

**PRESIDENT OBAMA’S FIRST 100 DAYS**  
**DOMESTIC POLICY HIGHLIGHTS**  
**The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission**  
**Southern Baptist Convention**

**CHARITABLE GIVING**

***De-incentivizing charitable giving*** – Budget plan reduces the deductibility of high income earners’ charitable giving.

- Obama’s FY 2010 budget would reduce the rate of deduction for those in the 33 percent and 35 percent income tax bracket, allowing them to claim only a 28 percent deduction for charitable giving. The policy would hit households earning more than \$250,000 a year and individuals earning more than \$164,500.
- One analysis suggests that charitable giving could be reduced by nearly \$4 billion a year.

**ENERGY**

***Less available and more expensive*** – Budget includes a plan to tax greenhouse gas emissions.

- His budget proposes to use a cap-and-trade plan to reduce CO2 emissions 14 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and approximately 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.
- He projects that \$646 billion would be generated through a cap-and-trade plan from 2012 through 2019, but other estimates make it more like \$1.5 to \$2 trillion.
- Increased business costs will be passed on to the consumer through higher prices, affecting the poor most profoundly.

**HEALTH CARE**

***Children’s Health Insurance*** – Signed a reauthorization to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), laying the foundation for a possible “Trojan Horse” to introduce government takeover of healthcare, i.e., “socialized medicine.”

- At a cost of some \$33 billion over 4 ½ years, the number of children covered by SCHIP will jump from just over 7 million to 11 million.
- It covers many children whose parents already provide them with private health coverage. Many of these families—some earning as much as \$80,000 per year—will drop private coverage in favor of government-run coverage.
- The money used by the government to insure these children will be taken away from other families who need help to provide coverage for their children.

***Rationed Health Care to Sick/Elderly*** – Signed the massive \$787 billion economic stimulus bill, which not only adds to the growing debt placed on our children and grandchildren, but also opens the door for socialized medicine.

- Mandates over \$1 billion to lay the initial building blocks in the foundation of a national health-care superstructure that will ration medical care to the sick and the elderly, with government bureaucrats (not doctors) making the medical decisions.
- Establishes the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research, which is modeled after a similar council in the British socialized medicine system, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. This newly established council will evaluate medical treatments and drugs based on their comparative effectiveness as opposed to their clinical effectiveness.
- Comparative effectiveness, in contrast to clinical effectiveness, is a euphemism for cost-effectiveness and will be used, as it is in the British system, to either grant or deny health care based on whether it is cost effective or not.

## **LIFE**

***Embryonic Stem Cell Research*** – Signed an order March 9 to lift President George W. Bush’s August 9, 2001, restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, a move he said rejects the “false choice” between science and morality.

***Mexico City Policy*** – Reversed the policy that prevents taxpayer dollars from funding international NGOs, unless the organizations agree to not perform or promote abortions.

- Reversed the order one day after the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision.
- President Reagan first instituted the policy in 1984; it remained in effect during George H.W. Bush’s presidency. President Bill Clinton rescinded the policy upon taking office in 1993; George W. Bush, in one of his first official acts in office, reinstated the policy.

***UNFPA Funding*** – Obama’s State Department announced March 24 it would contribute \$50 million to the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), which support China’s coercive, population-control policy.

- The UN agency had gone seven consecutive years without receiving U.S. aid—or nearly \$235 million withheld—under the Bush administration after it found that the agency aided in a program of forced abortion and sterilization.
- Bush’s determination was based on the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, which was first approved in 1985. That measure prohibits family planning money from going to any entity that, as decided by the president, “supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.”

## **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

***Conscience Protections*** – In March, Obama ordered HHS to begin the process of rescinding regulations issued in December by HHS under President Bush to enforce existing, though unimplemented and often violated, laws to protect health-care workers from being discriminated against for refusing to participate in abortions or other medical procedures that would violate their religious convictions.

- Some of the conscience protection laws have been in place since the 1970s.

- Under the Bush regulations, any hospital, nursing home, medical school, or doctor's office failing to comply would be severed from federal funding.
- Obama's proposal to rescind the Bush policy would put conscience and career on a collision course for individuals who believe in the sanctity of every human life.
- It would discourage many Christians from pursuing medical professions altogether for fear that choosing to follow their religious convictions could cost them their jobs. Others already in the medical field could find themselves searching for a new line of work.
- A March 23-35 Polling Co. survey of 800 adults found that 87 percent believe it is important to "make sure that healthcare professionals in America are not forced to participate in procedures and practices to which they have moral objections."

## **SPENDING**

***Taxing and spending threatens future economic recovery*** – Obama's first 100 days includes nearly \$5 trillion of spending.

- The stimulus bill totaled \$787 billion dollars in spending, most of it minimally stimulative.
- The omnibus spending bill totaled \$410 billion, including nearly 9,000 earmarks.
- The Obama budget totals \$3.6 trillion, increasing discretionary spending by at least 8% from the previous budget.

## **NOMINATIONS**

***David Ogden*** – Nominated and confirmed (65-28) to serve as Deputy Attorney General, the No. 2 post at the Justice Department

- In that position, Ogden will "advise and assist the Attorney General in formulating and implementing Department policies and programs."
- His confirmation could endanger family values in a number of areas—not the least of which are policies to protect children and others from sexual exploitation.
- Throughout his legal career, Ogden has pushed repeatedly for a loosening of pornography restrictions, representing Playboy and Penthouse.
- He has opposed filters for public library computers, claiming a constitutional right for adults to access pornography. He has sued the federal government to spend taxpayer dollars on a Playboy publication in Braille at the Library of Congress. And he has opposed child Internet protection laws, arguing for the "right" of pornographers to peddle their filth without verifying that their models are over 18.
- He's been no better on the issue of abortion. He has said, "The right to secure abortion is fundamental." His past clients include abortion-supporting groups such as the National Organization for Women and People for the American Way, not to mention the nation's No. 1 abortion provider, Planned Parenthood.
- In 1992, he wrote an amicus brief for the American Psychological Association defending a so-called constitutional right to abortion in the landmark Supreme Court decision *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.
- On the issue of parental rights, Ogden has fought against laws to require parental notification before performing abortions on minors—even as young as 14.

**Thomas Perrelli** – Nominated and confirmed (72-20) for the Justice Department’s No. 3 spot, Associate Attorney General

- Represented Terri Schiavo’s husband, who fought to take his severely brain damaged wife off life support.

**Timothy Geithner** – Nominated and now confirmed as Treasury Secretary

- Recently paid \$34,000 in back taxes, while also contending to the House Ways and Means Committee Tuesday that the Obama administration will be going after people who avoid and evade taxes.

**Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle** – Nominated to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services

- Daschle withdrew his name for consideration after it was revealed he paid nearly \$140,000 in back taxes and interest on income from 2005, 2006, and 2007.
- Ardently pro-choice

**Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius** – Nominated to replace the withdrawn nomination of Tom Daschle to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services

- An established track record of supporting pro-abortion laws, including vetoing common-sense regulations on abortion as governor of Kansas such as safety regulations to protect patients from filthy conditions found in a Kansas abortion clinic and a bill that would have strengthened late-term abortion law.
- In 2007, held a reception at the governor’s mansion for infamous late-term abortionist George Tiller, who has taken the lives of some 60,000 unborn babies.
- Received at least \$ 35,000 in personal and PAC contributions from Dr. Tiller and another \$200,000 that he donated to ProKanDo, a PAC dedicated to defeating her pro-life gubernatorial opponent.
- Recently paid more than \$7,000 in back taxes.

**Dawn Johnsen** – Nominated to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel

- Has called women “fetal containers” and compared pregnancy with slavery.
- In a 1989 brief filed in the Supreme Court in the Webster case, Johnsen said that any restriction that makes abortion less accessible is, in her view, tantamount to “involuntary servitude” because it “requires a woman to provide continuous physical service to the fetus in order to further the state’s asserted interest [in the life of the unborn].”
- Served as the legal director of NARAL from 1988-1993.

## **DIRECTION OF OBAMA’S CHANGES**

President Obama’s policies and cabinet appointments are indicative of what’s to come. He has thus far made clear, in word and in action, that he intends to take our nation in a different direction—one that devalues the sanctity of human life, diminishes the

importance of the traditional family, and threatens religious liberty. Policies affecting the church and the family could get worse before they get better. We might also expect:

- More existing pro-life policies overturned
  - **Dickey-Wicker Amendment** – reauthorized since 1995 to prohibit federal funding of creating human embryos by any method, explicitly including human cloning, or any “research in which” human embryos are harmed in any way.
  - **Kemp-Kasten Amendment** – first approved in 1985 to prohibit family planning money from going to any entity that, as decided by the president, “supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.”
  - An incremental approach to the **Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)**, which would undo virtually every abortion restriction currently in place, including parental notification laws.
- Expansion of special protections for homosexuals
  - **Hate Crimes legislation**
  - **Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)**
  - **Attacks on the Defense of Marriage Act**
- Restrictions on speech
  - **Fairness Doctrine** – could be resurrected in a different form, namely through localism
  - **Card Check legislation** – not only would it take away the right to secret ballot in workplace unionization voting, but would empower the federal government to arbitrate labor disputes.

### **THE IMPACT ON THE CHURCH**

The changes hostile to traditional values we’ve seen thus far, and the additional anti-family changes we can expect to come, make it all the more important for Christians to reach beyond the four walls of our churches to be salt and light for the Gospel, while at the same time raising our voices in support of God-honoring policies in Washington’s corridors of power. We can only expect God to bless our nation with such policies when the Lord Jesus transforms individual lives, who then allow His Spirit to work through them to transform families, churches, communities, and the culture.

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