



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



— 2025 —

Public Policy Agenda

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2025 USHERS IN A SEASON OF change in our nation's capital. New leadership has taken hold in both the White House and Capitol Hill. With such a significant transition comes exciting new opportunities as well as substantial new challenges for the important work of this Commission. New and reinvigorated proposals to protect life and respect the institution of the family have a renewed possibility to become law, while continuing threats to religious freedom and conscience rights must be vigilantly opposed.

These realities shape the contours of this public policy agenda, produced annually by the ERLC, to showcase many of the priorities our organization has at the federal level—priorities that, as always, are rooted in Scripture, reflective of the Baptist Faith & Message, and responsive to the actions taken by messengers from the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The ERLC will press forward on the issues that matter to Southern Baptists: protecting life, safeguarding religious liberty, bolstering marriage and families, and upholding human dignity.

While it would be unrealistic to expect all that is contained here to be acted upon with such a closely divided Congress or in our deeply polarized moment, our hope is this report may provide a roadmap for thoughtful lawmakers interested in pursuing a healthier society that is based on “the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love.”

As always, we will work to build consensus on the issues listed in this document and others in our portfolio with officials across our federal government. Whether issues are popular or not, we have the opportunity to bear witness, to seek to persuade, and to build the bridges necessary to make a difference. It is through this consistent advocacy that we can effectively advocate for the policies that matter to our churches while bringing the hope of the gospel to Washington, D.C.

In addition to our work with the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, the ERLC will continue our efforts before the judicial branch on matters consistent with our Southern Baptist convictions while also working in partnership with Baptist state conventions and state advocacy groups on issues of missional priority at the state level.

The following agenda is not an exhaustive blueprint but an outline of the core public policy priorities for this Commission over the next year.

Life

“The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.”

In this way, the *Baptist Faith & Message* summarizes the biblical revelation that every person bears the image of God, and thus, is worthy of protection and dignity, regardless of age, level of ability, or stage of development.

The ERLC will always advocate for preborn lives to be protected. Following the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision in 2022, we’ve seen monumental gains for life in some states and new challenges in others such as the rising availability of chemical abortion drugs, pro-abortion ballot initiatives, and “abortion tourism.” We must persuade our lawmakers that the federal government still has an important role to play in protecting life and combatting this evil in all forms. In our advocacy with the federal government and the courts, we will seek to protect previous gains in these areas and to persuade others to consider the dignity of human lives too often deemed unimportant or disposable. Here are some aspects of our federal pro-life legislative priorities:

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- Protect and Expand Pro-life Riders in the Congressional Appropriations Process:** Each year, the ERLC carefully reviews congressional appropriations bills and works with legislators to ensure government funding does not go toward abortion or other objectionable practices. For over 40 years, pro-life amendments such as the Hyde Amendment have been attached to appropriations bills as “riders” to protect American consciences against the evil of government-funded abortion. Each Congress, legislators have recognized the importance and validity of these provisions by passing these bills into law through the annual appropriations process. However, there have been significant threats to vital pro-life protections in the appropriations process in recent years. For example, the Biden administration has subverted federal appropriations law by using government funding for abortion-related travel and lodging through executive actions. At the same time, it was a significant victory for longstanding, vital pro-life riders to be included in the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations package, and we will continue advocating for their inclusion and expansion in Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 packages. Other pro-life appropriations provisions the ERLC has advocated to retain include the Weldon, Siljander, Dornan, Kemp-Kasten, and Dickey-Wicker Amendments, each of which protect life and the consciences of taxpayers at home and abroad. The ERLC also supports federal legislation such as the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which would permanently codify these pro-life provisions into federal law.

Southern Baptists spoke to pro-life appropriations protections at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement”](#) and in 2021 through the resolution [“On Taxpayer Complicity in Abortion and the Hyde Amendment.”](#)

- Support Federal Abortion Restrictions:** Following the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* decision allowing states to determine their own abortion laws, Congress still has the responsibility to enact further restrictions. The ERLC remains committed to ending abortion entirely while supporting incremental measures such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation seeks to prohibit abortions at 20 weeks post-fertilization, based on evidence that preborn children can experience pain at this stage. Similarly, the Heartbeat Protection Act, which would ban abortions after a detectable fetal heartbeat except in cases where the mother’s life is at risk, remains a legislative priority. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act successfully passed the House during the 118th Congress and is anticipated to again receive a vote in the next congressional session. This bill mandates medical care for infants born alive

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after attempted abortions, emphasizing the protection of the baby’s life. These legislative efforts reflect an ongoing push to uphold the sanctity of life and address the moral and ethical dimensions of abortion policy in the United States. The ERLC will advocate for legislation that further restricts the availability of abortion across the country as we work toward completely ending abortion, including addressing any factors that contribute to any perceived need for it.

Southern Baptists have passed over 20 resolutions speaking to the issue of abortion in the last 40 years, most recently at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement.”](#)

- **Ending the Proliferation of Chemical Abortions:** Chemical abortion is a method that uses an abortifacient to stimulate uterine contractions and end the pregnancy in a process similar to a natural miscarriage. According to the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, chemical abortions made up [63% of all abortions](#) in 2023. The Biden administration’s [changes](#) to the FDA’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for mifepristone have dangerously expanded access to chemical abortion drugs, removing critical safeguards designed to protect women’s health and safety. By allowing mifepristone to be prescribed via telehealth without an in-person evaluation and dispensed at local pharmacies, the FDA has prioritized the abortion industry’s agenda over the well-being of women. This is especially alarming given that [1 in 5 women](#) who take mifepristone experience serious complications, some of which can be life threatening. In response, the ERLC [urged](#) the incoming Trump administration to take action to reverse these harmful policies and restore the necessary protections that were dismantled under the Biden administration. Additionally, we are advocating for the enforcement of the Comstock Act, a federal law that prohibits the mailing of abortion-related materials. Enforcing this law would prevent mail-order abortions and restrict the distribution of abortion pills, saving thousands of preborn lives.

Southern Baptists affirmed the sanctity of life in the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement”](#) and at the 2019 annual meeting through a resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty.”](#)

- **Reinstate the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy and similar Title X pro-life domestic policies:** Several government programs, such as USAID and Title X, provide contracts or grants for family planning and related projects. The ERLC is urging the Trump administration to reinstate the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy (formerly known as the Mexico City Policy) and similar Title X policies previously implemented in the president’s first term, which barred any entities that perform or counsel for abortions domestically and abroad from receiving government funds.

Southern Baptists spoke to abortion at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement”](#) and in 2021 through the resolution [“On Taxpayer Complicity in Abortion and the Hyde Amendment.”](#)

- **Defund Planned Parenthood:** Southern Baptists have long stood against the use of taxpayer dollars to fund Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the U.S., responsible for nearly [400,000 abortions](#) each year. While the organization claims to provide essential healthcare services, its primary focus remains abortion—a fact underscored by its consistent expansion of abortion services. This reality highlights the need for decisive action to prevent taxpayer funding from being used to support such an organization. The ERLC is calling on legislators and the administration to take concrete steps to ensure that no federal, state, or local funds are allocated to Planned Parenthood or its affiliates. This includes advocating for the complete defunding of Planned Parenthood through standalone legislation, appropriations bills, and any reconciliation bills. Redirecting these funds to pregnancy resource centers or other avenues that provide comprehensive care and support for mothers without performing abortions is a crucial step in protecting life and respecting the consciences of taxpayers.

Southern Baptists spoke to abortion at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement,”](#) in 2021 through the resolution [“On Taxpayer Complicity in Abortion and the Hyde Amendment,”](#) and in 2017 through the resolution [“On Defunding and Investigating Planned Parenthood.”](#)

- **Repeal the Biden Administration’s Pro-Abortion Regulations:** A major priority of the Biden administration has been to expand abortion access through the regulatory process. These regulations include changes to Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, expanded “contraceptive mandates,” reformed HIPAA for abortions, and the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Interim Final Rule (IFR) allowing taxpayer-funded abortion travel, among others. Each action represents a concerning shift toward prioritizing abortion access over the protection of conscience rights, religious liberty, and, most importantly, the dignity of preborn life. With many of these regulatory changes finalized in 2024 and now in effect, the ERLC is urging the Trump administration to swiftly repeal these regulations and uphold the dignity of the preborn.

Southern Baptists have passed over 20 resolutions speaking to the issue of abortion in the last 40 years, most recently at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement.”](#)

- **Oppose Taxpayer-Funded Expansion of IVF and Support Regulation of IVF Industry:** As Southern Baptists, we desire to see all lives protected and valued, including those at the embryonic stage of development. While we affirm those who wish to grow their families as a good desire and grieve with those experiencing infertility, we cannot ignore serious ethical concerns with the practice of in vitro fertilization (IVF.) Current estimates suggest that as many as 1 million preborn children are being held in IVF clinics around the country. The IVF industry is wholly unregulated, lacking oversight, standards, and limitations that would mitigate many of the most egregious ethical harms. The ERLC is urging lawmakers to take

steps to regulate this industry and protect preborn lives from harm. At the same time, taxpayer dollars should not be going toward a practice that millions of Americans find deeply objectionable. The ERLC is advocating against any proposed expansion of taxpayer funding for IVF or other ethically dubious assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs).

Southern Baptists spoke to IVF at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On the Ethical Realities of Reproductive Technologies and the Dignity of the Human Embryo.”](#)

- **Respond to the *Medina v. Planned Parenthood* decision:** This term, the Supreme Court has agreed to decide *Medina v. Planned Parenthood*, a case centered on the states’ ability to withhold Medicaid funds from Planned Parenthood. In 2018, South Carolina’s governor instructed the state Department of Health and Human Services to deem abortion clinics as unqualified to provide family planning services and rescind Planned Parenthood’s Medicaid agreements, effectively defunding Planned Parenthood in South Carolina. At least four other states have similar laws in effect. A South Carolina woman and Planned Parenthood challenged the governor’s order, and both the district court and the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in their favor. The justices have previously declined to hear challenges to this case but agreed to decide whether Congress intended for Medicaid beneficiaries to have the private right to challenge states’ decisions on qualified providers. The ERLC will be filing a legal brief in this case arguing pro-life states should be able to prohibit taxpayer funding to abortion clinics.

Southern Baptists have passed over 20 resolutions speaking to the issue of abortion in the last 40 years, including at the 2017 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Defunding and Investigating Planned Parenthood.”](#)

- **Oppose the Women’s Health Protection Act and Any Pro-Abortion Legislation:** The Women’s Health Protection Act removes all restrictions and limits on abortion and allows for abortion up to the point of birth. Additionally, this bill removes all pro-life protections at the federal and state levels and eliminates a state’s ability to legislate on abortion. This bill also fails to protect the consciences of American taxpayers by utilizing taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions. Though the passage of this bill or other pro-abortion legislation is unlikely under Republican control, the ERLC will continue to monitor such legislation and educate lawmakers about the harms of these bills.

Southern Baptists spoke to abortion at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement”](#) and in 2021 through the resolution [“On Taxpayer Complicity in Abortion and the Hyde Amendment.”](#)

- **Support the Work of Pregnancy Resource Centers:** Pregnancy resource centers have been on the front line of serving and providing care for women and their families for decades. Following the Dobbs decision, many of these centers were violently attacked and have faced growing hostility. Since then, we’ve seen increasing attempts to hinder the work of these centers and categorize them as proponents of

misinformation, even by state governments. Yelp and other search engines moved to label these centers in a way that casts doubt on the legitimacy of their services. We must persuade our lawmakers that the federal government still has an important role to play in protecting life and combatting this evil in all forms. In addition to pushing back on these efforts, the ERLC supports the Pregnancy Center Support Act, which would incentivize donations to these lifesaving organizations. As Congress considers tax reforms in 2025, the ERLC is urging lawmakers to include similar provisions to ensure robust and sustained financial support for pregnancy resource centers, allowing the centers to expand their capacity to save preborn lives and serve families, embodying the biblical mandate to love and protect the most vulnerable.

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- **Oppose Physician-Assisted Suicide and all Euthanasia Efforts:** Physician-assisted suicide is currently legal in 10 states and the District of Columbia. In 2024, we witnessed the U.K. Parliament advance a bill that would legalize the practice. These developments are a clear indictment of our world’s regressive view of human dignity and the value of life. This practice is in clear conflict with ethical principles from both the Hippocratic tradition and Scripture, whereas, hospice and palliative care options provide compassionate and ethical treatment that recognize the inherent value of a person’s life. In 2024, the ERLC supported House Concurrent Resolution 109, which states Congress should not support physician-assisted suicide as an appropriate end-of-life care option. In the new Congress, the ERLC will continue to advocate for compassionate, life-affirming treatment for those receiving end-of-life care.

Southern Baptists spoke to physician-assisted suicide at the 1996 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Assisted Suicide.”](#)

Religious Liberty

“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.”

In this way, the *Baptist Faith & Message* summarizes the biblical teaching on religious liberty and freedom of conscience, a Baptist distinctive. Moreover, our Baptist ancestors in the U.S. were instrumental in the crafting and adoption of the First Amendment to our Constitution, which guarantees free exercise of religion for all and forbids the establishment of a state-driven religion. The ERLC will continue this legacy in our moral education and in our advocacy—a legacy of religious freedom for all people, not just for those who share our beliefs. Recent years have seen both simultaneous gains for religious freedom in the courts and increasing threats from administrative and legislative action as well as troubling calls to weaken religious protections from extremist online voices. We expect some of the following to be areas of particular concern and opportunity in 2025:

- **Oppose attacks on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act:**

The ERLC continues to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which ensures that the strictest legal protections are applied to ensure religious liberty is protected when enforcing federal law. As a result, the ERLC additionally opposes the so-called Do No Harm Act and the Equality Act, both of which would essentially hollow out the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) by limiting its applicability in certain matters, such as requiring private businesses and entities to provide services at the expense of their deeply-held religious beliefs. If passed into law, these bills would severely weaken and limit religious freedom protections for millions of Americans. Additionally, there has been a growing trend among both parties to explicitly create exemptions to RFRA in legislation touching on many different issues, primarily due to a lack of awareness on the importance of RFRA. In response to these concerning trends, the ERLC will diligently track these developments, advocating for the full application of RFRA protections in all contexts.

Southern Baptists spoke to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act at the 2024 annual meeting through the [Resolution On Defending Religious Liberty](#) and at the 2016 annual meeting through the [Resolution on Biblical Sexuality and The Freedom Of Conscience](#).

- **Support the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act:** While child welfare and child protection systems are overcrowded and under-resourced across the country, several states have begun to discriminately close welfare providers that operate in adherence to their religious convictions. This is harmful to children because it eliminates available, loving homes for these children. The Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act would remedy these state practices by prohibiting government discrimination against child welfare

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providers based on their beliefs, while ensuring more available providers and families can serve these children and place them in loving homes.

Southern Baptists spoke to religious liberty at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Defending Religious Liberty,”](#) at the 2012 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty,”](#) and in a 2009 [“Resolution On Adoption and Orphan Care.”](#)

- **Support the Conscience Protection Act:** As our culture continues to drift from God’s design for life, gender, and sexuality, healthcare providers are continually mandated to participate, provide, or cover procedures that violate their religiously informed consciences. No person should face coercion from the government and be forced to compromise their deeply held beliefs to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their job. The Conscience Protection Act provides legal protection for healthcare providers that refuse to provide, perform, refer, or pay for an abortion. This legislation is critical to protect the consciences of faithful healthcare providers giving care to patients and curb the blatant conscience abuses occurring throughout the country.

Southern Baptists spoke to conscience protections Southern Baptists spoke to conscience protections at the 2024 annual meeting through the [Resolution On Defending Religious Liberty](#), at the the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Christ’s Sole Lordship Over Every Human Conscience,”](#) the 2016 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Biblical Sexuality and The Freedom Of Conscience,”](#) and at the 2012 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty.”](#)

- **Repeal the Biden Administration’s Anti-Religious Liberty Regulatory Actions:** Throughout its term, the Biden administration has manipulated the regulatory process to push forward its agenda through harmful regulatory actions, many of which included directives that threaten the religious liberty and conscience rights of Americans and private entities. For example, the ERLC submitted comments to federal agencies opposing new policies that required organizations offering foster care placements to “affirm” a child’s chosen gender in order to serve them, limit the conscience rights of healthcare professions, restrict religious expression on college campuses, and redefine sex as “sexual orientation and gender identity” in anti-discrimination provisions. Unfortunately, many of these regulations were finalized in 2024. In response to this harmful rulemaking and following the Supreme Court’s decision to limit agency authority in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, the ERLC has asked the incoming Trump administration to undo each of these rules implemented by the Biden administration. The ERLC will continue to push back on any similar future efforts through filing public comments, engaging in the federal rulemaking process and supporting legislation like the Protecting Religious Freedom for Foster Families Act, all of which would overturn the effects of these regulations.

Southern Baptists spoke to conscience protections at the 2024 annual meeting through the [“Resolution On Defending Religious Liberty,”](#) at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Christ’s Sole Lordship](#)

Over Every Human Conscience,” at the 2016 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Biblical Sexuality and The Freedom Of Conscience,”](#) and at the 2012 annual meeting through a resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty.”](#)

- **Support the Safeguarding Charity Act:** In recent years, two lower courts have ruled that simply holding tax-exempt status means that an organization has accepted federal financial assistance and is thus subject to all regulations that apply to those receiving federal funding. Many faith-based organizations, including churches, explicitly reject federal funds that could bolster their work because such regulations would require them to compromise their most deeply held beliefs. The Safeguarding Charity Act seeks to remedy this concerning trend and protect religious liberty by clearly stating that tax-exempt status does not equate to federal financial assistance. The ERLC supports this legislation and continues to advocate for its swift passage.

Southern Baptists spoke to religious liberty at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Defending Religious Liberty”](#) and at the 2012 annual meeting through a resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty.”](#)

- **Support a Universal Charitable Deduction to Encourage Giving to Charities:** In 2025, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) expires, meaning lawmakers will once more be considering national tax policies. Under the current federal tax code, people can only claim a deduction for charitable contributions if they itemize their deductions. Since the number of people who itemize deductions has significantly decreased as a result of the TCJA, which doubled the standard deduction, many nonprofits have seen a corresponding drop in donations. The Charitable Deduction is the only deduction for which the taxpayer receives no other material benefit. By implementing a Universal Charitable Deduction (UCD), taxpayers would be further incentivized to give to nonprofits and charities, including churches. The ERLC will continue to support the Charitable Act and similar policies throughout negotiations in 2025 to remedy this problem in the 2017 TCJA.

Southern Baptists spoke to charitable giving in the 2013 resolution [“On Tithing, Stewardship, and the Cooperative Program”](#) and in the 1985 resolution [“On Deductibility of Charitable Contributions.”](#)

- **Respond to the *Catholic Charities Bureau v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commission* decision:** In 2025, the Supreme Court will rule in *Catholic Charities Bureau v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commission*, a case appealing a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision that determined Catholic Charities’ services are not “typical” religious activities and cannot exempt them from the state’s unemployment tax. The Catholic Charities Bureau provides numerous services to the poor and disadvantaged as directed by their faith, yet the courts ruled that their services are “secular” and “not religious per se.” As advocates of religious liberty, the notion that the state has the ability to determine what is and is

not religious is deeply troubling. The ERLC will submit a legal brief to the Supreme Court outlining why they must overturn this anti-religious liberty precedent.

Southern Baptists spoke to religious liberty at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Defending Religious Liberty”](#) and at the 2012 annual meeting through a resolution [“On Protecting Religious Liberty.”](#)

- **Combat Global and Domestic Antisemitism:** Following Hamas’ abhorrent attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, there has been a concerning spike of antisemitism both domestically and abroad. We have seen alarming tolerance for antisemitic rhetoric and actions on college campuses across the country and at many of our global institutions, such as the United Nations. Southern Baptists spoke boldly in support of Israel and against all forms of antisemitism. Upon the one-year anniversary of the attacks, the ERLC sent three letters to the president, Congress, and the United Nations advocating for Israel’s right to exist and defend itself. The ERLC will continue to speak in support of Israel, pray for peace in the region, and call for the safe release of all remaining hostages.

Southern Baptists spoke to antisemitism at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Justice and Peace in the Aftermath of the October 7 Attack on Israel,”](#) the 2016 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Prayer and Support for Israel,”](#) the 2003 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anti-Semitism,”](#) the 1981 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anti-Semitism,”](#) and the 1972 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anti-Semitism.”](#)

- **Combating Persecution of Religious Minorities by the Chinese Communist Party:** The Chinese government has continually escalated its persecution of Christians and other religious minorities by destroying religious symbols on houses of worship, burning Bibles, confiscating religious materials, closing houses of worship, and detaining individuals. Since April 2017, China has placed more than 1 million Uyghur Muslims into “re-education camps.” In these camps, Uyghurs are prevented from engaging in their religious practices and forcibly “re-educated” to the Communist Party’s ideological standard. They are also subjected to physiological and, oftentimes, physical persecution, and their cultural heritage and practices are being erased. In 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention was the first denomination to pass a resolution rightly calling what is happening to the Uyghur people a genocide. The ERLC additionally maintains strong concerns regarding the trajectory of China’s approach to Christians and other religious minorities, and the ERLC remains committed to working with other nongovernmental organizations to direct pressure toward the government of China to alleviate this persecution. The ERLC continues to urge the Trump administration to prioritize religious freedom and human rights in its negotiations with China by supporting the Uyghur Policy Act, which would increase the prioritization of this issue in U.S. foreign policy.

Southern Baptists spoke to the protections of Uyghur people at the 2021 annual meeting through the resolution [“On The Uyghur Genocide.”](#)

- **Advocate for a Strong Office of International Religious Freedom:** The ERLC urges the Trump administration and Congress to swiftly appoint and confirm a strong ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom, a role essential for advancing global religious liberty and protecting conscience rights. This ambassador must be a champion for international religious freedom, advocating for those facing persecution and working to uphold the universal right to believe and worship freely. In a world where millions suffer under oppressive regimes or face violence for their faith, the prompt appointment of a dedicated leader to this position is critical to promoting religious liberty, defending human dignity, and fostering global stability. We call on the administration to prioritize this appointment and ensure the ambassador is equipped to defend religious freedom as a fundamental human right.

Southern Baptists spoke to international religious freedom at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Defending Religious Liberty”](#) and at the 1997 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Religious Persecution.”](#)

- **Support the designation of Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern:** Each year, the U.S. Department of State releases a list of Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) where religious freedom is severely restricted and persecution is most intense. This designation is accompanied by sanctions and penalties that make this designation an important tool in promoting religious freedom internationally. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in 2023 named Nigeria as the most dangerous place to be a Christian, with hundreds killed for their faith each year. Despite this intense persecution, the State Department has ignored USCIRF’s recommendations and has not designated Nigeria as a CPC for the previous four years. The ERLC will continue to urge the Department of State to take this vital action. We have specifically supported what was previously referred to as H.Res.82 in the 118th Congress, which calls on the department to make this designation.

Southern Baptists spoke to the international persecution of Christians at the 2015 annual meeting through the resolution [“On The Persecuted Church Worldwide.”](#)

Marriage and Family

“God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

“Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

“The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God’s image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to

submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

“Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God’s pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle examples and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.”

In this way, the *Baptist Faith & Message* affirms the biblical teaching of marriage and family as creation ordinances and blessings from God, foundational to human flourishing. As our nation continues to grapple with the realities of the sexual revolution and radical gender ideology, we will continue to advocate for policies that maintain God’s good design for life together. Aspects of this particular advocacy in 2025 include the following:

- **Respond to the *U.S. v. Skrametti* decision:** One of the most consequential cases the Supreme Court will decide this term centers around Tennessee Senate Bill 1, a law that prohibits healthcare providers from offering prescriptions or performing procedures on a minor intending to affirm an identity inconsistent with a minor’s biological sex. The challengers, including the ACLU and the outgoing Biden administration, argued the law is sex-based discrimination; however, Tennessee correctly asserts it is within its right to regulate drugs and medical procedures by their purpose not by who receives them, as this law does. Alongside the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, the ERLC filed an amicus brief in the case urging the justices to uphold Tennessee’s law as constitutional to protect children from the lifelong, harmful consequences of “gender transition” procedures.

Southern Baptists spoke to “gender transitions” at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions.’”](#)

- **Revoke Biden EO 13988, [Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation](#):** On Jan. 20, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order directing all federal agencies to “revise, suspend, or rescind . . . or promulgate new agency actions” to redefine sex-based discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity. This resulted in numerous rules promulgated by federal agencies that promoted a harmful gender ideology and circumvented federal appropriations law restricting government funding

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of abortion, leading the ERLC to file public comment on nearly 20 federal rules. Some examples of these harmful rules include revising Title IX standards by the Department of Education, thereby allowing people of the opposite sex to utilize sex-segregated spaces such as locker rooms and bathrooms. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services revised Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act under this executive order to force medical providers to perform abortions and so-called “gender transition” services. The ERLC is urging President Trump to quickly revoke this executive order and repeal any federal rulemaking created by it.

Southern Baptists spoke to Southern Baptists spoke to “gender transitions” at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions.’”](#)

- **Oppose Taxpayer Funding for “Gender Transition” Surgeries and Procedures:** It is unconscionable that taxpayer dollars would be used to fund “gender transition” surgeries and procedures that harm those experiencing gender dysphoria and that millions of Americans find objectionable. In recent years, we’ve seen the Biden administration expand the use of taxpayer funds to pay for these practices for members of the military, children arriving at the border, and others. However, in the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, the ERLC successfully advocated for the inclusion of a new policy to prohibit the military’s TRICARE insurance coverage of “gender transitions” for minors, making this provision the first-ever instance of federal law being used to restrict “gender transitions” in any capacity. The ERLC will continue to advocate each year for this and other provisions to be added to the National Defense Authorization Act and annual appropriations bills to address this problem and support the End Taxpayer Funding for Gender Experimentation Act, which permanently codifies these restrictions into federal law..

Southern Baptists spoke to “gender transitions” at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions.’”](#)

- **Support Proposals to Ban Harmful “Gender Transition” Surgeries and Procedures:** Over the last several years, the prevalence of gender ideology in our culture has rapidly expanded, and the number of individuals, many of whom are minors, receiving physically damaging “gender transition” surgeries and procedures has grown. These practices not only defy God’s good design for sex and gender but violate a doctor’s oath to “do no harm.” The ERLC has advocated against the mutilation of these vulnerable children before Congress, the administration, and the courts and will continue to do so throughout 2025. Additionally, the ERLC supports legislation such as the Protecting Minors from Medical Malpractice Act, which provides conscience protections for medical providers and ensures parents and children affected by “gender transition” surgeries and procedures have a private right of action to bring lawsuits

Southern Baptists spoke to “gender transitions” at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions.’”](#)

- **Protect Women’s Sports:** Both our biblical understanding of God’s design for gender and sexuality as well as mounting scientific evidence underscore the necessity of protecting women in sports. When biological realities are ignored, women are the ones who suffer. The Biden administration took multiple steps to subvert Title IX, which for the past 50 years has ushered in advancements for women in educational, professional, and athletic contexts. The ERLC is committed to protecting sex-specific spaces, including women’s athletics, recognizing the inherent biological differences in men and women. The ERLC is encouraging the incoming Trump administration to restore the original intent of Title IX and supports legislation such as the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Southern Baptists spoke to “gender transitions” at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On the God-Given Rights and Responsibilities of Parents”](#) and at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions.’”](#)

- **Support Parental Rights:** God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of our society, and consequently, parents have been given the rights and responsibilities of raising and caring for their children. Challenges to these rights and responsibilities have become more frequent, particularly concerning areas of education, online access, and gender and sexuality. The ERLC has worked in collaboration with our Baptist state partners to oppose efforts in states that hinder parent’s ability to raise their children in alignment with their faith. At the federal level, the ERLC supports the Families Rights and Responsibilities Act, a bill that bolsters parental rights to direct the upbringing of their children free from governmental interference.

Southern Baptists spoke to the rights of parents at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On the God Given Rights and Responsibilities of Parents,”](#) the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Opposing ‘Gender Transitions,’”](#) and at the 2005 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Educating Children.”](#)

- **Advocate for Pro-Family Tax Policies:** If the family is the most foundational unit of society, it is crucial that all aspects of federal policy provide a platform for families to thrive and flourish. An essential aspect of our advocacy for life in this post-Roe world must be for policies that address financial insecurity and other key factors that drive women to seek abortions. As part of the [2025 tax negotiations](#), the ERLC will advocate for policies that remedy marriage penalties, reduce financial barriers for choosing life, and surge resources to parents in need around the birth of their child. Specifically, the ERLC hopes to see an expansion of the Child Tax Credit and policies that assist in alleviating the unique costs associated with pregnancy and childbirth. This is consistent with the 2022 SBC resolution that urged a focus on “pro-life and pro-family policies that serve and support vulnerable women, children, and families” as we work to “eliminate any perceived need for the horror of abortion.”

Southern Baptists spoke to pro-family policy at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Anticipation of a Historic Moment in the Pro-life Movement.”](#)

- **Support Adoption and Foster Care Policies:** The ERLC remains steadfast in advocating for vulnerable children by promoting policies that strengthen adoption and foster care systems while preserving religious liberty. Faith-based foster families and agencies play a vital role in addressing the needs of children. Yet, recent rules implemented under the Biden administration jeopardize their ability to serve by penalizing biblical beliefs on gender and sexuality. The ERLC is urging the Trump administration to repeal these harmful regulations to ensure that faith-based foster and adoptive families are not excluded from providing care for children in need. Additionally, the ERLC supports the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act, which would restore the refundability of the Adoption Tax Credit, making it increasingly accessible to families with lower incomes and easing the financial burden of adoption, and hopes to see such provisions included in any 2025 tax package. The ERLC also will continue to advocate for the Adoptee Citizenship Act, which would correct a longstanding oversight by granting citizenship to internationally adopted children left out of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000.

Southern Baptists have long championed adoption and foster care, as evidenced by the 2009 resolution [“On Adoption and Orphan Care.”](#)

- **Ensure Intercountry Adoption Remains a Viable Option:** The ERLC is committed to ensuring that intercountry adoption remains viable for providing vulnerable children with loving, stable homes. In fiscal year 2023, only [1,275 children](#) were adopted internationally into U.S. families, marking a record low, due in part to the reduction of adoption agencies facilitating intercountry adoptions and the decisions of some countries to halt or impose restrictions on their programs. While the expansion of domestic adoption programs in many countries is encouraging, millions of orphans worldwide remain without families. Recent actions, such as China’s suspension of international adoptions in 2024, have further limited options for children in need. China, historically a leading location for intercountry adoption, has now left countless children in limbo while prospective adoptive families are denied the opportunity to care for these children. The ERLC recently [sent a letter to the State Department](#) opposing China’s new policy and advocating a fair resolution that prioritizes the needs of American families and the Chinese children awaiting adoption, ensuring the process is brought to a successful conclusion. By prioritizing intercountry adoption in U.S. policy, we can provide hope and homes to children who might otherwise remain without a family.

Southern Baptists spoke to adoption and foster care at the 2009 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Adoption and Orphan Care.”](#)

- **Support Protections for Children Online:** With many children gaining unsupervised access to the internet at younger and younger ages, there has been an explosion in awareness of the harm this is bringing to many children. New data has demonstrated the detrimental effects on mental health, learning, and self-image that have come as a result of unhindered access for minors. Current laws allow much of this to happen without the knowledge or consent of parents. More must be done to prevent children from

accessing harmful content, such as pornography, and to empower parents to oversee the online activity of their children. One such proposal that the ERLC is advocating for is the Eyes on the Board Act, which requires schools to block access to social media sites and develop screen time policies to receive federal resources through E-Rate funding.

Southern Baptists spoke to the protection of children from various forms of media at the 2024 annual meeting through the resolution [“On the God-Given Rights and Responsibilities of Parents”](#) and at the 2005 annual meeting in the resolution [“On Educating Children”](#).

- **Respond to the Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton decision:** The Supreme Court has agreed to decide the case *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton*, a first amendment challenge to a new Texas law requiring websites to verify the age of their users if at least one-third of their hosted content is considered “harmful to minors,” such as pornography. The ERLC filed an amicus brief alongside the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas arguing states have a long-respected constitutional responsibility to protect minors from obscene material. The ERLC is urging the court to uphold the Texas law and protect children from the dangers posed by unrestricted access to pornographic content.

Southern Baptists spoke to the protection of children from various forms of media at the 2015 annual meeting in the resolution [“On Pornography and Sexual Purity”](#) at the 2005 annual meeting in the resolution [“On Educating Children.”](#)

Human Dignity

“The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

“In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the preborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.”

In this way, the *Baptist Faith & Message* both summarizes the biblical truth that every person bears the image of God, and thus, is worthy of protection and dignity, regardless of age, level of ability, or stage of development, and echoes the biblical mandate to seek justice and righteousness, especially for those who are vulnerable. In our advocacy for fair and impartial judgment and equitable treatment of the unjustly oppressed

and marginalized, we bear witness to a just God and a gospel that saves all who believe without partiality. This reality that all bear the image of God and hold immeasurable dignity and value spurs on our commitment to the following priorities for this year:

- Support Border Security Enhancements and Asylum Reforms:** Throughout the Biden administration, encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border reached record highs. At the 2023 annual meeting, Southern Baptists called on lawmakers to “provide clear guidance for immigrants and asylum seekers,” “maintain robust avenues for valid asylum claimants seeking refuge” and “prioritize measures that secure our borders and to provide adequate resources to border patrol and those working in our immigration system.” It is with this guidance that the ERLC will continue to urge Congress and the Trump administration to take necessary action and pass strong border security and asylum reforms that uphold our ideals of order, the rule of law, and compassion. Specifically, the ERLC hopes to see measures that surge additional resources to law enforcement to secure our border, expedite adjudication of asylum claims, and ensure that violent criminals are not released into the country.

Southern Baptist spoke to immigration and refugees at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Wisely Engaging Immigration,”](#) the 2018 annual meeting through the resolution [On Immigration](#), and the 2011 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Immigration and The Gospel.”](#)

In our advocacy for fair and impartial judgment and equitable treatment of the unjustly oppressed and marginalized, we bear witness to a just God and a gospel that saves all who believe without partiality.

- Preserve the Refugee Resettlement Program:** In fiscal year 2024, the U.S. resettled over 100,000 refugees. This is a tremendous accomplishment after significant work was done to rebuild the infrastructure of the refugee resettlement program after the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) remains one of the safest, most orderly processes we have to assist those fleeing persecution, including many Christian brothers and sisters. The ERLC is urging the incoming Trump administration to preserve the USRAP and Welcome Corps, a new private refugee sponsorship program, as a lifeline for the most vulnerable around the world. In addition to that advocacy, the ERLC has urged Congress to give priority refugee status to Uyghurs and Hong Kongers fleeing persecution from the Chinese Communist Party and to maintain the longstanding, bipartisan Lautenberg Amendment in fiscal

year 2024 appropriations which provides a vital refugee pathway to religious minorities, including many evangelicals, in former Soviet Union countries and Iran.

Southern Baptist spoke to immigration and refugees at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Wisely Engaging Immigration,”](#) the 2018 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Immigration,”](#) and the 2011 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Immigration and The Gospel.”](#)

- **Support a Permanent Solution for Dreamers:** The SBC holds a longstanding [commitment](#) to prioritizing “legal pathways to permanent status for immigrants who are in our communities by no fault of their own.” With litigation on its way to the Supreme Court that will likely end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, these young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. by their parents remain in an unstable situation. These immigrants broke no law, and yet they remain without permanent legal status. Now young adults, “Dreamers”—many of whom have families of their own with children who are U.S. citizens—are workers, students, and positive contributors to our communities. As President-elect Trump said recently, “We have to do something about the Dreamers because these are people that have been brought here at a very young age. And many of these are middle-aged people now. They don’t even speak the language of their country.” The ERLC will continue to advocate for permanent, legislative solutions for immigrants already here in the U.S. through no fault of their own.

Southern Baptist spoke to immigration and refugees at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Wisely Engaging Immigration,”](#) the 2018 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Immigration,”](#) and the 2011 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Immigration and The Gospel.”](#)

- **Support Further Criminal Justice Reform:** The ERLC will continue to advocate for criminal justice reforms that focus on fairness, rehabilitation, and recognize the dignity of those in prison. A key milestone in this effort was the First Step Act, a significant bipartisan achievement during the first Trump administration, which addressed sentencing disparities, improved prison conditions, and implemented measures to reduce recidivism. Building on this progress, the ERLC supports additional bipartisan legislation such as the Recognizing Education, Employment, New Skills, and Treatment to Enable Reintegration Act (RE-ENTER Act) and the Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act (EQUAL Act). The RE-ENTER Act allows eligible individuals with federal convictions to apply for a certificate of rehabilitation from a district court, attesting to their law-abiding future and commitment to reintegration into society. Certificates like these, already issued in several states, have proven successful in helping recipients secure employment and housing—key factors for successful reintegration. The EQUAL Act seeks to address the unjust disparity in federal sentencing for crack and powder cocaine-related crimes, a disparity that over 40 states have already corrected. Additionally, the ERLC supports the Preventing Violence Against Female Inmates Act, which would require that those in prison be housed with individuals of the same biological sex, providing greater protection for vulnerable women in prison. By advocating for these

reforms, the ERLC continues its commitment to justice, rehabilitation, and human dignity within our criminal justice system.

Southern Baptists spoke to criminal justice reform at the 2013 annual meeting through the resolution [“On America’s Growing Prison Population.”](#)

- **Combat the Epidemic of Mass Shootings and Gun Violence:** 2024 tragically ended with over 500 mass shootings and countless incidents of gun violence. In 2018, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention gave support for “preventative measures that would reduce gun violence and mass shootings while operating in accordance with the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution,” and in 2022, messengers urged lawmakers “to take concrete steps, toward solutions that uphold the dignity and value of every human life, especially the most vulnerable among us, and to minimize the threat of gun violence throughout our society.” In many instances, commonsense steps can be taken to increase opportunities for intervention that would prevent those who are struggling from hurting themselves or others. The ERLC will advocate for these types of measures that prevent the loss of innocent life to the evil of gun violence and mass shootings and provide help to those suffering severe mental distress.

Southern Baptists spoke to mass shootings and gun violence at the 2022 annual meeting through the resolution [“On the Imago Dei and the Helpful Content Submitted in Several Resolutions”](#) and at the 2018 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Gun Violence and Mass Shootings.”](#)

- **Support Payday Lending Regulations:** Short-term, predatory payday loans are naturally deceptive and take advantage of individuals in an already precarious situation. The small loans come with exorbitant annual interest rates, on average over 400%. This compounds the vicious cycle our neighbors were attempting to escape through the loan in the first place. In the 117th Congress, the ERLC supported the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act, a bill that would extend the payday and car title 36% interest rate cap protections to all consumers, including veterans and their families. The bill was not re-introduced in the 118th Congress, though the ERLC will continue to advocate for this legislation and similar policies to regulate an industry perpetuating a devastatingly endless cycle of debt for millions of Americans.

Southern Baptists spoke to payday lending at the 2014 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Predatory Payday Lending.”](#)

- **Support Efforts to Restrict Gambling:** The recent mass legalization and normalization of gambling in the U.S. has created numerous challenges for individuals, families, and the Church. The expansion of online, on-demand gambling and betting markets has made the practice more accessible and addictive than ever before. The gambling industry operates with few restrictions at the state level and none at the federal level on marketing their addictive products, misleading millions of Americans and exploiting gambling addiction for their profit. The ERLC is working closely with our state Baptist partners who are on the

front line of this issue and will continue to look for ways the federal government can better restrict and regulate this predatory industry.

Southern Baptists spoke to gambling at the 2017 annual meeting through the resolution [“On The Sin Of Gambling.”](#)

- **Oppose Marijuana Expansion:** Though a number of states have moved to legalize marijuana, it remains illegal under federal law. Increased marijuana usage has been shown in numerous studies to have deleterious effects on families and communities. The SAFER Banking Act, and similar policies, seek to protect banking institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related businesses, allowing U.S. banks to work with marijuana businesses without the threat of fines or penalties. Because of this, the SAFER Banking Act would further encourage the growth of the already debilitating drug epidemic that sweeps our nation. The ERLC will continue to oppose it and any other efforts toward federal marijuana legalization that may arise in this new Congress. Additionally, in 2024, the Biden administration moved forward with rescheduling marijuana from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug under the Controlled Substances Act. This move significantly loosened restrictions on marijuana, taking significant steps toward full legalization. The ERLC will continue to oppose these efforts to expand the availability of marijuana in our communities.

Southern Baptists spoke to recreational marijuana at the 1973 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Alcohol And Other Drugs.”](#)

- **Advocate for Anti-Human Trafficking Laws:** The evil of human trafficking continues to grow and adapt alongside advancements in technology, with much of this exploitation now being facilitated online. The ERLC remains committed to advocating for robust anti-trafficking legislation in Congress, particularly measures that support victims and hold companies accountable for removing exploitative content from their platforms. Human trafficking is increasingly interconnected with broader issues such as immigration and forced labor, making it vital to include these considerations in related policy discussions. In Central America, women and children face alarming levels of violence, including femicide, compounded by systemic corruption and failures in the justice system. These conditions leave many women and children unprotected, forcing them to embark on perilous journeys to the U.S. in search of asylum. The Central American Women and Children Protection Act helps address the root causes of migration that force women and children to flee. The ERLC will continue to champion bipartisan efforts like this to protect vulnerable populations and combat the pervasive problem of human trafficking.

Southern Baptists spoke to human trafficking at the 2013 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Human Trafficking.”](#) and the 2000 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Condemning The Trafficking Of Women And Children For Sexual Purposes.”](#)

- **Support Efforts to Shape Artificial Intelligence and Technology that Emphasize Human Dignity:** With the rise in usage of artificial intelligence technology, our society has quickly seen both the incredible promise as well as the immense challenges that these new technologies pose. As a result, it is essential for lawmakers to proactively assess and develop policy solutions, ranging from work to warfare, for these technologies to be best utilized in a way that affirms the unique, God-given dignity and worth of human beings. In 2023, the SBC overwhelmingly passed a resolution to this end and offered guidelines on this topic, becoming the first denomination to make an official statement on the ethics of artificial intelligence. That resolution calls on legislators to “proactively engage and shape these emerging technologies rather than simply respond to the challenges of AI and other emerging technologies after they have already affected our churches and communities.” The ERLC continues to assist lawmakers in understanding the ethical ramifications of artificial technology and will advocate for any policies that align with this call of human dignity and the common good.

Southern Baptists spoke to artificial intelligence at the 2023 annual meeting through the resolution [“On Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.”](#)

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