cardinalinstitute.com

Late last year, **Cardinal Institute** released their inaugural "State of the Mountain State" polling results, which found that 80 percent of West Virginians believe their schools are average or failing. The Institute also found that 67 percent of West Virginians believe that more parental choice in schooling would improve state educational outcomes.

During the regular legislative session, Senate bill 451 – Education Omnibus bill, was proposed. It included Education Savings Accounts, charter schools, paycheck protection, another five percent teacher pay raise that had been promised by the Governor, teacher pay differentials, locality pay, and weakening of seniority.

Cardinal's polling has been cited dozens of times, and it has been key in changing the education reform discussion through its aggressive social media campaign, reaching more than 300,000 people (one in six West Virginians have seen Cardinal's ad campaign). Cardinal has pushed for education choice in West Virginia since its founding in 2014 and will continue to do so for the children of the Mountain State.



WISCONSIN

BADGER INSTITUTE • badgerinstitute.org

Milwaukee's mayor credited the city's streetcar project for raising property values, but the **Badger Institute's** investigations contradicted that assertion. After reviewing the major real estate projects that took place in that time and interviewing the developers, the Institute found the majority of value came from recent real estate improvements, not the city's public transportation. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has proposed raising the state minimum wage to \$15 to help residents; however, a new report from the Institute indicates the increase may have the opposite effect. The report found 350,000 workers could lose their jobs. More than half of these workers are among the state's poorest residents, with incomes in the bottom 10 percent of the income distribution.

MACIVER INSTITUTE • maciverinstitute.com

MacIver Institute finds that opponents of Wisconsin's four-year-old right-to-work law are ready to take advantage of a new Democrat administration to circumvent worker freedom in the Badger State.

The law is still being violated by union shop businesses, according to a *MacIver News Service* review. But two cases to go before the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) were punted to the National Labor Relations Board.

In one case uncovered by *MacIver News*, Robert Slamka, a long-time sheet metal worker journeyman, filed complaints against an employer and union. Slamka alleges the company improperly included union security agreement language in the ads and that, as a non-union worker, he was illegally excluded from consideration for the job. But WERC dismissed the case, citing a lack of jurisdiction.

New Attorney General Josh Kaul is also capitulating on his duty to defend a key provision of the right-to-work law that closes a loophole allowing unions to lock in members for up to a year. He tried doing so quietly, and MacIver was all but alone in bringing this to public attention.





Kaul dropped his defense of the dues checkoff provision in the state's right-to-work law, a case appealed to the US Supreme Court. Kaul's move effectively ends Wisconsin's appeal of lower court decisions that gave Big Labor a big victory and an extended period of time to grab dues from the paychecks of workers who don't want to pay them. Kaul's withdrawal paves the way for expanded forced union dues in line with federal law, exactly what Wisconsin's right-to-work law aimed to stop.

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND LIBERTY • will-law.org

K-12 education policy has taken center stage in Wisconsin with a new governor and a new budget proposal that attacks school choice and increases spending for public schools. To influence and shape the debate, the **Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty** conducted a statewide poll of registered voters and issued a policy brief that takes a deep dive into Governor Tony Evers' K-12 budget proposal.

The policy brief highlights the critical details of Governor Evers' education budget and his plan to freeze enrollment in voucher and charter schools, place new red tape on popular education options, and increase spending on K-12 education with no accountability. WILL's poll found little public support for the attacks on school choice.

WILL plans to stay closely engaged in the budget process, making the case that school choice and education options are critical to Badger State families.

WYOMING

WYOMING LIBERTY GROUP • wyliberty.org

The 2010 US Census estimates that more than 10,200 Wyoming children live with a relative other than a parent.

Wyoming Liberty Group offered the judiciary committee testimony and legal opinion during the interim work on a project by a Wyoming nonprofit, Wyoming Guardians as Protectors. This group brought the consideration of best interests of the child as a paramount concern to the Legislature and testified during an interim study on the issue. A solution was offered: Instead of a de facto presumption that will likely be overturned by the Supreme Court for constitutionality, why not allow the caretakers to petition the court for adoption after one year of care for the child? At the same time, a judge could be allowed to order drug testing and parenting class requirements of parents in guardianship termination proceedings.

Wyoming Liberty Group drafted House bill 157 and House bill 155, working closely with Representative Jennings and other parental rights advocates across Wyoming to conduct the policy research on the best available legislation possible. The end product: bills that provide standing for grandparent adoption and guardianship reintegration plans with widespread support.

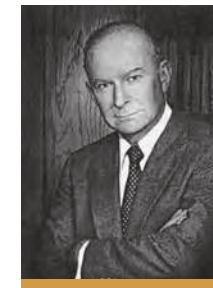


Thomas Roe was a man of principle, vision, and initiative. He was also a devoted friend of freedom and free enterprise.

Tom Roe grew several companies over his lifetime, bolstering the economy and creating opportunities for people to succeed.

He was troubled by the continual growth of the federal government and the ways it encroached on personal and economic liberties. He could see that Americans were struggling to pursue the opportunities they deserved without the government getting in their way.

After many conversations with President Reagan about the need for a state-based network to limit the growth and power of the federal government, Tom established a free-market policy organization in his home state of South Carolina. Shortly after, several state-based think tanks were launched by leaders like Tom who wanted organizations in their own states to serve as unwavering voices for liberty.



In 1992, Tom devoted his energy and resources to founding State Policy Network to strengthen and connect this growing Network of fiercely independent state think tanks. Tom had the foresight to understand that establishing SPN would

empower each of these think tanks to anchor freedom movements in their states and lead to state solutions that would have national impact.

Thanks to Tom's vision and your partnership, the SPN Network is changing lives and has become a force to be reckoned with. Today, we are a movement of 64 independent state think tank affiliates and nearly 100 national partners.

Every day, SPN empowers the Network to secure a more free and prosperous America for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

Like Tom, you can safeguard freedom and opportunity for the future by leaving your legacy through SPN and joining the Thomas Roe Legacy Society.

Joining the Thomas Roe Legacy Society

There are several ways you can establish your legacy through SPN:

- A simple bequest that remembers SPN in your will.
- An estate gift of publicly traded stock.
- A life insurance policy that designates SPN as a beneficiary.
- A bank, investment, or retirement account that designates SPN as a beneficiary.
- A gift in trust.
- Other estate gifts in accordance with SPN's gift acceptance guidelines.

As a member, you will be recognized on a plaque at SPN's headquarters and will receive special event invitations, a token of our appreciation, and the peace of mind that comes with knowing you are making an extraordinary impact on the future of our country.



We would love to speak with you and help you clarify the legacy you'd like to leave. To begin this conversation, please contact Cindy Kilduff at 703-243-1655 or kilduff@spn.org.

Learn More: SPN.org/Legacy

State Policy Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

ACTON INSTITUTE

ACTON INSTITUTE • acton.org

Acton University will welcome approximately one thousand leaders from the US and other countries, June 18–21. Participants will have the opportunity to design their own curricula from 110 courses, taught by 70 faculty representing a number of disciplines, including economics, politics, business, theology, philosophy, entrepreneurship, and international development. Acton University is the **Acton Institute's** largest annual conference and was recently ranked the top free-market conference in the world by the "2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report."

Acton University 2019 speakers will be Mari-Ann Kelam (former member of the Estonian Parliament and a prominent anti-Communist activist), Jonah Goldberg (Asness Chair in Applied Liberty at the American Enterprise Institute and senior editor at *National Review Online*), Deltan Martinazzo Dallagnol (an attorney for the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil and the lead prosecutor in Operation Car Wash, a noted corruption scandal), and Rev. Robert A. Sirico (president of the Acton Institute).

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI • goacta.org

American Council of Trustees and Alumni reported that its new website, howcollegesspendmoney.com, has generated a strong response from college governing board trustees and higher education leaders across the nation. Since its launch a few months ago, the site has drawn more than 6,500 unique visitors and 34,000 page views. The site provides a wealth of information on administrative and instructional patterns at more than 1,500 colleges and universities.

"This is a really important and useful data visualization tool to tell the audiences who can bring down the costs of college what's actually going on and what they can do about it," says James Toscano, president of Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust.

AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION • americasfuture.org

More than 30 **America's Future Foundation** leaders and board members from across the country teamed up for the annual chapter leader retreat in Denver. AFF leaders were joined by speakers such as fellow liberty lover, senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, and John "JV" Venable.

Grassroots Leadership Academy's Matthew Hurtt led a session that enabled leaders (many of whom work full-time at SPN partner organizations) to explore ways to build intentional relationships in their communities. He shared strategies or showcasing think tank research and policy solutions to millennials. He also described ways to ultimately break barriers and improve individuals' lives with free-market solutions. Career coach Lisa Lewis led a collaborative session to help leaders hone in on their individual strengths, talents, and values, and to create a long-term vision of professional leadership.

During the remainder of 2019, AFF will continue to grow communities and share the principles of freedom with the next generation.

ATLAS NETWORK • atlasnetwork.org

The remaining **Atlas Network** quarterly grant deadlines are August 15 and November 15. Apply for grants of up to \$40,000 today at apply.atlasnetwork.org.

Organizations in the US are encouraged to participate in Atlas Network's Doing Development Differently Campaign by applying for Liberating Enterprise to Advance Prosperity Grants. These grants range from \$15,000 to \$40,000 and support projects with ambitious and achievable plans to improve the public policy and regulatory environment in their communities. They will improve policy, particularly in relation to limits on enterprise and entrepreneurship as measured in the "Doing Business Index, Economic Freedom of the World Report," and other relevant indices.

Atlas Network is hosting a Regional Liberty Forum in Kenya in August. This year's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner will be held in New York, November 6–7.

BENJAMIN RUSH INSTITUTE • benjaminrushinstitute.org

Benjamin Rush Institute continues to start new chapters in medical schools throughout the country, promoting the education of free market healthcare to medical students. But BRI realized nobody was actively reaching out to new doctors once they've left medical school and are starting residency. BRI is now bridging this gap with its new Residency Program. Working first with BRI alumni, but recently with other new doctors interested in incorporating free market principles in their new practices, BRI is actively starting chapters in residency programs across the country.

If you are or know a current resident, or a medical (MD, dentist, or nursing) student interested in starting a BRI chapter, contact Rebecca Wales Kiessling at rebecca@benjaminrushinstitute.org.

Thanks to free-market, free-enterprise partners and donors, BRI will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2019. To help BRI continue to grow in every state, medical school, resident program, and dentistry school, make a donation today.

CAPITAL RESEARCH CENTER • capitalresearch.org

Capital Research Center published an in-depth investigation into the for-profit consultancy at the center of one of the nation's largest "dark money" networks, boasting revenues of more than \$580 million in 2017.

The report, "Big Money in Dark Shadows," profiles four nonprofit organizations (the New Venture Fund, Sixteen Thirty Fund, Windward Fund, and Hopewell Fund) all controlled by senior leaders at Arabella Advisors. The four nonprofits create "pop-up" groups—websites designed to look like standalone nonprofits—to quickly organize campaigns for a myriad of left-of-center issues ranging from healthcare policy, to judicial nominations, to net neutrality, all with little to no funding transparency.

There is very little reporting on these groups, which often target state politics. CRC hopes this report will help level the playing field when it comes to discussion money in politics.





CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE • cagw.org

Citizens Against Government Waste published two op-eds in *The Hill*, discussing taxpayer-focused reforms to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the continued financial distress of the USPS.

In a *Fox Business* op-ed, CAGW took on the misguided attempts at 5G nationalization. *The Houston Chronicle* republished CAGW's opposition piece to state House bill 3995, which would "set the clock back" on the state's wildly successful energy production.

CAGW took on the deniers of the VA scandal and its continued impact on dozens of states in a *Washington Examiner* op-ed, saying, "To the perennial defenders of the VA's bureaucracy, the scandal which began at one of its Phoenix facilities in 2014 was a minor, isolated incident that did not represent the whole department. Those protestations rang hollow in the face of similar scandals in state after state."

CAGW will release the 27th edition of the *Congressional Pig Book* in the next few months.

CITIZEN'S COUNCIL FOR HEALTH FREEDOM • cchfreedom.org

At the state level, transparency and accountability language for Minnesota's Prescription Monitoring Program was amended onto the Department of Health and Human Services omnibus bill.

At the federal level, **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom** President Twila Brase spoke at the Free to Care physician conference held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Brase discussed how the government promoting electronic health records is causing a physician exodus and called on doctors to stay in practice, and move to the freedom and affordability of a direct-pay practice.

CCHF is gathering signatures for a follow-up letter to President Trump, asking him to undo the administrative mandate that forces senior citizens to enroll in Medicare or lose their Social Security benefits.

CCHF has been meeting with members of Congress on this issue, and Rep. Gary Palmer reintroduced the Retirement Freedom Act in the House in April. Sen. Ted Cruz, along with Sen. Rand Paul and Sen. Mike Lee, also reintroduced the bill, S.1030, in the Senate.

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE • cei.org

Competitive Enterprise Institute has unveiled its lineup of speakers for the upcoming 35th-anniversary dinner on June 20 in Washington, DC. They include: Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist Dave Barry, *Reason Magazine* editor-in-chief Katherine Mangu-Ward and the 2019 winner of the Julian L. Simon Memorial Award—author, lecturer, documentary filmmaker Johan Norberg. View Norberg's video series "Dead Wrong" debunking doomsday predictions, posted on the Free to Choose Network's YouTube channel.



CEI established the Julian L. Simon Award in 2001 to acknowledge an individual whose work promotes the vision of man as the ultimate resource. Simon authored the 1981 classic, *The Ultimate Resource*, which debunked eco-doomsayers' predictions that modern civilization is unsustainable. Over the years, he argued that humans are living longer, that people are better fed and healthier, that resources are becoming ever more abundant, and that environmental quality is improving.

FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE • firstliberty.org

The government-owned Kalkaska Memorial Health Center in Michigan apologized to senior citizens for censoring the reading of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" to preschoolers after **First Liberty Institute** intervened.

Just before Christmas, during a visit by students from KMHC's child development center and preschool, First Liberty clients Wilma Wells and Joan Wilson were interrupted and prevented from explaining Linus's historical account of the Christmas story from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" to the children. First Liberty's letter informed the center that this was a violation of the residents' First Amendment free speech and free exercise rights. KMHC Officials acted quickly to address the situation and apologized to Wells and Wilson.

FOR KIDS AND COUNTRY • forkidsandcountry.org

Rebecca Friedrichs, president of **For Kids & Country**, has written editorials and appeared on "Fox & Friends" as part of a national messaging campaign to educate teachers and parents about state and national teacher unions. These unions have been pushing a social and political agenda into the schools and funding them with teacher dues.

For Kids & Country wants to educate teachers to make them aware of how state and national teacher unions use their dues. The campaign also wants to get teachers to opt out and form a local association. For Kids & Country is also educating parents to adopt teachers and support them because the unions will intimidate teachers into staying.

FRASER INSTITUTE • fraserinstitute.org

The **Fraser Institute** has launched the Essential Scholars website to educate new generations about key free-market thinkers throughout history. *The Essential Adam Smith* is the latest feature on the Essential Scholars site. Written by James Otteson, economics professor at Wake Forest University, *The Essential Adam Smith* is the Institute's second book in the Essential Scholars series, following the release of *The Essential Hayek*, which has been translated into eight languages. In addition to the book, The Essential Adam Smith webpage includes videos about Smith's insights into economics, snapshots of Smith's ideas, and a range of resources about Smith's work. To stay current on everything at the Fraser Institute, sign up for the Institute's US newsletter at fraserinstitute.org/subscribe.





FREE STATE FOUNDATION • freestatefoundation.org

In honor of World Intellectual Property Day, **Free State Foundation** Senior Fellow Seth Cooper published a paper crediting the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement for generally enhancing copyright protections, while taking “a surprisingly outdated 1990s approach to the problem of mass online copyright infringement.” USMCA “could perpetuate the significantly under-protective notice and takedown system that prevails in US copyright law. Absent clarification, inclusion of Section 512-like terms in the USMCA also risks limiting Congress’ ability to modernize US copyright law to better combat online infringement,” he said. Cooper continued, “passage of the proposed USMCA likely would help protect Americans’ copyrights in Canada and Mexico. At the same time, the Administration and Congress should make clear that the USMCA’s online infringement provisions are not precedent for future trade agreements.” In November 2018, Cooper and Free State Foundation President Randolph May addressed the USMCA and online infringement in greater detail in their *Perspectives from FSF Scholars* paper, “Modernizing International Agreements to Combat Copyright Infringement.”



FREE TO CHOOSE NETWORK • freetochoosenetwork.org

Free To Choose Network’s latest production, “Sweden: Lessons for America?” is now available on iTunes. It’s been suggested that Americans would be better off if the United States was more like Sweden. Do the Swedes know something we don’t? Follow Johan Norberg on a journey through the history of Sweden’s economic rise, from one of the poorest countries in the world to one of the most prosperous. The program illuminates key ideas and enterprises that sparked the reform and continue to help Sweden maintain its lofty economic position, including freedom of the press, free trade, new technology companies, crazy jobs, and even an old Swedish superhero.



FREEDOM CENTER OF MISSOURI • mofreedom.org

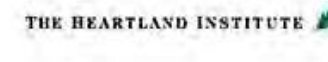
The **Freedom Center of Missouri** recently wrapped up a four-year, six-case set of strategic lawsuits focused on keeping law enforcement agencies transparent and accountable to the people. The Center’s six victories firmly established that even drug task forces must comply with the state’s open records laws.

The Freedom Center also announced its next important transparency case. An economically disadvantaged mother whose only child had been murdered filed a records request to learn what she could about her daughter’s death. State law required St. Louis City within thirty days either to produce the records or file a motion with the court seeking permission to withhold them. The city missed that deadline by more than 230 days, then sued the mother in an effort to keep the records from her. The Freedom Center stepped up on the mother’s behalf, counter-suing St. Louis City for its obvious, inexcusable refusal to comply with the state’s open records laws.

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE • heartland.org

The Heartland Institute has hired George Jamerson as its new director of government relations. He replaces John Nothdurft, who held the position since 2010. Jamerson will organize and manage Heartland’s government relations team. The team provide elected officials with regular research and commentaries, policy updates called “The Leaflet,” and testimony in support of policies that strengthen liberty and lessen government interference in the free market.

Before joining Heartland, Jamerson worked as a public affairs consultant coordinating state initiatives across the country for multiple Fortune 500 companies. He began his career as a research associate at DCI Group in Washington, DC, and brings a wealth of energy policy expertise with him. In his first few weeks at Heartland, Jamerson arranged testimony on key energy and environment legislation in Pennsylvania.



INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE • independent.org

In his new book, *Restoring the Promise: Higher Education in America*, education expert and senior fellow at the **Independent Institute** Richard K. Vedder offers powerful prescriptions to cure the underlying problems in higher education and foster a renaissance for colleges and universities.

Released on May 1, the book offers an authoritative analysis of the many problems facing higher education, particularly its triple crisis: excessive costs, inadequate classroom performance (as measured by student academic achievement), and the failure to prepare graduates for success in life beyond the academy.



INSTITUTE FOR FREE SPEECH • ifs.org

The **Institute for Free Speech** and former South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley are representing a coalition of media associations, trade associations, a nonprofit advocacy group, and a former South Dakota resident in a new lawsuit to defend First Amendment rights. The plaintiffs are challenging a South Dakota law that will ban Americans from other states from contributing to ballot measure campaigns in South Dakota.

“The ban is an affront to the First Amendment,” said Institute for Free Speech Legal Director Allen Dickerson in a press statement. “States cannot prevent speech simply because it is funded in part by Americans who live in other states. This law denies South Dakotans the right to hear messages from their fellow Americans.”

IFS believes South Dakota’s ban on out-of-state contributions to state ballot question committees is unconstitutional and should be thrown out by the court.





INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE • ij.org

For the first time, **Institute for Justice** represented a media organization in a fight for government transparency.

Local reporter Carter Walker requested civil forfeiture records from the local district attorney. When his request was rejected, the newspaper took the government official to court. IJ teamed up with Walker and *LNP* (the local newspaper in Lancaster, Pennsylvania) in a case that could determine whether district attorneys across Pennsylvania must make information about their forfeiture proceeds available to the public.

IJ is again defending the high-tech firm Visibly in court against government protectionism. IJ filed suit in Indiana after earlier filing a lawsuit on behalf of Visibly in South Carolina against that government's effort to protect special interests from competition. Both states have banned a safe and proven form of telemedicine that would allow individuals to get tested for eyeglass prescriptions using their smartphones. IJ is fighting for Hoosiers' access to eye-care, a battle that made front-page news in *The Indianapolis Star*.

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY INNOVATION • ipi.org

Addie Crimmins became the new director of development and events for **Institute for Policy Innovation**.

Tom Giovanetti, IPI president, said, "Addie's experience in producing events will add much-needed capacity as we have expanded our events program, not only with the Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series, but also with an expanded program of events in Texas, Washington, DC, and around the country."

Crimmins comes to IPI from the National Rifle Association in Fairfax, Va., where she worked for five years in advancement and major gifts. Prior to that, Crimmins served as the legislative and governmental relations coordinator for Austin-based Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, PC. Before that, she served in the Texas Legislature as a legislative aide for state representative Tan Parker and as an assistant clerk to the Redistricting Committee chaired by former state representative Burt Solomons. She holds a bachelor of arts in political science from Texas A&M University.

JAMES G. MARTIN CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RENEWAL • jamesgmartin.center

"Contrary to some policymakers' catchy slogans, more college credentials do not necessarily equal more people with more jobs," says Shannon Watkins in the introduction of the **James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal's** latest installment in the "Higher Education Moment" video series, "College Credential Inflation."

While it may seem counterintuitive, the proliferation of college degrees can actually close more doors than it opens. As a result of an overabundance of degrees, today's young adults need to obtain more education to get the same job that their parents or grandparents could have gotten with a lot less. To learn more about the credential inflation spiral, please watch the Center's video, and subscribe to the YouTube channel.

MERCATUS CENTER AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY • mercatus.org

The **Mercatus Center at George Mason University** continues to provide scholarly resources addressing policy issues across the country. In his new book *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*, Tyler Cowen explains why he thinks we don't appreciate our corporate titans enough. The book illuminates the crucial role businesses play in spurring innovation and rewarding talent and hard work. As support for capitalism and big business waivers, this impassioned defense of corporations proves timely as it helps explain corporations' essential role in a balanced, productive, and progressive society.

Senior Research Fellow James Broughel released three "State Snapshots" capturing the size of the regulatory code in (1) Alabama, (2) Kansas, and (3) Louisiana. He also testified before the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee on designing a regulatory system for future generations.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK FOUNDATION • nrtw.org

University of Connecticut School of Business Professor Steven Utke won a settlement against American Association of University Professors union officials for violating his First Amendment rights, thanks to the **National Right to Work Foundation**.

When Utke, an accounting professor, was hired by the university in 2015, he was forced to pay union fees to AAUP union officials. He did not become a member of the AUUP and never consented to having the forced fees deducted from his paycheck.

Following the June 2018 US Supreme Court ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*, Utke asked the Foundation to file a lawsuit to reclaim the years' worth of union fees he had been forced to pay in violation of his First Amendment rights before *Janus*.

Rather than face Foundation staff attorneys in court, AAUP union officials decided to settle and return to Utke the more than \$5,000 in union fees forcibly seized from his paycheck.

PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH CENTER • perc.org

Property and Environment Research Center and Pacific Legal Foundation filed an amicus brief with Maine's 2017 Supreme Court case supporting property rights in a dispute over rockweed harvesting. In a win for conservation and property rights, Maine recently decided that rockweed cannot be harvested without owner consent. As PERC explained in its brief, this is good news for rockweed sustainability. Property rights produce strong incentives for good stewardship.

PERC remains committed to researching how property rights and markets benefit environmental conservation. Papers from a PERC workshop on "Property in Ecology" are now published in the *Natural Resources Journal*. These papers expand knowledge of how property rights to ecological resources are compatible with environmental protection. PERC is also finishing up a new issue of *PERC Reports* magazine on rethinking the North American Wildlife Model. Visit perc.org to subscribe and receive a free copy.





THE STEAMBOAT INSTITUTE • steamboatinstitute.org

Alan Dershowitz, constitutional lawyer and author of *The Case Against Impeaching Trump*, will give the keynote address at **The Steamboat Institute's** 11th Annual Freedom Conference & Film Festival, August 22–24. Register at steamboatinstitute.org/event/11th-annual-freedom-conference-festival.

Scholarships for the 11th Annual Freedom Conference & Film Festival are available for students and young professionals. Winners receive full conference registration, travel, lodging, and networking with conference speakers. Apply at steamboatinstitute.org/grant/2019-freedom-conference-scholarship.

The Steamboat Institute's Emerging Leaders Advisory Council is crowdsourcing a video campaign on FreedomFY to defend the Second Amendment. The campaign will educate viewers about how the Second Amendment especially helps women protect themselves.



Join us for the SPN 27th Annual Meeting

October 29–November 1, 2019
Colorado Springs, CO
The Broadmoor

This premier networking event is often referred to as
a family reunion.

But it is so much more than that.

This is iron sharpening iron.

Join us to meet the visionary leaders of the freedom movement,
connect with other like-minded philanthropists,
and be inspired by individuals and organizations dedicated to
promoting state policy solutions that improve communities nationwide.

The Network is stronger after every Annual Meeting.
Our key supporters — people like you — leave the meeting more
engaged on strategic ideas, more in sync with movement leaders,
and more aligned with a vision that will change the course of our country.

For more information, contact Crystal Bouziden Baker
at crystal@spn.org, or visit spn.org/annualmeeting.



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