

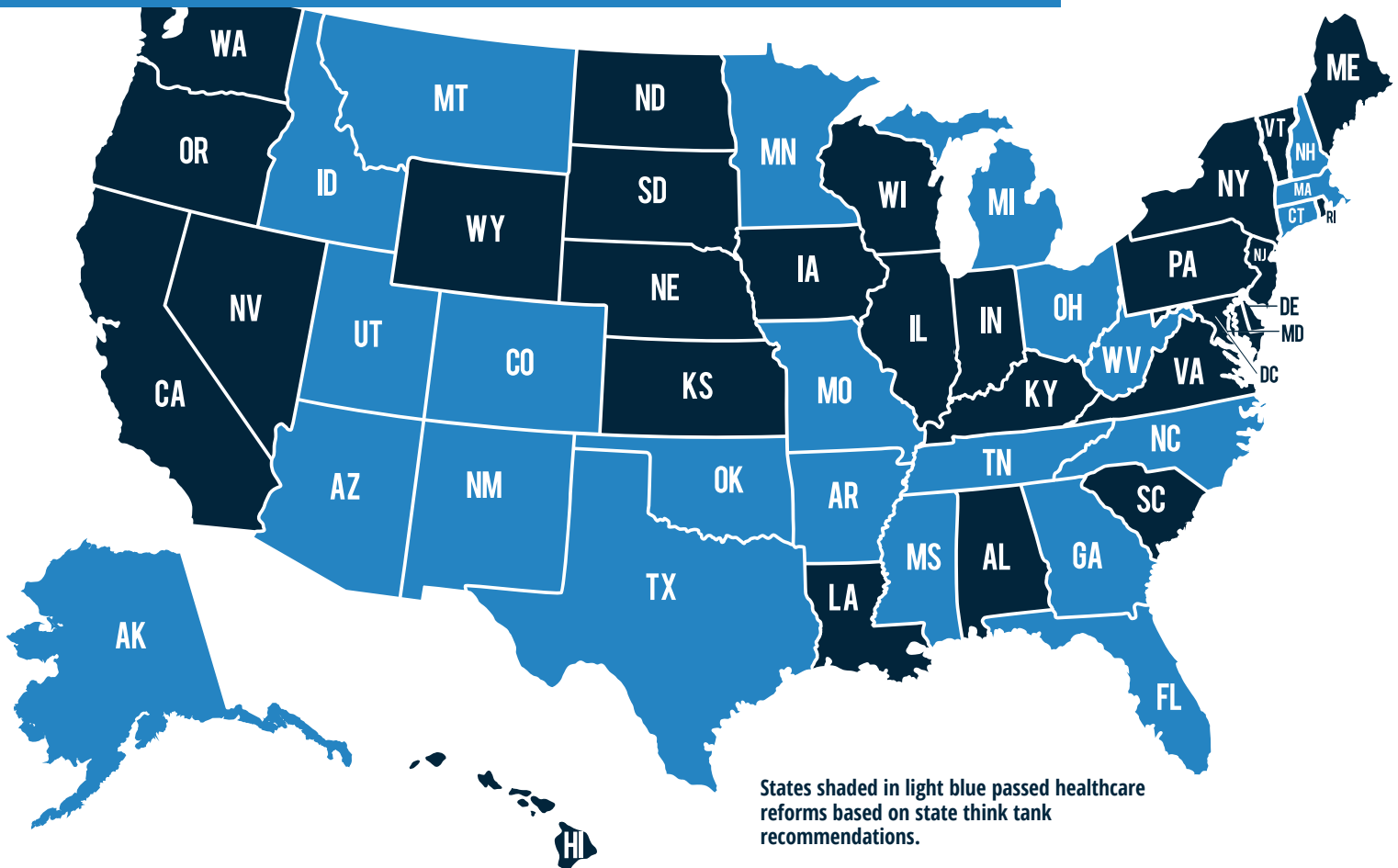


State Solutions. National Impact.

SUMMER 2020

## National Healthcare Impact

Network leaders have advanced solutions that are helping medical providers and patients in the wake of COVID-19.



*Tracie*

A MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
PRESIDENT

1



NETWORK  
HIGHLIGHTS

2



THINK TANK  
AFFILIATE  
UPDATES

9



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATE  
UPDATES

28



## CONTACT US

1655 North Fort Myer Drive  
Suite 360  
Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: 703-243-1655  
Fax: 703-740-0314  
info@spn.org

**SPN.org**

 /StatePolicy

 @StatePolicy

 /company/state-policy-network

## 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 citizen privacy.

### LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

**Tracie Sharp**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

**Tony Woodlief**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**Teresa Brown**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Carrie Conko**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Lynn Harsh**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGY

**Rebecca Painter**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

**Crystal Bouziden Baker**  
DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

**Victoria Bartolomeo**  
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

**Kristiana Bolzman**  
FOUNDATION OPERATIONS MANAGER

**Sam Cosby**  
CORPORATE AND SPONSOR  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**Cindy Kilduff**  
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF  
INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

**Ladan Nowrasteh**  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Christina Pajak**  
MANAGER OF DONOR RELATIONS

**Caroline Willcox**  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Thomas A. Roe**  
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN (1927–2000)

**Gaylord K. Swim**  
(1948–2005)

**Whitney L. Ball**  
(1962–2015)

**Theodore D. Abram**  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

**Lawson Bader**  
DONORSTRUST

**Carl Helstrom** (*Chairman*)  
THE LYNDE AND HARRY  
BRADLEY FOUNDATION

**John Hood**  
JOHN WILLIAM POPE FOUNDATION

**Adam Meyerson**  
PHILANTHROPY ROUNDTABLE

**Tracie Sharp**  
(*President*)  
STATE POLICY NETWORK

**Stanford D. Swim**  
(*Secretary*)  
THE GFC FOUNDATION

**Bridgett G. Wagner**  
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**Thomas Willcox**  
(*Treasurer*)  
THOMAS ROE FOUNDATION

For the full SPN staff list,  
visit [spn.org/staff](http://spn.org/staff).

# Dear Friends,

These past few months have been among the most difficult I have ever faced—a reality shared by so many people around the world. But even in dark moments, I am encouraged by the enormous goodwill and ingenuity emerging from countless sources: Business owners, local community leaders, friends, neighbors, and my talented colleagues in this Network.

**In this difficult time, I want to give you hope and encouragement.** Good things are happening because of the foundation we've laid together over the years. Thanks to you, State Policy Network is in a position of strength, charging into the gap and doubling down on our efforts to empower the Network to take on the challenges ahead.

Since the pandemic picked up speed in early March, this Network has been fighting for policy solutions to address the coronavirus outbreak and accelerate economic recovery. For example, to prepare for the growing number of sick patients, this Network fought to remove unnecessary barriers that prevented doctors from providing care and accessing essential equipment. Within the first six weeks of the crisis taking hold in America, 23 states quickly passed reforms crafted by our Healthcare Working Group. To support the millions of people out of work, this Network is advancing reforms to help small businesses recover and boost job opportunities.

Members of our Network have dedicated themselves to doing what is right by the citizens of their states. That is as true now as it has ever been. SPN continues to partner with state leaders to ensure they have the right tools and connections to address the individual needs of their states.

I was moved by a comment from a staff member at one of our affiliates in Wisconsin. CJ Szafir, vice president of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, said: "Amidst the unprecedented, unimaginable COVID crisis, **State Policy Network is having its golden moment**, ensuring that the state-based conservative infrastructure is ready to meet these new challenges and continues to excel...There's no question I would be lost without SPN at this moment in our nation's history."

I am so grateful that your support means we can continue our mission to serve the Network at a time when Americans need us most. Thank you for your commitment to state solutions that have national impact.

*Tracie Sharp*





# Responding to the Coronavirus Crisis: Reforming Healthcare to Expand Life-Saving Access for Americans

The Network has provided state governments with solutions at lightning speed to give patients and doctors a fighting chance to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Nothing is more top-of-mind than the health and well-being of the people you love. Even in good times, when there is no crisis, healthcare is consistently the top issue for voters across the spectrum. America is coping with a global pandemic unmatched by anything in recent history, coupled with an economic downturn that puts additional strain on people trying to make ends meet.

Countries have responded in different ways, seeing dramatic differences in outcomes. Some countries, like South Korea and Singapore, have mitigated the disease and loss of life by quickly allowing testing to identify and contain the virus. Countries slow to act have faced lockdowns, full hospitals, and more deaths because they simply didn't have the resources fast enough. These contrasting results can be traced back to one key variable: **the government's ability to respond within the constraints of its healthcare system.**

The United States is no exception. Even though the situation is still unfolding, we have learned a valuable lesson: Governments must be able to act quickly and allow innovation that will lead to life-saving solutions for public health problems.

Instead of waiting for DC, states *can and should* innovate in healthcare. When the COVID-19 outbreak began to escalate in March, the SPN-sponsored Healthcare Working Group (HCWG) circulated innovative healthcare solutions that could immediately supply doctors with much-needed medical equipment and expand patients' access to care. Their rapid response was possible for three reasons:

1. They had developed and championed these reforms for the past seven years, emphasizing the need for solutions that would increase the supply of healthcare.
2. They had convened as a group for years, building the trust, relationships, and connections to spread good ideas from state to state.
3. They had—and continue to have—the support of dedicated philanthropists like you. Your partnership means that states can adopt meaningful changes to allow healthcare providers greater flexibility to serve patients in this critical time.

**Within the first few weeks of the crisis, state think tanks**

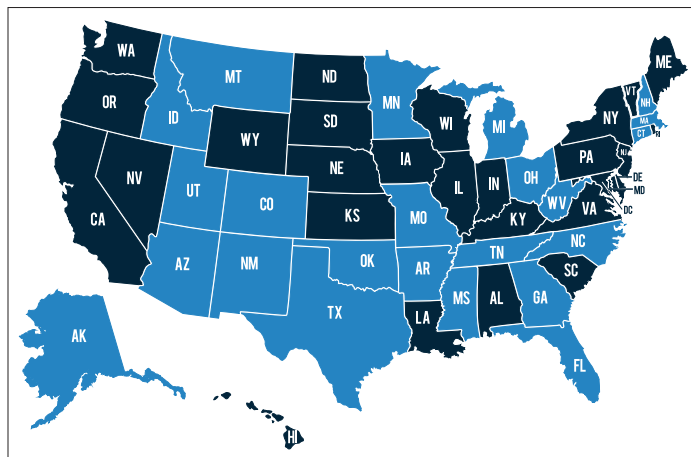


SPN's Healthcare Working Group at the White House.

## Five recommendations for state policymakers to address the coronavirus public health crisis and improve the supply of healthcare for the future:

1. Free up healthcare resources for the sick by removing barriers that restrict the use of hospital beds, ICUs, and medical equipment. This includes **Certificate-of-Need (CON) laws** that before the crisis existed in 36 states and created barriers to hospital and healthcare facilities.
2. Expand the number of people who can provide care. Our current healthcare providers need backup, yet state **scope-of-practice** laws limit the activities healthcare providers may engage in.
3. Allow patients to access virtual healthcare for non-urgent needs via **telehealth and telemedicine**. People will still need to see doctors for things other than COVID, but they should have options to do so without risking exposure.
4. Allow healthcare professionals to serve where the needs are greatest through **license reciprocity**. We all saw the viral photo of healthcare providers on a plane to help the dire situation in New York. Before the crisis, this would not have been possible because of state laws prohibiting practice across state lines.
5. Give patients financial peace of mind by eliminating **surprise billing**. The last thing people want to think about when falling ill to COVID-19 is the size of the bill.

put forth 100+ policy solutions. Twenty-three states passed healthcare reforms based on these recommendations from state think tanks. All 50 states have passed market-based healthcare solutions since the crisis began. More have passed since this article was written.



States shaded in light blue passed healthcare reforms based on state think tank recommendations.

Here's a closer look at a few examples of the groundbreaking reforms passing from state to state:

### Michigan

Michigan was among the states hit hardest in the early days of the outbreak. As state leaders considered how to navigate the situation, Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a member of SPN's Healthcare Working Group, had solutions ready. Mackinac played a key role in advising the governor's office on healthcare policies to include in their executive orders and regulatory guidance. Even with a Democratic administration, the governor was receptive to their ideas. The reforms included an expansion of telemedicine, scope-of-practice reform to increase the types of care certain medical professionals could provide, and a repeal of Certificate-of-Need (CON) laws to free up medical resources.

"For Governor Whitmer to take our recommendation and suspend all CON laws is extremely significant, not just because of the immediate impact it has for patients, but it sends a strong signal that this was bad policy to begin with," said Lindsay Killen, vice president for strategic outreach and communications at the Mackinac Center. "We do know that prior to COVID, if Michigan had lifted its CON laws, we would have had approximately 4,000 more hospital beds in the state."

### Florida

Florida was an "early adopter" state that passed market-based healthcare reforms just before the crisis struck.

Based on recommendations from The James Madison Institute (JMI), Florida policymakers repealed their CON laws and





expanded telemedicine in 2019. Then, in the middle of the 2020 Florida legislative session, COVID-19 showed up.

JMI released a research study in time to help policymakers see the extent of the state's existing healthcare shortages. With the pandemic on the brink of spreading significantly, this research equipped lawmakers to pass policies allowing qualified nurses to practice at the highest level of their training and allowing pharmacists to test and treat for flu, strep, and other common medical conditions. These patient-centered market reforms have expanded access to care and eased an already strained healthcare delivery system.

## Ohio

In Ohio, The Buckeye Institute created a report outlining immediate actions Ohio policymakers could take to address the healthcare crisis. Buckeye shared its policy suggestions with key leaders, including the Chief of Staff to Ohio's Lieutenant Governor, the Policy Director to the Ohio Governor, the President of the Ohio Senate, and the Chief of Staff of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Ohio has since adopted eight of Buckeye's significant policy recommendations, including: Increasing telehealth access and monitoring, extending universal occupational licensing reciprocity to doctors and physician assistants, eliminating unnecessary budget commitments, instituting a hiring freeze in state government, and enlisting medical and nursing students to support doctors and nurses fighting COVID-19.

"Policymakers are looking for good ideas that cut red tape holding back the delivery of healthcare," said Rea Hederman, vice president of policy at The Buckeye Institute.

## Taking state solutions national

The HCWG's recommendations have also made it to the federal level. Before the crisis, the Healthcare Working Group advised the White House on its 2018 "Choice and Competition Report," which detailed how to reform America's healthcare system. As the crisis has evolved, members of the working group have been in contact with the administration, sharing their state-based solutions with key officials in charge of the COVID-19 response.

Now more than ever, decision makers at the highest levels are looking to SPN and our Network for state-based healthcare solutions. Thanks to you, this Network is ready and able to respond where the needs are greatest.

"I've been a member of SPN's Healthcare Working Group for years now, and it has provided me with invaluable and innumerable opportunities to learn from peers in our Network who have been pioneering success on innovative healthcare reforms," said Killen. "This exposure has helped me shape and fine tune recommendations and strategies for the Mackinac Center that enable us to have meaningful impact."

## Shaping healthcare for the future

In the short term, an investment in advancing these solutions will save lives and provide emergency care to more people in need. In the long term, these experiences will show key decision makers the value of free-market healthcare solutions, opening doors to more permanent reforms that bring greater healthcare access, lower costs, and higher quality care for years to come.

"In this time, people are going to experience the convenience of things like telehealth. They're going to go to a physician assistant, and the bill is going to be different," said Russ Walker, SPN's senior policy advisor, who oversees the Healthcare Working Group. "They're going to start feeling the benefits of a more open, innovative healthcare system. Part of what creates change, and what makes these permanent, is when people realize how different the world can be if government gets out of the way."

PART OF WHAT CREATES CHANGE, AND WHAT MAKES THESE [REFORMS] PERMANENT, IS WHEN PEOPLE REALIZE HOW DIFFERENT THE WORLD CAN BE IF GOVERNMENT GETS OUT OF THE WAY.

# Five Questions about ESG Investing

One of the ways in which State Policy Network serves our members, and the greater freedom movement, is by monitoring emerging policy trends across states.

In recent years, activists have challenged the long-held principle that corporate management and business investment should, first and foremost, increase shareholder value. As a result, a growing number of investors and fund managers are basing investment decisions, at least in part, on social, environmental, and governance criteria (ESG). Shareholder activists are also pushing corporate executives to fulfill social impact goals.



In the absence of federal government action, state legislatures are imposing ESG edicts that carry significant consequences for taxpayers, investors, and corporations. Diane Katz, senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, answers key questions about ESG investing.

Diane Katz

## What is ESG investing, and why has it gained popularity in recent years?

The acronym “ESG” refers to “environmental, social, and governance” in the context of investment criteria or corporate performance standards. In either case, factors such as sustainability, worker health and safety, and board composition transcend conventional financial metrics.

ESG investing is on the rise. ESG and related criteria now account for an estimated \$12 trillion of the nearly \$47 trillion in total assets under management in the United States—an increase of 38 percent between 2016 and 2018. Two-thirds of the 429 shareholder resolutions filed in 2019 addressed ESG issues, and support for ESG resolutions hit a record high of 29 percent of investor shares voted, on average.

Public pension funds and other government portfolios account for the largest proportion of ESG-related investment, followed by insurance companies, education organizations, and labor.

This is hardly the first time that ideology supplants profit in investment decisions. But the difference today is the involvement of government in imposing ESG standards.



The current preoccupation with ESG is driven, in part, by the tremendous growth of institutional shareholders (such as public pension funds), as well as generational and gender shifts in assets. It also reflects a growing antagonism toward the economic principle that wealth creation is productive per se. Indeed, government ESG mandates represent a dramatic departure from a market economy and toward a planned economy.

## How does ESG affect the private and public sectors? What are the consequences?

Whether investment is private or public, shareholders are united by a common interest in pursuing profit and avoiding loss. Financial performance is also objective and measurable. Injecting social justice goals into investment decisions divides shareholders’ interests and subordinates financial performance. ESG also narrows investment options and muddles the balance sheet—all of which weakens accountability and none of which fulfills fiduciaries’ duties.

Government commitments to ESG constitute an obvious conflict of interest. Massive public pension funds, in particular, may influence the allocation of capital among various sectors of the economy, including those regulated by the very government employees whose pensions depend on investment income.

However, taxpayers are most disadvantaged. Public pension funds nationwide are underfunded by more than \$4 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve. Placing political considerations ahead of financial performance distorts investment incentives and increases the risk of a heavier taxpayer burden.

For example, the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, the nation’s largest pension fund, lost billions of dollars from divestments of politically disfavored companies and now holds just 70 percent of the assets needed to fulfill its liabilities.

Or consider the case of biofuels. Environmental mandates drove investment into ethanol and other so-called renewables that ultimately yielded more harm than benefit—financial and environmental. “It turned out to be a fool’s errand,” said Peter Hebert, co-founder and managing partner of Lux Capital.



**Environmental**



**Social**



**Governance**

## How have states encouraged ESG investing?

In the absence of federal regulation, states have jumped at the chance to mandate a variety of ESG-related corporate obligations, such as California’s gender diversity mandate (requiring at least one female board member for every public corpora-



INDEED, GOVERNMENT  
ESG MANDATES  
REPRESENT A DRAMATIC  
DEPARTURE FROM A  
MARKET ECONOMY AND  
TOWARD A PLANNED  
ECONOMY.

tion). Lawmakers in Illinois, New York, New Jersey, and Washington are considering similar legislation.

The Illinois Sustainable Investing Act, effective January 2020, requires all state agencies to implement “sustainable” investment policies for all funds under the state government’s control. Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont are considering legislation to restrict investment of public funds in fossil fuels.

## What are free-market policy organizations doing to raise awareness of ESG?

Given current regulatory trends, state-based think tanks are particularly well positioned to educate and influence policy-makers and the public about the trade-offs inherent in ESG. Testing activists’ assertions and tracking the performance of public investments are crucial to ensuring that financial returns trump pet political causes. Examples of current projects include:

- The Pacific Research Institute compared the record of ESG funds against the S&P Index fund and found that a \$10,000 ESG portfolio would be 43.9 percent smaller compared to an investment in a broader, S&P 500 index fund.
- The National Center for Public Policy Research in 2007 launched its Free Enterprise Project to educate shareholders, engage CEOs and board members, petition the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for interpretative guidance, and sponsor media campaigns to maintain corporate focus on their financial performance.
- The Manhattan Institute conducts a range of ESG-related research and maintains ProxyMonitor.org, a public database that tracks shareholder proposals in real time.

### SUPPORT SPN

For more than 28 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](https://spn.org/donate).





# The Power of Communities

**State Policy Network members partner with communities to solve problems locally.**

**W**hen it comes to addressing some of the biggest challenges facing this country, proximity matters. Together, thanks to your generous support, we have created a 50-state Network of state think tanks that can offer solutions that best meet the needs of each individual state. The reason this Network has been such a driving force for change is because state think tanks are closer to the people they're trying to help and the problems they're trying to solve.

When our state leaders develop relationships with the people in their communities, they can better understand the problems and barriers they face. This brings the principles we advocate for to life. Thanks to your partnership, state think tanks are leading the way and connecting with members of their communities to make lives better. While working with these groups on the ground, our Network is proving that the best solutions come from the bottom up, not the top down.

## The Georgia Center for Opportunity partners with business leaders and nonprofits to help low-income Georgians find meaningful work

Latesha Jackson is a single mother of three who hasn't held a steady job in years. She struggles to get by in her hometown of Columbus, Georgia. Seeking to understand the barriers that make it more difficult for people like Latesha to pursue a good life, the Georgia Center for Opportunity started to engage with underserved communities across the state.

Through this outreach, GCO deepened their understanding of how poverty affects people and the different ways it presents itself. One of the biggest hurdles to human flourishing is the inability to find and keep a job. Besides under-developed skills and training, there are other systemic barriers to employment for these disadvantaged communities—lack of access to transportation, housing, and childcare. GCO began talking to local nonprofits in these communities—institutions that are often in the best position to help people overcome those barriers.

GCO also developed relationships with business leaders across the state, and specifically in the Columbus area. These businesses had a manpower shortage and were desperate to find talent to fill available jobs. GCO's conversations with these groups sparked their idea for the Hiring Well, Doing Good program. The initiative brings together nonprofits and business leaders with the shared goal of getting people into the job market. GCO connects low-income individuals with nonprofits



A participant at one of GCO's Hiring Well, Doing Good events.

in their neighborhoods, giving those individuals the resources and training needed to prepare them for the workforce. They are then matched with a job.

Through Hiring Well, Doing Good, Latesha found her way back to the workforce for the first time in 10 years. Since launching the initiative in 2018, GCO has helped more than 100 disadvantaged people turn their lives around.

GCO's President and CEO Randy Hicks observed:

"There's a tendency for state think tanks to live and think theoretically about a lot of the issues we talk about. Unless you're actually connecting with people and organizations affected by the policies you promote, your credibility, and even your authenticity to some degree, is limited. By working on the ground, you are developing relationships with people and organizations that can serve as fellow advocates for policy ideas. Those may be fellow advocates you never would have had had you not stepped into a community to examine an issue more deeply."

## California Policy Center connects with parents to give students educational choice

Many parents in Orange County, California, were not aware of the educational choices they had for their children. To inform parents about their options and how to navigate the school system, California Policy Center's Executive Director of Edu-

cation and Community Relations, Cecilia 'Ceci' Iglesias, started the Parent Union in 2017. The initiative provides a voice and resource to parents who oftentimes do not have a seat at the table in their child's school.

"The only way that we've been able to learn what needs to be focused on is through our engagement with the community," said Iglesias.



Cecilia 'Ceci' Iglesias, California Policy Center's Executive Director of Education and Community Relations, started the Parent Union.

Through monthly meetings and other outreach activities, the Parent Union reinforces their belief that every child should have access to the best education, regardless of their ZIP code. Parents have the right to choose the education that best fits their child's needs, whether that's through public, home, charter, or online school.

The Parent Union had 25 members in 2017. Today, it has more than 2,500. Wearing their signature yellow scarfs, Parent Union members show up at school board meetings when there's a vote on a charter school they want approved. Members of the community know who they are and what they stand for. Thanks to the Parent Union's outreach and influence, the Orange County Board of Education flipped and is now fully pro-charter school. This board, which was once hostile to school choice ideas, is now open to them.

## Beacon Center of Tennessee uses the power of relationships to change policy

Several states have occupational licensing laws on the books, which require people to get a permission slip from the government to work. These laws can hurt low-income people the most, who often fill the types of jobs that need an occupational license.

Tennessee residents who wanted to braid hair, for example, had to spend 300 hours on cosmetology school and exams. These costly requirements primarily affected African-American women, many of whom came to America from Africa with the dream of building a business. Imagine their discouragement when the land of opportunity began to put one onerous regulation after another in their way.

The Beacon Center of Tennessee stepped in, befriended local hair braiders, and helped share their story. Tennessee then passed the Hair Braiding Freedom Act, removing burdensome licensing requirements for people who want



Members of the Parent Union with a local NAACP chapter. The Parent Union works with NAACP chapters across the state to give more options and hope to African American students.

to braid hair and reducing the number of training hours to just 16. This victory was due in large part to the powerful relationships Beacon Center cultivated with the people who needed the policy change most.



The Beacon Center team and local Tennessee hair braiders.

"Working in the free-market world can often be discouraging—people don't understand what we do and why we do it," said Taylor Dawson, director of outreach and digital media at the Beacon Center. "We work in the freedom movement because even if it changes one life for the better, it's worth it. You get this win, you hear from the people whose lives you are helping, and it makes you realize why you do what you do."

### ALABAMA

**ALABAMA POLICY INSTITUTE** • [alabamapolicy.org](http://alabamapolicy.org)

During the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic, the **Alabama Policy Institute** quickly became the loudest voice in Alabama for balanced and fair measures to address COVID-19. In the first month of the crisis, API provided eight op-eds, which were published in all of the state's largest newspapers and online news sources. In that same month, API produced seven podcast episodes, including interviews with former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Senate candidate and former football coach Tommy Tuberville on the government's response to COVID-19. Additionally, API released the report, "COVID-19 in Alabama: A Primer on the Impacts of Coronavirus on the State," and sent copies to state legislators so they could see the true impacts, both of the virus and the response to it, on the state.



### ALASKA

**ALASKA POLICY FORUM** • [alaskapolicyforum.org](http://alaskapolicyforum.org)

The **Alaska Policy Forum** is encouraging the Alaska government to respond to COVID-19 in ways that boost economic growth and provide relief to individuals. APF's report, "Recovery Agenda for Alaska," outlined more than a dozen policy prescriptions for protecting the health of Alaskans and speeding economic recovery. Common-sense reforms—from suspending certificate-of-need laws and allowing pharmacists to prescribe routine medications to extending driver's licenses and deferring property tax payments—would allow health professionals the freedom to fight COVID-19, while giving Alaskans much-needed financial relief. Additionally, APF is informing the public on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as encouraging the use of telehealth options and discouraging the use of reusable grocery bags.



### ARIZONA

**GOLDWATER INSTITUTE** • [goldwaterinstitute.org](http://goldwaterinstitute.org)

During the COVID-19 crisis, the **Goldwater Institute** has worked to eliminate laws that keep patients from getting the best treatment possible. Goldwater's Right to Try law, which 41 states adopted and the federal government signed into law, gives the government a new mandate to meet the immediate needs of patients facing life-threatening illness, including COVID-19. Goldwater's Truth in Medicine Act—already law in several states—protects the sharing of truthful, cutting-edge information about off-label uses of Food and Drug Administration-approved medications. Furthermore, Goldwater is working in the states to eliminate harmful certificate-of-need laws, broaden scope-of-practice laws, and expand the use of telemedicine. Goldwater is also working with allies nationwide to pass the Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act, a state law that recognizes job licenses—including those of medical professionals—across state lines. Additionally, Goldwater is working to protect home-based businesses from government overreach and to ensure the tax system is fair, flat, and predictable.





---

## ARKANSAS

**ARKANSAS POLICY FOUNDATION** • [arkansaspolicyfoundation.org](https://arkansaspolicyfoundation.org)

As the coronavirus spread, **Arkansas Policy Foundation** urged state leaders to allow patients to seek medical expertise through telemedicine. Arkansas's governor has issued nine executive orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of those executive orders suspends provisions of Arkansas' Telemedicine Act, which required a face-to-face meeting to establish a doctor-patient relationship. The executive order removes this requirement, allowing doctors to start a relationship with a patient remotely. This reform will help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and improve access to care for all Arkansas citizens.



---

## CALIFORNIA

**CALIFORNIA POLICY CENTER** | [californiapolicycenter.org](https://californiapolicycenter.org)

**California Policy Center** is responding to the coronavirus by providing more digital resources to communities affected by the pandemic. With many parents forced to homeschool for the first time, CPC is creating videos to assist members of the Parent Union—an initiative that unites parents with community members to ensure that all students receive an outstanding public education, regardless of their zip codes. CPC is also educating local elected officials about how to respond to the governor's executive orders, to the growing collapse of pension funds and tax revenue, and to labor negotiations. Partnering with the Mackinac Center, CPC is continuing to inform workers of their right to choose whether they want to join a union and pay dues, especially since stay-at-home orders may have minimized the pressures workers can sometimes face from union representatives or other political dynamics.



**FREEDOM FOUNDATION (CALIFORNIA)** • [freedomfoundation.com](https://freedomfoundation.com)

On January 5, 2020, thanks to **Freedom Foundation (California)**'s outreach efforts, 112 public employees were able to choose freedom and opt out of their unions. So far, this is the highest one-day opt-out for 2020. In March, Freedom Foundation attorneys filed a lawsuit against California government unions for forging signatures on membership cards in order to take dues from public employee paychecks. As the coronavirus crisis started to unfold, Freedom Foundation sent a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom calling for a three-month moratorium on government union dues deductions from public employee paychecks. Stopping union dues deductions for three months would return \$250 million back to the employees who earned it, allowing Californians to have more money to spend on bills during this unprecedented time. As of March 5, 2020, the Freedom Foundation has assisted more than 70,000 government employees leave their unions.



**PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE** • [pacificresearch.org](https://pacificresearch.org)

The **Pacific Research Institute** launched a new coronavirus page highlighting PRI's analysis and policy recommendations to combat the virus. PRI Senior Fellow and former Food and Drug Administration official Dr. Henry Miller was the featured expert on FoxNews.com's "Coronavirus: Ask An Expert Live Blog," where he answered questions about the virus and the development of a potential vaccine. Through numerous op-eds and media appearances, PRI President and CEO Sally Pipes made the case for why single-payer would make it harder for the US to fight pandemics. PRI's Center for Medical Economics and Innovation argued that adopting drug price controls or a "Buy American" drug mandate would threaten the development and availability of life-saving medications. PRI's Center for Business and Economics produced a video urging elected officials to adopt policies that encourage entrepreneurship to help people earn a living from home. PRI's Center for Education underscored the growing importance of online learning, while PRI's Center for California Reform highlighted the impact of the coronavirus on the state budget.



---

## COLORADO

**INDEPENDENCE INSTITUTE** • [i2i.org](https://i2i.org)

The Colorado General Assembly passed a resolution on March 14, 2020, to recess from March 14–30, 2020, due to the coronavirus. Although the Legislature planned to return on March 30, 2020, the recess lasted longer. The General Assembly sought guidance from the Colorado Supreme Court as to whether the General Assembly could come back on March 30 and continue as if it had not missed a day of the session. **Independence Institute** was concerned that some lawmakers were seeking to turn the Colorado Legislature into a full-time legislature to pass their progressive agenda. Independence filed a brief with the Colorado Supreme Court since the Colorado Constitution requires that the regular legislative session end by May 6, 2020. If the Legislature neglects to pass important health and safety legislation during its regular session, the Constitution provides a solution: The governor can call the Legislature into special sessions, for unlimited length, on any topic he chooses. Although the Colorado Supreme Court ruled against the Independence Institute, many eyes are now watching the next move of the progressive Legislature.



---

## CONNECTICUT

**YANKEE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY** • [yankeeinstitute.org](https://yankeeinstitute.org)

**Yankee Institute for Public Policy** has been at the forefront of organizations offering policy proposals to help Connecticut succeed in these unprecedented times. Yankee offered general proposals at the start of the coronavirus crisis, followed by more specific commentary on issues such as healthcare, pensions, and taxes. On April 2, 2020, Yankee hosted a virtual version of its annual “Insider’s Breakfast” where a panel of experts addressed questions about policy, the Legislature, and other concerns related to the pandemic. Yankee published a page of resources and frequently asked questions for families, small businesses, and local governments as they deal with the impact of COVID-19. Yankee’s “Beam of Light” project illuminates the many acts of quiet heroism, generosity, individual initiative, and kindness that are happening every day across Connecticut during the crisis.



---

## DELAWARE

**CAESAR RODNEY INSTITUTE** • [caesarrodney.org](https://caesarrodney.org)

The White House asked **Caesar Rodney Institute's** David Stevenson to critique a Senate amendment to ban hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), chemicals primarily used for cooling and refrigeration. The amendment would replace HFCs with hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), a new set of refrigerants with a lower global warming potential. The new refrigerant is patent protected and is only produced by two companies: Delaware’s Chemours and Louisiana’s Honeywell. The companies are charging up to \$60 per pound, compared to six dollars per pound for HFCs. The total negative economic impact of banning HFCs could be as high as \$12.5 billion a year to the US economy. Honeywell and Chemours have made a massive investment in trying to create a monopoly. They supported the Kigali Amendment for ozone reduction that President Obama signed but never sent to the Senate as it would have failed to pass. The Kigali Amendment would reduce the projected production and consumption of HFCs by more than 80 percent over the next 30 years. Chemours and Honeywell tried to get President Trump to send the Kigali Amendment to the Senate with a recommendation for approval in March 2020. That’s when the White House contacted Stevenson. Based on his report, the White House did not support the Kigali Amendment.





## FLORIDA

### FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY • [thefga.org](http://thefga.org)

Through research papers and media outreach, the **Foundation for Government Accountability** is promoting proactive policy solutions to address COVID-19. In early April, FGA released proactive policy solutions for states as they confront the coronavirus pandemic. Recommendations included how to expand access to healthcare and health insurance, manage fragile state budgets, and remove barriers to work. FGA also released two papers that revealed how provisions in the federal COVID-19 relief packages could do long-term financial damage to the Medicaid program and hinder the country's eventual economic recovery. FGA has also been partnering with state think tanks across the country, including the Alaska Policy Forum, John Locke Foundation, and Show-Me Institute for op-eds on expanding telemedicine, occupational licensing reform, and reducing regulatory hurdles to help the economy recover.



### JAMES MADISON INSTITUTE • [jamesmadison.org](http://jamesmadison.org)

In *The Wall Street Journal*, the **James Madison Institute** highlighted Florida's pioneering medical reforms to fight the coronavirus. The piece encouraged other states to permanently roll back unnecessary regulations that limit access to healthcare. The op-ed also featured JMI's study, "Curing the Physician Shortage: State-Level Prescriptions for a National Problem." In the study, JMI recommends several policy measures that states can pursue to address provider shortages, expand access, and lower costs for patients. These reforms include expanding telemedicine and scope-of-practice, pursuing comprehensive licensing reform, and eliminating certificate-of-need requirements. Additionally, JMI launched a video series called "Policy Gone Viral," which features discussions from experts across the country on solutions to the coronavirus crisis. Watch the episodes at [jamesmadison.org/policy-gone-viral](http://jamesmadison.org/policy-gone-viral).



## GEORGIA

### GEORGIA CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY • [georgiaopportunity.org](http://georgiaopportunity.org)

In response to the coronavirus, the **Georgia Center for Opportunity** moved its Hiring Well, Doing Good service into Lawrenceville, Georgia, to meet the demands of the unemployed. Hiring Well, Doing Good is a tool for communities to find the services necessary to find and keep jobs. Because of their work with organizations and small businesses, GCO launched community resource portals allowing local community groups to share needs and resources. On the policy front, GCO worked with state officials, including Georgia's Lieutenant Governor, to create task forces for rolling out reopening plans. Finally, GCO launched three new video shows—one highlights those living out the role of civil society, another provides relationship advice to those trapped at home, and the third highlights policy changes in the state.



### GEORGIA PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION • [georgiapolicy.org](http://georgiapolicy.org)

The **Georgia Public Policy Foundation** continues to serve as a valuable resource for policymakers and the public on solutions to COVID-19. The Foundation has provided policy advice, commentaries, and a weekly "Friday Facts" blog post dedicated to COVID-19-related policy news, views, and links. The Foundation released the report "Near-Term Proposals as Georgia Tackles COVID-19," which offers a list of policy ideas to address the healthcare needs of Georgia's communities and assist businesses in this time of economic uncertainty. The Foundation welcomed Chris Denson, a native of Douglasville, Georgia, to the team as the director of policy and research. His background includes almost a decade in the healthcare arena, and his expertise was an immediate advantage as the Foundation developed sensible policy recommendations to cope with the pandemic.

---

## HAWAII

**GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII** • [grassrootinstitute.org](http://grassrootinstitute.org)

Hawaii has been among the states hardest hit by the COVID-19 lockdown. By the end of April, almost 40 percent of the state's workforce had filed for unemployment. The **Grass-root Institute of Hawaii** was among the first to warn the state about the economic and budgetary consequences of an unexpected natural or economic disaster, which the coronavirus crisis proved to be. As the crisis deepened, the Institute responded with a series of webinars addressing issues such as healthcare accessibility, civil rights, and government transparency. It also joined with other watchdog groups in persuading the governor to restore the state's sunshine laws, which he suspended in March. Hawaii's sunshine laws allow public access to the meetings of government bodies. On April 30, 2020, the Institute launched a petition calling for the easing of the lockdown, titled "Let Hawaii Work." Within days, the petition acquired thousands of signatures. This petition was followed by the release of a report on civil liberties and a roadmap for economic recovery.



---

## IDAHO

**IDAHO FREEDOM FOUNDATION** • [idahofreedom.org](http://idahofreedom.org)

For state and local officials, the **Idaho Freedom Foundation** is providing policy solutions to address the coronavirus pandemic while respecting individual liberty. Two days after Idaho's governor declared a state of emergency, IFF provided a list of market-based solutions to help Idahoans weather the crisis. The governor adopted several of IFF's recommendations, including suspending excessive medical license requirements and allowing telehealth consultations. After the governor shut down non-essential businesses, IFF sent the governor's office a recommended alternative order that would reopen Idaho's economy. Additionally, following an IFF complaint, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare removed a web form where people could report a business for suspected social distancing violations. Finally, IFF praised the City of Rigby, where police officers are delivering food and supplies to residents most at risk. As the pandemic continues, IFF will continue to offer and praise solutions that fight the virus and will respectfully provide alternatives to misguided policies that would have long-term consequences for liberty.



---

## ILLINOIS

**ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE** • [illinoispolicy.org](http://illinoispolicy.org)

During the initial days of the shutdown in Illinois, the **Illinois Policy Institute** saw an uptick in small business owner applicants to the Lincoln Lobby, IPI's activist group of more than 17,000 members. IPI is featuring the stories of several Lincoln Lobbyists, giving business owners an outlet to talk about the economic effects of the shutdown and the policy solutions needed for recovery. In March, IPI published the story of Kristan Vaughan, a Lincoln Lobbyist and small business owner dealing with the crisis. Kristan runs Irish pubs in Chicago and explained how she's unable to tell her staff what will happen next. Just like other businesses, Kristan doesn't know when she'll be able to reopen. As IPI shares these stories, featured business owners are seeing a flow of orders from Illinoisans who want to provide support during the shutdown. These stories are reaching hundreds of thousands of people organically on social media, and they're illustrating the connection between critical policy issues and how these issues impact Illinoisans' daily lives.





---

## IOWA

**TAX EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF IOWA** • [tefiowa.org](http://tefiowa.org)

During the COVID-19 crisis, the **Tax Education Foundation of Iowa** is sharing the numerous acts of kindness and service being performed throughout Iowa. TEF Iowa established a webpage called "Acts of Community and Service," which highlights some of these selfless good deeds by businesses and individuals. On the policy front, TEF Iowa is closely following the economic impact of COVID-19. Based on the economic uncertainty and the rising unemployment in Iowa, TEF Iowa is recommending a policy of prudence. Currently, the health and safety of the state is Iowa policymakers' priority, as it should be. However, once the emergency is over, the best way to foster economic recovery is to follow prudent fiscal policy based on keeping spending low, avoiding tax increases, and eliminating unnecessary regulations. TEF Iowa is also reporting on the need for regulatory reform, especially in terms of occupational licensing and repealing certificate-of-need laws.

---

## KANSAS

**KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE** • [kansaspolicy.org](http://kansaspolicy.org)

**Kansas Policy Institute** is helping Kansans amid the COVID-19 crisis by quickly becoming the go-to organization for strong economic policies, as well as a strong legal resource through its litigation center, the Kansas Justice Institute. KPI published a list of regulations and rules Kansas should suspend to combat COVID-19, including streamlining medical licenses and loosening hospital regulations. KPI congratulated Kansas' governor for waiving regulations that kept out-of-state doctors from providing services to Kansans, expediting emergency licenses, and lifting burdensome regulations that made it harder to obtain needed supplies. After the governor announced that the state was using a cell phone tracking system to monitor Kansans' movements during the COVID-19 lockdown, the Kansas Justice Institute sent a letter to the governor, demanding she disclose the legal justification and make additional details available. The governor addressed KJI's concerns, noting the state is using publicly available data.



---

## KENTUCKY

**BLUEGRASS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY SOLUTIONS** • [bipps.org](http://bipps.org)

The **Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions** is highlighting the importance of transparency as Kentucky receives a huge sum of \$2.4 billion in COVID-19 relief funds from Washington. Bluegrass CEO Jim Waters noted that while the money is broken down by general categories, the possibilities are ripe for wasteful spending on items outside the stated scope of the designation that Congress approved. Additionally, Bluegrass is urging the Kentucky General Assembly not to raise taxes and increase spending during the pandemic. Finally, Bluegrass filed an appeal with the Kentucky attorney general's office after failing to receive a response from Governor Beshear's administration to an open records request regarding whether the governor's mansion is abiding by the same COVID-19 protocol forced upon nonessential Kentucky businesses. The request seeks to inspect or obtain copies of the timesheets of mansion staff, excluding state troopers who serve on the governor's personal protection detail.





**PEGASUS INSTITUTE** • [pegasuskentucky.org](https://pegasuskentucky.org)

**Pegasus Institute** researchers have been analyzing the coronavirus impact on P-12 education, law enforcement, and jails and prisons. Pegasus is also considering what recovery, not just relief, looks like in Kentucky. Along with FreedomWorks, Pegasus called for a revision of Kentucky's emergency declaration statutes going forward and encouraged the Food and Drug Administration to let distillers produce much-needed hand sanitizer without having to find added bitterant, a substance that makes the alcohol unappealing to drink. Finally, Pegasus has called on the Kentucky governor to establish a task force to develop strategies for getting people back to work. Pegasus is also working closely with its federal allies on what the next phase of federal relief looks like. To see all of Pegasus' work related to the coronavirus, visit [pegasuskentucky.org/covid-19](https://pegasuskentucky.org/covid-19).



---

## LOUISIANA

**PELICAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY** • [pelicaninstitute.org](https://pelicaninstitute.org)

Based in one of the states hit hardest by COVID-19, the **Pelican Institute for Public Policy** has spent the last month working to keep its audiences informed and provide resources for those in need. From creating a list of policy "Dos and Don'ts" for Louisiana lawmakers to giving parents and teachers tools to keep students engaged and learning while schools are closed, Pelican has established itself as a leader and vital information source during this time. In March, Pelican launched its new PeliCast series of Facebook live webinars. On the PeliCasts, the Pelican Institute team joins guests from around country to discuss solutions to some of the main issues surrounding COVID-19. Pelican hosted Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai for a special PeliCast on internet access and efforts to keep Americans connected during COVID-19. Pelican is also working on a robust campaign related to reopening Louisiana's economy.



---

## MAINE

**MAINE POLICY INSTITUTE** • [mainepolicy.org](https://mainepolicy.org)

**Maine Policy Institute** penned a letter of policy recommendations to the state's governor, outlining steps Maine could take to enhance its coronavirus response. These recommendations included implementing universal recognition of medical licenses issued by other states and eliminating red tape surrounding telehealth services. MPI also called on the governor to postpone the state's income tax filing deadline and to consider a sales tax holiday when social distancing policies are rescinded. Since that time, the governor has taken emergency action to loosen occupational licensing and telehealth rules—in line with MPI's recommendations—and has delayed the state's income tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020. In addition, MPI is serving as a resource to families who are grappling with homeschooling and distance learning now that schools are closed. Maine Policy hosted a virtual townhall with a panel of state and national homeschooling and distance learning experts who answered parents' questions and offered guidance to help them navigate this new reality.





---

## MARYLAND

**MARYLAND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE** • [mdpolicy.org](http://mdpolicy.org)

As the coronavirus pandemic started to unfold, the **Maryland Public Policy Institute** urged state legislators to practice fiscal discipline. Despite the Maryland Legislature adjourning three weeks early due to COVID-19, state legislators passed several major tax bills that were introduced to fund the controversial \$32 billion education reform proposal recommended by the state Kirwan Commission. The Institute encouraged the Maryland Governor to veto the proposed tax increases and ease the financial burden on Marylanders during this crisis. In late April, the Institute released policy recommendations to help Baltimore, a city with pre-existing budget problems, overcome the fiscal challenges of the coronavirus. MPPI encouraged Baltimore to fight the temptation to raise the property tax rate to make up for the loss of other revenues.



**PIONEER INSTITUTE**  
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

---

## MASSACHUSETTS

**PIONEER INSTITUTE** • [pioneerinstitute.org](http://pioneerinstitute.org)

The Massachusetts Governor adopted several of the **Pioneer Institute's** recommendations to exempt certain businesses and organizations from the state's COVID-19 shutdown order. Pioneer released a public statement urging the governor to delay the state tax filing deadline, which he subsequently did. Pioneer has also led the public conversation on how to manage the state budget, including Medicaid, pension shortfalls, and the unemployment insurance program. The governor ordered the expansion of telehealth, an action Pioneer has long recommended, for all in-network providers in Massachusetts. In response to Pioneer's op-ed recommending further telehealth expansion, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is allowing telehealth across state lines for all providers. Massachusetts expanded the scope-of-practice of many nurse practitioners, another reform suggested by the Institute. Finally, Pioneer is encouraging the state to enact regulatory reform on digital learning so students and families can effectively transition to virtual education.

---

## MICHIGAN

**MACKINAC CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY** • [mackinac.org](http://mackinac.org)

The **Mackinac Center** pivoted its strategy early on in the coronavirus crisis and partnered with coalition groups to create a guide for COVID-19 policies. The policies were recommended with the goal of protecting the health, safety, and economic opportunity of all Michiganders. Sound healthcare policy solutions were desperately needed to equip healthcare systems for the onslaught of patients. Many of these reforms were already part of the Mackinac Center's policy agenda, including repealing certificate-of-need laws, promoting telemedicine, and loosening scope-of-practice restrictions. The Center also recommended cutting nonessential state spending and separating COVID-19 items from other supplemental appropriations, among others. The governor implemented almost all of the recommended policies via executive order, and Michigan has greatly benefited. Mackinac is also helping families and teachers with the quick transition to virtual education. Mackinac created a Facebook Live video series featuring online teachers, homeschool parents, and others to share best practices for educating virtually.



---

## MINNESOTA

**CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT** • [americanexperiment.org](http://americanexperiment.org)

**Center of the American Experiment** championed displaced workers and Main Street businesses with a multi-media campaign to “Put Minnesota Back to Work.” Through its efforts, 45,000 emails were sent to Governor Tim Walz and local legislators to encourage state leaders to adopt a responsible strategy to reopen the state economy. American Experiment’s ads and publications asked state leaders to trust Minnesotans, and argued that citizens would respect safety procedures and guidelines to keep themselves and others safe. Governor Walz’s blanket shutdown mandate has had devastating consequences, especially for rural areas of the state with zero COVID-19 cases. American Experiment’s “Put Minnesota Back to Work” campaign provided a loud forum for those who disagreed with the administration’s overreach into their lives and livelihoods.



**FREEDOM FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA** • [freedomfoundation.publishpath.com](http://freedomfoundation.publishpath.com)

It took four years, two governors, and a global pandemic, but the **Freedom Foundation of Minnesota** finally succeeded in expanding opportunities for licensed out-of-state health-care professionals to work in Minnesota. Allowing these healthcare workers to assist hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis was one of the first policy prescriptions highlighted by the Freedom Foundation to help with this medical emergency. Expanding telehealth is another reform that has become widely adopted throughout the state. Telehealth in Minnesota is possible because of successful work done by the Freedom Foundation three years ago that allowed private industry to build and deploy 5G networks statewide. This vast 5G network allows patients to see doctors, students to coordinate distance learning with teachers, and families to keep in contact during the pandemic. Freedom Foundation continues to work with policymakers to enact other reforms, including short-term health insurance plans for the nearly 500,000 newly unemployed and permanent licensure reform.



---

## MISSISSIPPI

**EMPOWER MISSISSIPPI** • [empowerms.org](http://empowerms.org)

Recognizing that a coronavirus outbreak in Mississippi’s prison system could only exacerbate the prison crisis, the state implemented a policy set by legislators in 2018 that allows virtual check-ins for those on probation or parole. Until this change in policy, most individuals on supervision were required to meet with their supervision officer face-to-face every month. Despite becoming law in 2018, the option for virtual check-ins was not made available across the board. Now that the Mississippi Department of Corrections is looking for ways to implement social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19, virtual check-ins have become the norm. **Empower Mississippi** highlighted how this policy will allow more Mississippians under supervision to stay at work and continue to provide for themselves and their families. On the education front, Empower Mississippi sees the abrupt transition to virtual learning as an opportunity for Mississippi to catch up to other states offering full-time virtual education options.





#### MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY • [mcpolicy.org](https://mcpolicy.org)

The **Mississippi Center for Public Policy** is profiling businesses that are adapting to the coronavirus crisis and innovating to serve a need. Blue Delta Jeans, a high-end clothing company based out of Oxford, Mississippi, quickly shifted their focus from making custom-fit jeans to masks as widespread need became apparent. Rich Grain Distilling Company, which usually makes bourbon, is now serving communities throughout the state by making hand sanitizer, another product that was in short supply as the pandemic hit. Like many other distilleries nationwide, they were able to do this after the federal government lifted multiple regulations. Along with serving a critical need in the state, these businesses are able to maintain their full staff at a time when unemployment is skyrocketing nationwide. These are just two companies. There are countless others. Through these stories, MCPP is highlighting how the American spirit and the private sector rise to meet difficult challenges.

---

## MISSOURI



#### SHOW-ME INSTITUTE • [showmeinstitute.org](https://showmeinstitute.org)

The **Show-Me Institute** responded swiftly to the need for guidance on policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The wide-ranging expertise of the Institute's analysts has allowed the Institute to cover nearly every relevant facet of this crisis in Missouri. Show-Me hosted three "telephone town hall" events with public health experts and economists that attracted hundreds of listeners. The Institute published a roadmap for battling the coronavirus, which includes regulatory reforms that would help Missouri increase its healthcare supply to meet the growing demand. The governor approved two key healthcare reforms that Show-Me has been advocating: Licensing reciprocity, which makes it easier for out-of-state doctors to help Missourians, and scope-of-practice reform, which eases restrictions on nurse practitioners. The governor also relaxed several occupational licensing regulations, a reform the Show-Me Institute has been suggesting for years. Regarding education, the pandemic has highlighted Show-Me's long-standing work on the urgent need for more diverse educational options for parents and kids.

---

## NEBRASKA



#### PLATTE INSTITUTE • [platteinstitute.org](https://platteinstitute.org)

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the **Platte Institute** launched a new webinar program to keep Nebraskans informed and engaged in the state's policy process. With more than 66,000 Nebraskans filing for unemployment as of April 9, 2020, the economic impact of COVID-19 will be unlike any recession of recent memory. State and local policymakers will need to know how these changes will impact budgets and government priorities. To that end, the Platte Institute hosted Nebraska state Senator John Stinner, the chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, as its first webinar guest. More than 120 participants viewed the program, including senators and staff from about half of the state's legislative offices. To see a video of the discussion and keep up with future Platte Institute webinars, visit [PlatteInstitute.org/Podcasts](https://PlatteInstitute.org/Podcasts).



---

## NEVADA

**NEVADA POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE** • [npri.org](https://npri.org)

In February 2020, the **Nevada Policy Research Institute** conducted a poll gauging likely Nevada voters' support for worker freedom policies and labor reforms. The results showed overwhelming support for a couple of key policy proposals, including increased transparency in public sector contract negotiations and expanding opt-out rights for workers. Even current union members overwhelmingly supported both proposals. The poll results, however, are far more than just a glimpse at voter attitudes toward labor reform. Nevada Policy is using insights from this exhaustive and detailed poll to build coalitions on these issues—showing where pro-worker freedom groups have had success with messaging and where there's potential for the most impact moving forward. Data from the poll is also being used to guide and shape Nevada Policy's communications plan for these issues in the next legislative session, giving the organization a real opportunity to make progress on these issues in an otherwise hostile political landscape.



---

## NEW JERSEY

**GARDEN STATE INITIATIVE** • [gardenstateinitiative.org](https://gardenstateinitiative.org)

As New Jersey went into lockdown in response to COVID-19, the **Garden State Initiative** transitioned its social media accounts into important hubs of information for workers and businesses. GSI advocated for measures that would aid New Jersey immediately but also position the state to emerge from the pandemic poised for economic recovery. The Business Coalition, a group of more than 40 businesses and nonprofits representing employers that provide jobs to millions of New Jerseyans, invited GSI to join the group and support policy development intended to relax or eliminate government regulation to facilitate a quick recovery for the state. Additionally, as New Jersey has experienced a dramatic decline in personal driving, GSI analysis illustrated how that decline, combined with reduced gasoline prices, will likely result in a significant increase in the state's gas tax. GSI has called on the Legislature to amend a 2016 law that allows the state's treasurer to increase the tax unless a revenue threshold is reached.



---

## NEW MEXICO

**RIO GRANDE FOUNDATION** • [riograndefoundation.org](https://riograndefoundation.org)

Prior to the onset of the coronavirus outbreak, New Mexico had a busy 30-day legislative session. The **Rio Grande Foundation** advocated for much-needed, bipartisan public employee pension reforms that were signed into law. The Foundation spoke out against overspending that was fueled by an oil boom in the Permian Basin. New Mexico's budget grew 21 percent in just two years. Since the outbreak began, the Foundation has made numerous recommendations for policymakers to address the crisis and reduce the harm done to New Mexicans. The Foundation convinced Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo County to remove bans on plastic bags for the duration of the coronavirus crisis. *The New York Times* cited the Foundation's successful efforts. Finally, the Foundation filed a lawsuit against the City of Albuquerque for violating New Mexico's Open Meetings Act when the City Council gave numerous new powers to the mayor without holding a public meeting.





---

## NEW YORK

**EMPIRE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY** • [empirecenter.org](http://empirecenter.org)

With New York serving as the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, the **Empire Center for Public Policy** has been closely monitoring the impact the virus has had on millions of people. Empire Center analysts have been contributing almost daily to the #NYCoronavirus Chronicles—Empire’s special series detailing what state and local governments should do to keep people safe and responsibly manage the state’s finances. Overall, the governor and state Legislature’s response to New York’s budgetary challenges has been far from perfect; lawmakers have refused to significantly reduce spending and instead have looked to a federal bailout to rescue the state. However, Governor Cuomo did adopt one of Empire’s top recommendations: A pay freeze for state employees that will save taxpayers millions of dollars. The Empire Center will continue to develop and defend ideas to accelerate New York’s recovery in the weeks and months ahead.



---

## NORTH CAROLINA

**CIVITAS INSTITUTE** • [nccivitas.org](http://nccivitas.org)

After the North Carolina Governor issued an executive order extending public school closures and ordering the closure of some businesses, **Civitas Institute** published critical policy prescriptions to help state legislators think through the proper governmental response to this crisis. Civitas’ recovery plan addressed five key areas for North Carolina, including elections, state budget and tax, education, healthcare, and agriculture. Civitas’ policy recommendations included reforming certificate-of-need laws, expanding telemedicine and scope-of-practice, and tapping into rainy day funds, among others. Civitas has also provided valuable polls on voter sentiments as the 2020 election quickly approaches. One of Civitas’ polls on President Trump’s job performance was tweeted by the president himself.



**JOHN LOCKE FOUNDATION** • [johnlocke.org](http://johnlocke.org)

One day after the North Carolina governor declared a state of emergency due to the spread of COVID-19, the **John Locke Foundation** researchers paused all other projects and got to work. The Foundation’s researchers have written more than 50 blog posts, commentaries, and research briefs, including a five-part series of policy recommendations titled “North Carolina’s COVID-19 Response.” The series covers policy suggestions related to regulation, the economy, K-12 education, budget, and healthcare. Senior Vice President Becki Gray was in daily, sometimes hourly, contact with key decision makers in the North Carolina General Assembly. Using JLF research, she informed and educated lawmakers about reform options for the state budget, healthcare, and regulations. Additionally, JLF is hosting online events featuring discussions about many of these economy and policy recommendations.

---

## OHIO

**THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE** • [buckeyeinstitute.org](https://buckeyeinstitute.org)

**The Buckeye Institute** has been at the forefront of offering common-sense policy solutions to policymakers in Ohio and Washington, DC—publicly and behind-the-scenes—to ensure Americans fight and recover from the pandemic. After releasing “Policy Solutions for the Pandemic: How Ohio Can Fight the Impact of Coronavirus,” Buckeye issued additional policy memos outlining solutions to strengthen the healthcare system and provide for families and businesses facing unexpected economic hardship. Buckeye also quickly identified nearly \$3 billion of unnecessary spending in Ohio’s bloated state budget that could be put toward COVID-19 and its aftermath. Ohio has adopted many of Buckeye’s recommendations, including: Increasing telehealth access and monitoring, extending universal occupational licensing reciprocity to doctors and physician assistants, permitting pharmacists to test for COVID-19, eliminating unnecessary budget commitments, instituting a hiring freeze in state government, enlisting medical and nursing students to support doctors and nurses fighting COVID-19, and allowing establishments with an existing liquor permit to sell and deliver alcohol on carryout menus. A comprehensive list of Buckeye’s policy solutions can be found at [BuckeyeInstitute.org/Policy-Solutions-for-the-Pandemic](https://BuckeyeInstitute.org/Policy-Solutions-for-the-Pandemic).



**THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE**

**FREEDOM FOUNDATION (OHIO)** • [freedomfoundation.com](https://freedomfoundation.com)

In March 2020, **Freedom Foundation (Ohio)** sent a letter to Ohio’s governor calling for a three-month moratorium on government union dues deductions from public employee paychecks. Stopping union dues deductions for only three months would return \$61 million to the employees who earned it, allowing Ohioans to have more money to pay bills and spend in the private sector, lightening the economic burden across the state. Also, Freedom Foundation Ohio announced Connor Hines joined the team as outreach director. Hines was previously the regional field director for the Republican Party of Wisconsin and a former campaign manager for the Ohio House Republican Organizational Campaign Committee.



---

## OKLAHOMA

**OKLAHOMA COUNCIL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS** • [ocpathink.org](https://ocpathink.org)

Like many states, Oklahoma has ordered the closure of nonessential businesses to combat the coronavirus pandemic. For many Oklahomans, their small businesses are their only way to provide financial security and put food on the table for themselves and their families. To that end, the **Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs** launched the “You Are Essential” website to help Oklahoma small business owners navigate these turbulent waters. The website helps Oklahomans understand that any small business can be essential to the families who depend on it to make ends meet. Additionally, OCPA began compiling stories on its “Government Overreach Tracker,” a project that shares tales of government’s overreach so that citizens can hold officials accountable. One story highlighted a waste disposal company that the city closed, even though it had been deemed essential by both the federal and state government. By demonstrating the government’s overreach during this time of crisis, OCPA hopes to protect citizens by encouraging government accountability.





---

## OREGON

**CASCADE POLICY INSTITUTE** • [cascadepolicy.org](https://cascadepolicy.org)

In response to COVID-19, **Cascade Policy Institute** proposed delaying or repealing burdensome taxes, reexamining occupational licensure requirements, and fixing the unsustainable liabilities of Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System. Cascade also criticized the initial guidance from the Oregon Department of Education that moved to close Oregon's successful online charter schools and cap new enrollment by parents who just want their kids to keep learning. Cascade strongly opposed tax hikes proposed in 2019 and 2020 by the Portland area's regional government, Metro. Last November, Metro raised property taxes by \$475 million for a parks and nature program. Despite the drastic economic about-face that Oregon suffered in March, Metro proceeded with placing Measure 26-210 on the May ballot, seeking another \$2.5 billion in new taxes for housing services. In November 2020, Metro will have yet a third ballot measure, asking for an additional \$3.8 billion to expand light rail. That's nearly \$6.8 billion in new taxes for Metro in one year alone. Cascade has been explaining in state and local media outlets how tax relief, not tax increases, can slow the spread of COVID-19 financial panic.



**FREEDOM FOUNDATION (OREGON)** • [freedomfoundation.com](https://freedomfoundation.com)

**Freedom Foundation (Oregon)** filed three lawsuits in Oregon against government unions for forging signatures on membership cards in order to take dues from public employee paychecks. To date, the Freedom Foundation has filed 12 forgery cases against public sector unions in Washington, Oregon, and California. In March, the Freedom Foundation sent a letter to Oregon's governor, calling for a three-month moratorium on government union dues deductions from public employee paychecks. Suspending union dues deductions for just three months would return nearly \$29 million to the employees who earned it, allowing them to spend those dollars in the private sector and help relieve the economic burden for Oregonians.



---

## PENNSYLVANIA

**COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION** • [commonwealthfoundation.org](https://commonwealthfoundation.org)

Pennsylvania has relatively few cases of COVID-19, despite being the nation's fifth-largest state. Nevertheless, the state's governor has closed "non-life-sustaining" businesses, leaving more than one million unemployed and causing massive lines at local food banks. As chaos afflicts Pennsylvania's economy, the governor is refusing to provide a timeline for his business shutdown or clarify how waivers to reopen businesses are approved. During this uncertainty, **Commonwealth Foundation** seeks to prevent ill-advised policymaking that could lead to disaster and prevent recovery. Commonwealth provided several policy suggestions to help Pennsylvania families and businesses overcome the crisis. Those recommendations include offering education scholarship accounts to families, reopening construction projects as long as recommended safety measures are maintained, reprioritizing government spending, and promoting government transparency. Commonwealth is also serving as a resource to Pennsylvanians as they adjust to the new normal. The organization published "Top 10 Coronavirus FAQs for Pennsylvanians," with information on the governor's executive orders, filing for unemployment, and more.



#### FREEDOM FOUNDATION (PENNSYLVANIA) • [freedomfoundation.com](https://freedomfoundation.com)

In February 2020, Freedom Foundation opened operations in its fifth state, Pennsylvania, with a press conference at the Pennsylvania Capitol. **Freedom Foundation (Pennsylvania)** hired an outreach coordinator, who immediately began putting together outreach teams and obtaining lists for mailings. In March, Freedom Foundation hired a full-time state director to build up its operations in Pennsylvania. Freedom Foundation also sent a letter to the state's governor, calling for a three-month moratorium on government union dues deductions from public employee paychecks. Stopping union dues deductions for just three months would return \$63 million to the employees who earned it, allowing Pennsylvanians to have more money to spend on bills, lightening the economic burden across the state.



---

## RHODE ISLAND

#### RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR FREEDOM & PROSPERITY • [rifreedom.org](https://rifreedom.org)

The **Rhode Island Center for Freedom & Prosperity** published a suite of policy recommendations that can support small businesses suffering from the negative economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Reforms included freezing all taxes at current levels, temporarily reducing Rhode Island's minimum wage to the federal level of \$7.25 per hour, and temporarily extending the deadlines for businesses to remit collected sales taxes to the state. In March 2020, the Center launched RI Women for Freedom & Prosperity, an initiative to empower and give voice to the silent majority of pro-liberty women in Rhode Island. Former Rhode Island Tea Party president, Susan Wynne, is the chair of the group. Learn more at [RIWomenForFreedom.org](https://RIWomenForFreedom.org).



---

## SOUTH CAROLINA

#### PALMETTO PROMISE INSTITUTE • [palmettopromise.org](https://palmettopromise.org)

As COVID-19 spread, **Palmetto Promise Institute** noticed a dangerous level of confusion in two critical areas of pandemic preparedness and care: Telemedicine and certificate-of-need (CON) hospital bed limitations. Other states were acting, but what about South Carolina? Could physicians licensed in other states have the freedom to see patients by phone and through video portals in the Palmetto State? Could hospitals bound by arcane CON bed limits have the freedom to exceed that limit if they were overrun with patients? There were no ready answers, and certainly no written directives, so Palmetto Promise raised these questions on March 16, 2020. A few days later, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster acted, issuing an executive order that directed that Department of Health & Environmental Control to waive CON restrictions on beds. The same day, South Carolina's Department of Health & Human Services, following federal initiatives, expanded access to telemedicine. Palmetto Promise is hopeful that the temporary freedoms born and enjoyed during the coronavirus pandemic will continue after the outbreak has passed.





---

## TENNESSEE

**BEACON CENTER OF TENNESSEE** • [beacontn.org](https://beacontn.org)

From the recent tornadoes that ravaged many of Tennessee's communities to the coronavirus and related economic fallout, the **Beacon Center of Tennessee** and its supporters have had a great deal on their minds. In response to the coronavirus challenge, Beacon compiled resources on a dedicated COVID-19 response page on its website, including 20 solutions to protect public health in the short-run and ensure that Tennesseans have a job to go back to when the crisis passes. In addition, Beacon has made a point to find the good and praise it. Beacon is sharing uplifting articles on social media, spending time on their podcast talking about ways to find joy, and creating entertaining and informative videos each week. Elected officials across the political spectrum, statewide media outlets, national partners, and supporters recognized and praised Beacon's work on coronavirus. Throughout this crisis and the rebuilding that will follow, Beacon has positioned itself as the organization that government officials look to for solutions and Tennesseans look to for hope.

---

## TEXAS

**TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION** • [texaspolicy.com](https://texaspolicy.com)

As COVID-19 threw the world into disarray, the **Texas Public Policy Foundation** published a response agenda with 10 recommendations for Congress and the Texas Legislature. These recommendations include cutting the payroll tax, overhauling the Food and Drug Administration, and eliminating regulations not necessary for public health and safety. Additionally, TPPF launched a podcast titled "The Road to Recovery," where TPPF experts discuss the most pressing issues related to healthcare, the economy, education, and local regulations through the lens of COVID-19. TPPF is hosting virtual events every week to stay connected to its supporter base, as well as weekly tele-town halls with donors. These events have featured discussions on rebuilding the American economy and best practices for learning at home. Between March 15 and April 9, 2020, TPPF has released five research papers, sent 18 press releases, and published 32 op-eds. As the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic reshapes American life, TPPF is steadfast in its commitment to provide common-sense policy solutions for Texans and America.

---

## UTAH

**LIBERTAS INSTITUTE** • [libertasutah.org](https://libertasutah.org)

COVID-19 has illuminated the need for deregulation across a wide range of industries so that the free market can function—and people can better help one another. **Libertas Institute** has been pushing for regulatory sandboxes to create a mechanism whereby the state can reduce or waive regulations for a wide range of industries and policies. Regulatory sandboxes are unique legal classifications that create space for regulators to temporarily freeze regulations and criminal penalties for a defined time period. Libertas just secured a sandbox for the insurance industry, and now they are pursuing the vision of an industry-agnostic sandbox that allows any business owner to comply with lower regulations in order to serve the market more quickly and affordably.



## SUTHERLAND INSTITUTE • [sutherlandinstitute.org](https://sutherlandinstitute.org)

**Sutherland Institute** is informing policymakers, Utah citizens, and the Network on how COVID-19 will impact education, healthcare, the economy, and religious freedom. The Institute is examining changes to healthcare, including expanding telemedicine and drive-up testing stations. If the pandemic leads states and the federal government to embrace more market-driven healthcare policies, then innovations will lead to improved healthcare for everyone. Analysis of unemployment numbers in Utah also underscored two important economic lessons the state's future will depend on: (1) policymakers' civic understanding of effective crisis governance in a representative government, and (2) policymakers' ability to correctly perceive the breadth and depth of Utahns' economic concerns. The Institute's president, Rick B. Larsen, also provided critical analysis in *The American Conservative*, pointing out that, when government expands in crisis, history shows it stays that way after the crisis is over. Americans need leaders committed to the principles of liberty and a version of power described in the Constitution—representatives who possess an affection for freedom and who will lead with an insistence that the people and nation come first.



## VERMONT

### ETHAN ALLEN INSTITUTE • [ethanallen.org](https://ethanallen.org)

The response to COVID-19 has had some positive outcomes for free-market policies, and the **Ethan Allen Institute** is preparing to make sure policymakers don't throw the good out with the bad when this crisis passes. For example, the Vermont Legislature eased excessive regulations in the health and insurance sectors that drive up costs and restrict access in this time of pandemic. The emergency measures end six months after the emergency, but they should be retained. From the perspective of government transparency, the new policy of livestreaming and archiving video of committee discussions and "floor" debate should also be retained. Conversely, the crisis has stalled some truly misguided ideas such as the Transportation Climate Initiative and the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act. Not popular outside the statehouse to begin with, there is little appetite right now for higher taxes and restrictions on economic activity, though advocates of these policies are reluctant to let them go.



## VIRGINIA

### THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • [thomasjeffersoninst.org](https://thomasjeffersoninst.org)

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the **Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy** focused first on driving home solutions that would accelerate Virginia's economic recovery. In several media outlets across the state, including op-eds in *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *The Roanoke Times*, the Institute urged policymakers to ease healthcare regulations and veto legislation that discourages work. Working with a coalition of 24 trade associations representing thousands of Virginia small businesses, the Institute and the coalition presented specific recommendations to veto or delay enactment of a dozen bills that would negatively affect the job market. The governor delayed the enactment of eight of those bills, including legislation that would have increased the minimum wage. Although the governor delayed the bills for only four months, it was enough to debate their wisdom in next year's legislative session and work for repeal. The Institute also expanded its reach by publishing a short column outlining six ways ordinary Virginians can keep cash flowing for small, locally owned businesses during the pandemic.





#### **VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY • [virginia institute.org](http://virginia institute.org)**

The Virginia Governor has signed into law nearly all of the **Virginia Institute for Public Policy's** initial telehealth priorities, and several more have been federally permitted during the current COVID-19 health crisis. Three years ago, the Virginia Institute and its coalition members started a discussion on policies that expand access to healthcare in the Commonwealth, and those policies are allowing Virginia's healthcare system to better weather the current storm of the coronavirus. Furthermore, certificate-of-need laws were loosened in the state, galvanizing significant discussion about whether these burdensome laws are necessary at all. Moving forward, the Virginia Institute's top priority will be to remove certificate-of-need laws permanently. Finally, the Institute and its partners are leveraging every corner of their networks to push the state to call for a re-enactment of every piece of legislation passed in 2020 that would increase state spending or increase taxes or regulations on Virginians.

---

## **WASHINGTON**



#### **FREEDOM FOUNDATION (WASHINGTON) • [freedomfoundation.com](http://freedomfoundation.com)**

The **Freedom Foundation (Washington)** filed three lawsuits in Washington against government unions for forging signatures on membership cards in order to take dues from public employee paychecks. To date, Freedom Foundation has filed 12 forgery cases against public sector unions in Washington, Oregon, and California, including an ongoing Washington case that was partially settled by the defending union for \$28,000 in 2019. In March, Freedom Foundation sent a letter to Washington's governor, calling for a three-month moratorium on government union dues deductions from public employee paychecks. Stopping union dues deductions for three months would return nearly \$60 million to the employees who earned it, lightening the economic burden on Washingtonians during COVID-19. In addition, Freedom Foundation won an important victory for taxpayers when the state Supreme Court refused to hear arguments by the Seattle City Council, which wanted to institute a city income tax, even though the state constitution clearly prohibits one. The Freedom Foundation filed one of several lawsuits to stop the city.



#### **WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER • [washingtonpolicy.org](http://washingtonpolicy.org)**

The **Washington Policy Center** published a one-stop page for COVID-19-related policy recommendations. The suggested public policies will not only strengthen Washington's healthcare infrastructure but improve economic growth and work opportunities for all Washingtonians. After Washington Governor Jay Inslee issued an executive order to respond to the coronavirus, WPC submitted a public records request and learned the governor excluded residential construction from essential services at the last minute. Additionally, WPC's Center for the Environment studied data on air quality and found that despite claims to the contrary, COVID-19 has not been environmentally friendly. Finally, WPC continues to urge the state to give education dollars to parents to assist in online learning and exposed the problems with Seattle giving all high school students A's or incompletes.

---

## WISCONSIN

### **BADGER INSTITUTE** • [badgerinstitute.org](https://badgerinstitute.org)

In February 2020, the **Badger Institute** published a story on Meggan Thompson, a clinical social worker who practiced her profession for 12 years in California before moving with her family to Wisconsin for a better quality of life. Despite having a master's degree from the University of Southern California and years of professional experience, Thompson struggled with Wisconsin bureaucracy for more than a year just to secure a temporary social work license. The Badger Institute and Thompson testified before a state Senate committee on reforms that would streamline the licensing process. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Badger advanced several policy reforms to improve public health and promote economic recovery. Badger's recommendations included implementing licensing reciprocity, expanding telemedicine, allowing for more hospital beds, removing a law that drives up prescription drug costs, preventing the spread of disease within the corrections system, and safeguarding against wasteful spending. Badger partnered with the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, the MacIver Institute, and Americans for Prosperity Wisconsin to form the Wisconsin Free-Market Coalition which advanced policy reforms and hosted online events during the coronavirus.



### **MACIVER INSTITUTE** • [maciverinstitute.com](https://maciverinstitute.com)

The **MacIver Institute** joined the Badger Institute, Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, and Americans for Prosperity Wisconsin to form a free-market coalition and publish policy reforms to address the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, the Wisconsin Legislature passed a bipartisan coronavirus response package that included policy reforms recommended by this coalition. The legislation includes license reciprocity and the expansion of scope-of-practice, among other reforms. MacIver is also continuing to provide commentary on the Wisconsin Governor's shutdown orders and how they are impacting the economy.



### **WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR LAW & LIBERTY** • [will-law.org](https://will-law.org)

When the coronavirus descended on Wisconsin, the **Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty**'s policy and legal teams sprang into action to address the needs and concerns related to the crisis. WILL's legal team defended the civil liberties of churches that sought to hold drive-up services on Easter weekend, educated the public on the emergency powers of the Wisconsin governor, and stood up to local law enforcement when they attempted to use the crisis to threaten a teen over a social media post. WILL's education researchers issued a brief on the CARES Act and how it applies to K-12 education and told the stories of private and charter schools helping their students, families, and communities. In addition, WILL's policy team made the case for easing occupational licensing regulations on medical professionals and partnered with free-market groups to provide policy solutions to help workers and the economy weather the crisis and eventually recover.





### 1889 INSTITUTE

#### 1889 INSTITUTE • 1889Institute.org

The **1889 Institute** wrote a series of blog posts critical of the government's response to the coronavirus crisis. During the last few months, the Oklahoma Legislature introduced bills based on 1889's past policy recommendations—on issues such as occupational licensing, court reform, and limiting school district size. The 1889 Institute published several policy papers, including one critical of private investigator licensing and one critical of the "food desert" concept, a term used to describe an area with insufficient access to fresh groceries, especially if it has a high proportion of lower-income residents. The 1889 Institute also released a 50-state tax and spending comparison and a critique of the American Bar Association law school accreditation. In January, 1889 submitted an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court supporting freedom from mandatory bar membership requirements in *Fleck v. Wetch*.



#### AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE • aei.org

Good public policy is essential to slow the spread of the coronavirus and help the American economy recover. **American Enterprise Institute** scholars are equipping the nation's leaders with the facts they need to make policy decisions that will keep Americans safe and help the economy and most vulnerable citizens through this crisis. AEI scholars are providing research and recommendations daily, actively shaping policymakers' views, and motivating them to take sound steps to mitigate the effects of this unprecedented challenge. AEI Resident Scholar and former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb established an early reputation as the preeminent expert on the national response to COVID-19, and he has continued to develop actionable recommendations for how Americans can safely end social distancing restrictions. In late March, Dr. Gottlieb and a team of leading health experts released an important report, "A Road Map to Reopening," outlining critical steps to control the pandemic, as well as the milestones necessary to safely reopen the country.



#### AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION • americasfuture.org

With the advent of the COVID-19 crisis and social distancing efforts, **America's Future Foundation** has shifted gears to adapt to a pandemic-stricken, virtual world. AFF chapters have continued to host events digitally, bringing a much-needed voice for liberty to cities across the country that are seeing increasing government control. AFF-Raleigh partnered with the Civitas Institute to explore North Carolina's response to the crisis. AFF-Nashville hosted an award-winning music producer, whose home studio had previously been shut down, to discuss the future of home businesses. AFF-New Orleans hosted a local bartender to lead a virtual quarantine cocktail-making happy hour. In addition, AFF has engaged young professionals from all corners of the US through national webinars on vital issues such as deregulation measures, the national economic impact of the crisis and the government's response, and what the crisis teaches about the American healthcare system. These webinars featured speakers from the Illinois Policy Institute, R Street Institute, O'Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom, The Heritage Foundation, and more.



#### AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL • alec.org

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the **American Legislative Exchange Council** immediately provided public health communications to its members and partners. ALEC released 30 policy solutions that empower states, localities, job creators, civic institutions, and individuals to handle this crisis and get the economy moving again. Social distancing means more people are at home. So, to reach people where they are, ALEC amped up their digital

content, including the ALEC podcast “Across the States.” Episodes on solutions to respond to COVID-19 have featured Newt Gingrich on getting Americans back to work, K12 Inc. on virtual learning during the pandemic, and local decision-makers with American City Council Exchange (ACCE), an ALEC sister organization. ALEC also created a public playlist, “State Audio Resources: COVID-19,” which highlights conference calls and other audio information from ALEC experts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, ALEC has hosted virtual meetings to continue its convening role, bringing the public and private sectors together to develop state-based solutions.

---

#### ARCHBRIDGE INSTITUTE • [archbridgeinstitute.org](http://archbridgeinstitute.org)

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the **Archbridge Institute** has continued to focus on ways to increase opportunities for upward social mobility and human flourishing, with a particular focus on the power of hard work and creativity. As America faces an unprecedented challenge, Archbridge Institute President and CEO Gonzalo Schwarz offered a timely reminder that the world’s greatest asset in the struggle to combat the coronavirus is human ingenuity. Echoing the great economist Julian Simon, Schwarz highlighted how our innate capacity to come together and solve big problems through entrepreneurship and innovation is already being harnessed to meet this current challenge. Continuing with that theme, business historian and Archbridge board member Gary Hoover published a new series, “American Originals,” highlighting the stories of those who charted their own paths, overcame barriers, and achieved a better life for themselves and those around them by embracing personal responsibility, hard work, and an entrepreneurial spirit.



---

#### ATLAS NETWORK • [atlasnetwork.org](http://atlasnetwork.org)

With the goal of saving lives, **Atlas Network** and its 510 partner organizations are promoting responses to COVID-19’s challenges based on evidence, proper public health measures, and sound economic principles. This approach includes defending free enterprise and wealth creation, without which people are helpless in the face of this and future crises. Atlas is focused on restraining governments from exercising powers unrelated to the crisis. In response to the evolving health and safety challenges related to the spread of the disease, Atlas Network has launched grant support for COVID-19. The COVID-19 Partner Response Fund will prioritize projects that apply sound economic principles to mobilize voluntary responses and maintain a limited, constitutional government. Learn more at [atlasnetwork.org](http://atlasnetwork.org).



---

#### BECKET • [becketlaw.org](http://becketlaw.org)

With four cases before the US Supreme Court this year, **Becket** is not slowing down. These cases address issues that speak to all aspects of First Amendment freedoms: Do religious K-12 schools have the right to choose who is qualified to pass on the faith? Is it legal for the government to mandate the Little Sisters of the Poor to dispense abortion-causing drugs? Can the City of Philadelphia shut down Catholic adoption and foster care services because of their religious beliefs about marriage? Becket is also on the frontlines protecting ministries from the hand of government during the coronavirus pandemic. Whether it’s the government stimulus bill or mandates to shelter in place, Becket is carefully watching these regulations for an opportunity to check government power. In addition to Becket’s legal work, the organization is taking extra time to reach out to clients, donors, and allies to see how they are doing and to offer prayers and supplies. Becket delivered electronic tablets to the Little Sisters of the Poor home in Washington, DC, so that their residents could stay in touch with their loved ones.





---

**BENJAMIN RUSH INSTITUTE** • [benjaminrushinstitute.org](http://benjaminrushinstitute.org)

The medical student members of **Benjamin Rush Institute** find themselves in the most unique of positions during the COVID-19 pandemic. With medical schools closed throughout the country, many students are completing their academic years online. Others who are already in clinicals are being called to do telemedicine triage. And others have been asked to graduate early or are in residency in intensive care units and emergency rooms in the most highly impacted areas of this pandemic. BRI is proud to represent these frontline heroes. BRI adjusted the delivery of its program and events to the online world in order to continue fulfilling its mission. BRI's first event discussed the recent changes in medical licensing exams to a pass/fail format. BRI has subsequently held small group discussions with students about licensure reciprocity and the future of telemedicine. For BRI, the pandemic presents an opportunity to further its mission to promote the doctor-patient relationship as the primary means of delivering the highest quality healthcare.



---

**CENTENNIAL INSTITUTE** • [ccu.edu/centennial](http://ccu.edu/centennial)

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the **Centennial Institute's** focus from group events to webinars. Centennial Institute offered a series of webinars to share timely information with its network. Webinar topics included: Educating Your Children Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic with Dr. Debora Scheffel, dean of education at Colorado Christian University (CCU); Nursing on the Frontlines of COVID-19 with Dr. Barbara White, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions at CCU; Home Emergency Preparedness: 10 steps to Mitigate Unlikely Worst-case Scenarios with Yinon Weiss, a serial entrepreneur who has raised \$20M in venture capital for his startups; and Legal Considerations for Coronavirus Guidance and Church Gatherings with Theresa Sidebotham and Nicole Hunt from Telios Law.



---

**CITIZENS' COUNCIL FOR HEALTH FREEDOM** • [cchfreedom.org](http://cchfreedom.org)

As more Americans are affected by COVID-19, **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom** is dedicated to serving as a resource during these uncertain times. CCHF published weekly Facebook Live presentations and added a COVID-19 resource page to its online Patient Toolbox ([PatientToolbox.org](http://PatientToolbox.org)). This useful hub provides users with real-time assistance as they deal with coercive situations in the exam room, try to maintain control over their medical information, and deal with the physical realities of coronavirus. The new COVID-19 page includes information on prevention, testing, and treatment. CCHF is also pursuing the elimination of REAL ID, the controversial card mandated after September 11, 2001. Our April 2, 2020, letter to President Trump thanked him for extending the enforcement deadline to October 1, 2021. However, CCHF requested the president use his executive authority to discontinue all enforcement of REAL ID—and move to rescind its rules, deadlines, and penalties. CCHF reminded the president that the REAL ID Act violates the 10th Amendment and infringes on states' rights.



---

**COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE** • [cei.org](http://cei.org)

Initial COVID-19 relief bills passed by Congress focused on keeping businesses and households afloat during pandemic-related closures, but government at all levels should do more to eliminate regulations that worsen the situation and harm recovery efforts. A report from the **Competitive Enterprise Institute**, "How Repeal of #NeverNeeded Regulations Can Help Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis," offers a blueprint for the administration, Congress, and the states to take action. For more information, visit [neverneeded.cei.org](http://neverneeded.cei.org).

---

**DONORSTRUST • donorstrust.org**

While the outbreak of COVID-19 created a health crisis, our country now faces an economic crisis that will linger past containing the disease. The Growth and Resilience Project is a program at **DonorsTrust** meant to serve as a rapid funding catalyst for projects focused on the key areas of policy needed to get America back on its feet. These areas include employment and job creation; economic deregulation; reducing barriers to entry, especially in education and healthcare; and countering narratives to crisis intervention and government overreach. Grants will range from \$5,000-\$50,000. Priority is given to projects that are scalable, practical, and targeted with national and not just regional implications. Further information—both for potential donors to the project and potential grantees—is available at [donorstrust.org/resilience](https://donorstrust.org/resilience).



---

**EXCEL/NED • excelined.org**

As the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 affect our nation, **ExcelinEd** is committed to serving education leaders and policymakers with timely and useful information so they can support students in the best ways possible. The organization has created an online map and database with state-by-state updates on actions that education systems in response to COVID-19. This timely information can help education leaders stay abreast of activities and state-level decisions across the nation. ExcelinEd is also gathering and promoting state education innovations and resources that are meeting the needs of students affected by school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit [ExcelinEd.org/COVID-19](https://ExcelinEd.org/COVID-19) for more information.



---

**EDCHOICE • edchoice.org**

Policymakers, experts, and advocates have promoted many different types of education reform over the past few decades, but what is the evidence about the efficacy of these programs? **EdChoice** partnered with Hanover Research to find out what research has been conducted in nine major education reform areas focusing on outcomes related to student achievement or education attainment. Learn more at [edchoice.org](https://edchoice.org).



---

**FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY • freopp.org**

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated quick policy change to protect public health and to mitigate the effects on the US economy. As policymakers work to ensure that hospitals have the right equipment and drugs to treat patients, many are also taking a hard look at how we manufacture these supplies. The **Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity** (FREOPP) is guiding members of Congress who are working on legislation to incentivize pharmaceutical drug companies to bring Chinese manufacturing back to the US territory of Puerto Rico. This would not only decrease our country's reliance on China for drugs, but it would also spur job growth in Puerto Rico. As FREOPP President Avik Roy writes in *National Review*, there are 104 different COVID-19 treatments currently in preclinical or clinical studies. As therapies emerge from the clinical trials underway, American pharmaceutical companies are smart to reconsider where they manufacture these drugs. For more information on FREOPP's response to COVID-19, visit [freopp.org](https://freopp.org).





---

#### FREE STATE FOUNDATION • [freestatefoundation.org](https://freestatefoundation.org)

During the COVID-19 crisis, **Free State Foundation** scholars have been highlighting the importance of robust and ubiquitous broadband networks to individuals and businesses. Free State Foundation explained why the Federal Communications Commission's repeal of the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules and other costly legacy regulations in favor of free-market policies has been important in stimulating the investment and innovation that has enabled most broadband networks to perform well during the crisis, even as internet traffic surged. In March, FSF held its 12th Annual Telecom Policy Conference. The theme was "Broadband Beyond 2020: Competition, Freedom, and Privacy." Keynote speakers included Jeffrey Rosen, deputy attorney general of the United States; FCC Chairman Ajit Pai; FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly; Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Christine Wilson; and Special Assistant to President Trump, Robin Colwell.



---

#### INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE • [independent.org](https://independent.org)

The **Independent Institute** created a website devoted to all of Independent's scholarly articles about the coronavirus pandemic. The site is updated with the latest analysis of the government and private response to the crisis. From the protection of Second Amendment rights to private enterprise solutions, it's the go-to site for thoughtful insights based on personal liberty and human dignity. Early in the pandemic, Independent Senior Vice President Mary L. G. Theroux and Executive Director Graham Walker recorded a video warning about government overreaction to the crisis, which creates enormous social and economic hardships far greater than the pandemic itself. Government's expansion during the crisis has once again made relevant the ideas of Independent Institute Senior Fellow Robert Higgs, author of the book *Crisis and Leviathan*, which explains the growth of government during times of crisis.



---

#### INSTITUTE FOR FREE SPEECH • [ifs.org](https://ifs.org)

In this unprecedented time, the **Institute for Free Speech** remains vigilant in defending Americans' free speech rights from government overreach. As negotiations unfolded in Congress on a response to the outbreak, House leadership released a 1,400+ page bill purporting to respond to the pandemic. Buried in that legislation were two provisions wresting First Amendment freedoms from anyone receiving federal aid. In response, IFS released a detailed analysis explaining why the provisions would be unconstitutional. The first provision would have conditioned the acceptance of federal aid by businesses on a handful of unconstitutional restrictions, including a prohibition on their ability to lobby the government until all such aid was repaid. The draft bill also would have required any publicly traded corporation receiving COVID-19 assistance to permanently report its giving to nonprofits and membership in trade associations in quarterly public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This mandate would have chilled speech and threatened the financial health of trade associations and causes disfavored by those in power. Fortunately, due to backlash from IFS and others, these provisions weren't included in the final legislation passed by Congress.



---

#### INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE • [ij.org](https://ij.org)

Thanks to the quick thinking of the **Institute for Justice's** Clinic on Entrepreneurship in Chicago, IJ launched "Shop in Place Chicago," a directory of local, essential businesses still operating throughout the Windy City. The free website empowering the city's small business owners and entrepreneurs accumulated tens of thousands of views in its inaugural week, and now has nearly 400 businesses listed. Given its success, IJ created a sister site to serve the DC area, aptly named "Shop in Place DC," listing over 150 businesses. Additionally, IJ has



continued to fight for increased accountability for government officials with IJ's new Project on Immunity and Accountability. IJ has filed a number of cert petitions to the US Supreme Court in honor of this initiative, including two on behalf of families whose homes were destroyed by their local police. IJ also filed on behalf of James King, an innocent college student misidentified by plain-clothed police and beaten unconscious. Instead of owning their mistakes, authorities charged King with felonies to protect the officers. The US Supreme Court agreed to hear a case involving the assault on James and its aftermath, and it will consider whether to provide the government yet another tool to shield its agents from accountability.

---

#### INTERCOLLEGIATE STUDIES INSTITUTE • [isi.org](http://isi.org)

As a result of the COVID-19 national emergency, **Intercollegiate Studies Institute** cancelled all of its student conferences and on-campus events for the spring. However, as an organization, ISI remains more active than ever, responding to this crisis by moving all in-person programming to online webinars. Webinar topics have included "The Rise of the Administrative State," "National Security and Just War," "Start the Presses," and "Should we Limit Free Speech?" to name a few. Each of these events was open to students on college campuses across the country, as well as faculty and alumni. ISI has also updated its extensive online lecture library. Students can now watch or listen to the most influential conservative thinkers of the past 70 years, including legendary figures like Russell Kirk, William F. Buckley Jr., F.A. Hayek, Ross Douthat, Peter Thiel, and Sir Roger Scruton. ISI's *Intercollegiate Review* and *Modern Age* also continue to expose students to the best of intellectual conservatism, with both publications exploring topics from humane economics and philosophy to politics and culture.



INTERCOLLEGIATE  
STUDIES INSTITUTE

think. live free.™

---

#### JAMES G. MARTIN CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RENEWAL • [jamesgmartin.center](http://jamesgmartin.center)

The coronavirus pandemic has shaken all sectors of American life, and higher education is no exception. Since early March, the **James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal** has tracked campus closures on an interactive map and published several articles chronicling the virus's impact on colleges and universities. One of the Martin Center's first articles captured the chaos students and faculty experienced during the massive mid-March shift to online learning. Managing editor Anthony Hennen examined how campus shutdowns compelled many policymakers to refund students for housing and dining services. Political economist Robert Wright theorized that online learning could spur much-needed pedagogical reforms and argued that coronavirus-induced financial constraints could, in the end, produce more efficient and student-centered education. The most recent article, by President Jenna A. Robinson, commends university researchers for their work on COVID-19. In her closing, Robinson reminds higher education leaders that "a university's true value lies at its academic core. It is not a sports franchise, a real estate developer, or a social club. At its best, a university is a wellspring of ideas, an edifice of knowledge."



---

#### JUDICIAL WATCH • [judicialwatch.org](http://judicialwatch.org)

Judge Royce Lamberth, a senior judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, granted **Judicial Watch's** request to depose former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding her email scandal and Benghazi attack documents. The court also ordered the deposition of Clinton's former Chief of Staff, Cheryl Mills, and two other State Department officials. Additionally, the State Department and Department of Justice filed responses opposing Clinton and Mills' writ of mandamus request to overturn the order requiring testimony under oath. Judicial Watch also filed a lawsuit against North Carolina and two of its counties for failing to clean their voter rolls. North Carolina has nearly one million inactive voters on its rolls. Judicial Watch is the national leader in enforcing the National Voter Registration Act, sending letters to counties in California, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Colorado urging them to clean up their voter rolls.





---

#### MERCATUS CENTER AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY • [mercatus.org](https://mercatus.org)

The **Mercatus Center at George Mason University** mobilized researchers and philanthropists to promote ideas needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, Mercatus launched a \$1.2 million prize fund to reward innovative ideas to fight the virus. The first and second cohort of winners included medical experts, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Building on this momentum, Mercatus created a new venture fund, Fast Grants, to provide scientific funding to individuals and labs affiliated with academic organizations. As of May 1, 2020, Fast Grants raised over \$18 million and dispensed much of it in two weeks. In addition, the Mercatus Center called for papers on the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mercatus received over 40 short policy briefs on topics such as the cost of COVID-19 on the US economy and regulatory reforms needed to treat patients.



---

#### NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK FOUNDATION • [nrtw.org](https://nrtw.org)

**National Right to Work Foundation** staff attorneys are continuing to litigate more than 100 ongoing cases and provide free legal representation for workers across the country seeking to stand up to union coercion. In March, while states were issuing lockdowns and shelter-in-place orders, Foundation staff attorneys fielded more than 130 new requests for free legal aid. Meanwhile, the Foundation continues to enforce the *Janus v. AFSCME* decision, which Foundation staff attorney Bill Messenger argued at the United States Supreme Court in 2018. With assistance from the Foundation and the Liberty Justice Center, Mark Janus asked the US Supreme Court to hear the continuation of his case, in which he seeks a refund of \$3,000 in dues seized from his paycheck. If successful, Janus' case would serve as a precedent that public school teachers, police officers, firefighters, and civil servants are entitled to refunds of unconstitutionally seized union dues.



---

#### PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION • [pacificlegal.org](https://pacificlegal.org)

During the coronavirus pandemic, **Pacific Legal Foundation** continues to litigate against government abuses of power. PLF is particularly focused on advancing cases against certificate-of-need laws blocking increased ambulance capacity in Kentucky and against California's war on freelancers and independent contractors—many of whom have lost full-time employment as a result of COVID containment measures. Additionally, PLF launched its post-COVID "Roadmap to Recovery" policy brief. The brief outlines state and federal policy reforms that will unleash the productive power of the private sector, including liberating the health-care system, embracing and empowering entrepreneurs, expanding opportunity through property rights, and implementing structural reforms to get government out of the way.



---

#### PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH CENTER • [perc.org](https://perc.org)

The **Property and Environment Research Center** is dedicated to improving environmental quality through property rights and markets amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Environmental tourism has decreased dramatically due to the pandemic, resulting in a decline in conservation funding. PERC research is exploring how market approaches and a reduction of burdensome regulations can diversify and strengthen conservation funding to recover from the current downturn. For example, the decline in international tourism has reduced the resources available for counter-poaching in Africa. *The New York Times* quoted PERC Research Fellow Catherine Semcer on how diversifying the sources of revenue that support wildlife conservation can help address current and future problems. Similar financial challenges are facing natural resource conservation issues in the United States, and PERC remains committed to advocating for market tools, such as user-fees and private investment.

---

#### R STREET INSTITUTE • [rstreet.org](http://rstreet.org)

The **R Street Institute** has shifted much of its focus to responding to COVID-19 policy implications. When the crisis began, R Street quickly realized its work on occupational licensing, zoning, criminal justice reform, and telehealth is all relevant at this time. Medical regulatory reforms, including opening access to telehealth, allowing doctors to work across state lines, and expanding nurse and pharmacist scope-of-practice is vital to increasing access to care right now. Certificate-of-need (CON) law reform can help increase the number of hospital beds, but CON law reforms will be most helpful for future pandemics. R Street has focused on how to help the beverage and restaurant industries at a time when people can't eat out, and has emphasized why home delivery matters. Additionally, R Street's criminal justice scholars have addressed cash bail, policing, and immigrant detention centers in the time of coronavirus. For more of R Street's work on the implications of COVID-19, please visit [rstreet.org](http://rstreet.org).



---

#### THE BEACON HILL INSTITUTE • [beaconhill.org](http://beaconhill.org)

The **Beacon Hill Institute** published a study on the proposed Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI). The TCI is a multistate initiative to curb carbon emissions through a gas tax. Beacon Hill found that under this measure, the cost of gasoline would increase by 26 cents per gallon while the cost of diesel fuel, upon which our trucking industry depends, would increase by 52 cents. In turn, the TCI would destroy nearly 10,000 private sector jobs. To put a finer point on it: Every family would face an additional \$800 in taxes—and all to no positive effect. As Director of Research William Burke wrote in *CommonWealth Magazine*, “While being a climate leader is considered important, the massive costs incurred by taxpayers under the Initiative will do little to reverse or slow anthropocentric climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions.”



---

#### THE COLLEGE FIX • [thecollegefix.com](http://thecollegefix.com)

The flagship news website of the Student Free Press Association, **The College Fix**, experienced the most page views of its entire 10-year history with its COVID-19 news coverage. The College Fix attracted more than 7 million-page views in the span of one month. The College Fix is also leading the way in chronicling how the pandemic and its economic impact is starting to burst the higher education bubble. College Fix's articles on how universities are scrambling to survive have been widely shared, becoming fodder for experts and pundits alike. College Fix will continue to report on how administrators may not be able to maintain their bloated budgets and how funding priorities are reshaped. College Fix's investigative reports also continue to raise important flags. For example, College Fix exposed how the prestigious \$30,000 federal Truman Scholarship, which is supposed to be bipartisan, is given almost exclusively to students who identify as Democrats and progressives.

#### **THE COLLEGE FIX**

---

#### THE FUND FOR AMERICAN STUDIES • [tfas.org](http://tfas.org)

The **Fund for American Studies** is committed to providing more digital content as COVID-19 closes doors to traditional classrooms. As part of that effort, TFAS is proud to announce the “Liberty + Leadership” podcast. The first episode, “Fighting COVID-19 with Free-Market Principles,” features a timely 16-minute discussion with economist and TFAS Academic Director Anne Bradley on how the power of the market can be unleashed to fight COVID-19. Dr. Bradley breaks down how policymakers can use economic principles to understand and confront this crisis. Dr. Bradley considers what the private sector and governments should and should not be doing to boost the economy and how deregulations, businesses, and individuals are providing aid.





---

#### THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION • [heritage.org](https://heritage.org)

Performing timely, accurate research on key policy issues has always been the mission of **The Heritage Foundation**. That's why Heritage launched a digital library featuring ongoing coronavirus solutions. It's also why Heritage launched The National Coronavirus Recovery Commission with a goal to save the lives and livelihoods of millions impacted by this virus. The commission, comprised of top experts in medicine, economics, business, education, national security, government, humanitarian relief and human behavior, delivered recommendations to decision-makers at the highest levels of government and influenced the national conversation. As always, Heritage benefitted from valuable engagement with its SPN colleagues. Heritage discussed the potential impacts of federal legislation, the re-opening of respective states, and the heroic effort of state think tanks to resist a Washington bailout—guiding the conversation instead towards a re-prioritization and cutting of budgets, and to innovating and de-regulating economies to liberate individuals and the private sector.



---

#### THE JESSE HELMS CENTER • [jessehelscenter.org](https://jessehelscenter.org)

**The Jesse Helms Center** got off to a strong start in 2020—continuing its annual Jesse Helms Lecture at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, featuring Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Kay Bailey Hutchison. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has put an unprecedented amount of effort into growing its online entrepreneurship curriculum, Free Enterprise Now®. The program allows students and parents to learn about the free enterprise system. In addition to Jesse Helms' normal social media marketing, the organization has embarked on two major marketing campaigns in order to reach students and teachers. Jesse Helms also has a new complimentary poster series available for download on their website and a new video series that gives instruction on how to lead through a crisis. Free Enterprise Now® is more important than ever, as it will be the best economic system to get America back on its feet.



---

#### THE POLICY CIRCLE • [thepolicycircle.org](https://thepolicycircle.org)

At this critical juncture in our country's history, **The Policy Circle** remains steadfast in their commitment to inform, inspire, and develop civic leaders. With a focus on the economic impact of policy and responding to the needs of Policy Circle members, The Policy Circle developed a series of virtual programs called "Move the Needle Digital Experiences." These events provide an opportunity for Policy Circle members and partners to connect and cover timely topics with experts and policy leaders. Typically, these virtual experiences are only available to financial supporters of The Policy Circle. During this time of crisis, however, the organization has made these valuable resources available network-wide. Special guests have included Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, American Enterprise Institute's Tim Carney, and Congresswoman Susan Brooks. If you are interested in being invited to these unique programming opportunities, please contact Nicole Cline at [ncline@thepolicycircle.org](mailto:ncline@thepolicycircle.org).



---

#### THINK FREELY MEDIA • [thinkfreelymedia.com](https://thinkfreelymedia.com)

**Think Freely Media's** project American+Will is dedicated to telling the stories of entrepreneurs who overcame challenges to build successful businesses. When COVID-19 hit, Think Freely Media pivoted to creating photojournalism-style stories that highlight how entrepreneurs are adapting to meet the changing needs of their clients, communities, and respective industries. One featured entrepreneur, Walter Gugenberger, developed a mobile app that will help keep food trucks afloat by allowing customers to order remotely. He was set

to launch his app when COVID-19 hit, then adjusted his plans to allow food trucks to use it for free. Think Freely Media is running ads to promote these stories in Detroit, an area especially hard-hit by the pandemic. In under a week, Think Freely reached over 10,000 Michiganders. Learn more at [americanwill.com](http://americanwill.com).

---

#### TRUTH IN ACCOUNTING • [truthinaccounting.org](http://truthinaccounting.org)

In April, **Truth in Accounting** released its annual “Financial State of the Union” report. This report is a comprehensive analysis of the 2019 Financial Report of the United States Government, which was published on February 27, 2020. Truth in Accounting’s report shows that the financial condition of the United States worsened by \$8 trillion in 2019. It presents the true financial condition of the federal government right before the coronavirus crisis hit.



---

#### YOUNG AMERICA’S FOUNDATION • [yaf.com](http://yaf.com)

With more than 50 years of experience educating, equipping, and empowering students, **Young America’s Foundation** continues to lead the conservative movement in reaching the rising generation through existing and new online resources. YAF launched a new podcast, “Books with Burt,” with renowned professor and YAF’s longest-serving faculty member Burt Folsom. Folsom delivers real history to supplement and correct the often biased and incomplete lessons from liberal professors and teachers. Virtual training seminars are underway for YAF activists who remain motivated to share freedom’s principles with their peers, even while learning remotely. Through this new format, YAF provides best practices for presenting conservative ideas, lively discussion of current events, and a bit of the camaraderie usually enjoyed by young conservatives on campus. As always, hundreds of hours of YAF’s unmatched campus lectures and life-changing student conferences are available on-demand via [YouTube.com/YAFtv](http://YouTube.com/YAFtv).



---

#### YOUNG VOICES • [young-voices.com](http://young-voices.com)

**Young Voices** provides media mentorship to talented young writers knowledgeable in the classical liberal tradition. Accepted contributors gain access to Young Voices’ copyediting and public relations capabilities. The staff works as each contributor’s personal communications team, editing and pitching the contributor’s work for op-ed publication and TV and radio opportunities. This is the perfect opportunity for interns, junior policy analysts, and entry-level staff at state think tanks. Young Voices has a long history of working with young professionals in the SPN Network, placing op-eds and scheduling broadcast interviews in state media outlets. Young Voices accepts contributor applications on a rolling basis and makes acceptances twice per year. Applicants must submit their resume, an unedited op-ed draft, and a two-minute introductory video explaining why they would like to join Young Voices. Learn more and apply at [young-voices.com/apply](http://young-voices.com/apply).







1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 360 • Arlington, VA 22209  
Phone: 703-243-1655 • Fax: 703-740-0314 • [info@spn.org](mailto:info@spn.org)

**SPN.org**

 /StatePolicy

 @StatePolicy

 /company/state-policy-network