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CURE SPOTLIGHT:
Neil Gorsuch
Supreme Court Nominee, Practicing Law in the Trenches

LET THE MARKET FIX HEALTHCARE

CATHERINE DAVIS
Active in Grassroots Conservative Efforts
 Christians helping Christians with their health care

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* As of November 2016
he loss of Scalia’s conservative anchor opened the door for our nation’s highest court to turn completely into a group of black-robed Hollywood scriptwriters. Among the factors that drove the electoral victory of Donald Trump was his very strong support from evangelical Christians. Trump won the white evangelical vote 81 percent to 16 percent. This was a higher percentage of the evangelical vote than received by the last three Republican presidential candidates. And one very strong factor driving this evangelical vote was concern about the Supreme Court.

Shortly before the election, the Pew Research Center reported that 77 percent of conservative Republican and Republican-leaning voters said Supreme Court appointments were an important consideration in their vote. For conservatives, the appointment of a justice whose conservative credentials are as solid and unwavering as those of the late Antonin Scalia is vital.

Even with Scalia’s presence on the court, Obamacare survived two crucial court decisions that could have dealt it fatal or near-fatal blows. And then, last year, by a 5-4 vote, the court redefined marriage. Conservatives know that a loss of Scalia’s conservative anchor would open the door for our nation’s highest court to turn completely into a group of black-robed Hollywood scriptwriters.

One example of the many challenges facing us is a case dealing with religious liberty, *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Pauley*, which the court recently agreed to hear.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, Missouri, operates a preschool, a child learning center, open to all children in the local community age 2 to kindergarten. The school includes a playground.

In 2012, the school applied for grant in a program run by the State of Missouri that would have enabled them to resurface the playground with a surface safer for the children.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources operates the Playground Scrap Tire Surface Materials Grant Program. They recycle tires and produce a rubberized product as a pour-on surface for playgrounds that is safer and more friendly for kids.

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Cabinet Confirmations

Since the inauguration on January 20th, 19 of 23 Cabinet nominees have been confirmed. As of early February, Donald Trump had fewer cabinet confirmations than any president in recent memory two months after his inauguration. In 2009, former President Obama had all but three selections confirmed. One can only hope that political vitriol will not continue to stall this important process. That list includes:

Defense: James Mattis
Homeland Security: John Kelly
CIA: Mike Pompeo
UN Ambassador: Nikki Haley
Transportation: Elaine Chao
State: Rex Tillerson
Education: Betsy DeVos

Attorney General: Jeff Sessions
HHS: Tom Price
Treasury: Steven Mnuchin
Veterans Affairs: David Shulkin
Small Business Administration: Linda McMahon
OMB: Mick Mulvaney

Environmental Protection Agency: Scott Pruitt
Commerce: Wilbur Ross
Interior: Ryan Zinke
HUD: Ben Carson
Energy: Rick Perry
National Intelligence: Dan Coats

Jobs Report

Just months into his presidency, Donald Trump and his pro-business policies are spurring economic growth. The January jobs report showed an addition of 227,000 jobs, up from December’s 157,000. February added an estimated 298,000—50,000 more than market expectations. The current national unemployment rate is currently 4.8 percent nationwide, 8.1 percent among African Americans, and 5.6 percent in the Hispanic community. The share of unemployed workers who are dropping out of the labor force continues to fall as well. It’s now at its lowest level in more than 20 years.

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JOHNSON AMENDMENT

Senator James Lankford (R-OK), co-chair of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, introduced a bill (S.264, also called the Free Speech Fairness Act) that would restore the rights of free speech to nonprofits and churches. In 1954, Lyndon B. Johnson inserted language into tax code that bars charitable organizations from “participating in, or intervening in (including the publishing or distributing for statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

The federal government and the IRS should never have the ability to inhibit free speech,” said Lankford. “The First Amendment right of free speech and right to practice any faith, or no faith, are foundational American values that must extend to everyone, whether they are a pastor, social worker or any charity employee or volunteer. People who work for a nonprofit still have constitutional rights to assembly, free speech, and free press.”

NEW BUDGET PLANS

Republicans have long talked about eliminating the growth of government in order to lessen the country’s dependence on government programs. This new aggressive budget attempts to do just that, and includes closing 19 independent agencies.

The budget includes $168 million for charter school programs and $250 million for private school choice programs.

The new budget also focuses a great amount of resources on security and safety, increasing the military budget by $54 billion (but shrinking some divisions like the Coast Guard). Funds for public programming and the endowment and arts will be slashed, now requiring greater funding from the private sector. Government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department and the Department of Agriculture will have their budgets cut by about 30%. Now that the President has unveiled a budget, it must go now through the Congressional and Senate committees and subcommittees for a vote before being enacted.

To read the full text go to www.budget.gov.
HEALTHCARE REFORM

House Republicans introduced the “American Healthcare Act of 2017”. Some of priorities of the bill were:
1. to dismantle the taxes included in the Affordable Care Act.
2. eliminate the individual and employer mandate penalties.
3. to prohibit health insurers from denying coverage or charging more for pre-existing conditions.
4. to help young adults access health insurance and continue to stay on their parents’ plan until they turn 26.

This text was taken directly from readthebill.gop

Although the bill was passed by the House Budget Committee and House Rules Committee, it never made it to the House floor for a vote due to lack of support from Republicans. About 25 members of the Freedom Caucus, which includes 36 conservative Republican members of the House of Representatives, were openly against the bill, as well as moderates like Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) and Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ).

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced the “Protect Funding for Women’s Health Care Act” on January 30, 2017. This act would effectively prohibit funding to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and instead direct those funds towards eligible women’s health care centers.

There are currently 13,540 comprehensive healthcare clinics nationwide according to research done by Alliance Defending Freedom and the Charlotte Lozier Institute. That is more than 20 times the amount of Planned Parenthood locations.

According to Planned Parenthood’s 2014-2015 annual report, 45 percent of its funding was from Government grants and reimbursements. Planned Parenthood’s total revenue was $1.2961 million.
There are now thousands of crisis pregnancy centers operating nationwide. More than 2,500 are affiliated with either Care Net or Heartbeat International.

These organizations work with pregnant women in trouble and provide them the services they need to raise healthy children. They provide ultrasounds, parental counseling, life-management counseling, help with the physical needs of the mother and child and, if need be, help with adoption services.

Unwanted pregnancies often are the result of loneliness, fear and a lack of information. Crisis pregnancy centers deal with all this.

The left and its abortion-rights activists promote a culture that detaches sex from love and responsibility, that minimizes the central importance of family, that justifies youth sex, promiscuity and the “hook-up” culture.

Then they want taxpayers, other people, to foot the bill.

Is it any wonder we are drowning in debt? It’s directly the result of this culture of entitlement.

Planned Parenthood rakes in hundreds of millions in the abortion business and actively discourages women from going to crisis pregnancy centers. On the Planned Parenthood website, they call these centers “fake clinics... (that) have a history of giving women wrong, biased information...”

These crisis pregnancy centers are financed and run by committed, altruistic Americans, where women, often for the first time in their lives, experience love and meaning. The information they get, which Planned Parenthood calls “wrong and biased,” is that life should be chosen over death and that responsibility is a community affair.

We should not settle for a country of promiscuity, unwanted pregnancies and abortion. We do have a choice.

We can reprogram the destructive culture that we have created and in which we now live.
How the Minimum Wage Discriminates Against the Lower-Skilled Worker

By Walter Williams

There is little question in most academic research that increases in the minimum wage lead to increases in unemployment. The debatable issue is the magnitude of the increase. An issue not often included in minimum wage debates is the substitution effects of minimum wage increases. The substitution effect might explain why Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, a national network of business owners and executives, argues for higher minimum wages. Let’s look at substitution effects in general.

When the price of anything rises, people seek substitutes and measures to economize. When gasoline prices rise, people seek to economize on the usage of gas by buying smaller cars. If the price of sugar rises, people seek cheaper sugar substitutes. If prices of goods in one store rise, people search for other stores. This last example helps explain why some businessmen support higher minimum wages. If they could impose higher labor costs on their less efficient competition, it might help drive them out of business. That would enable firms that survive to charge higher prices and earn greater profits.

There’s a more insidious substitution effect of higher minimum wages. You see it by putting yourself in the place of a businessman who has to pay at least the minimum wage to anyone he hires. Say that you are hiring typists. There are some who can type 40 words per minute and others, equal in every other respect, who can type 80 words per minute. Whom would you hire? I’m guessing you’d hire the more highly skilled. Thus, one effect of the minimum wage is discrimination against the employment of lower-skilled workers. In some places, the minimum wage is $15 an hour. But if a lower-skilled worker could offer to work for, say, $8 an hour, you might hire him. In addition to discrimination against lower-skilled workers, the minimum wage denies them the chance of sharpening their skills and ultimately earning higher wages. The most effective form of training for most of us is on-the-job training.

An even more insidious substitution effect of minimum wages can be seen from a few quotations. During South Africa’s apartheid era, racist unions, which would never accept a black member, were the major supporters of minimum wages for blacks. In 1925, the South African Economic and Wage Commission said, “The method would be to fix a minimum rate for an occupation or craft so high that no Native would be likely to be employed.” Gert Beetge, secretary of the racist Building Workers’ Union, complained, “There is no job reservation left in the building industry, and in the circumstances, I support the rate for the job (minimum wage) as the second-best way of protecting our white artisans.” “Equal pay for equal work” became the rallying slogan of the South African white labor movement. These laborers knew that if employers were forced to pay black workers the same wages as white workers, there’d be reduced incentive to hire blacks.

South Africans were not alone in their minimum wage discrimination.
Less than two weeks after his inauguration, President Donald Trump introduced Judge Neil Gorsuch to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court bench. Justice Scalia, who Gorsuch described as a lion, was well known for his constitutional principles and scathing dissents. He died at 79-years-old in February 2016. His passing increased the momentum of the presidential race, and made it apparent that the next President would decide the ideological future of the Supreme Court.

Gorsuch was born to David and Ann Buford Gorsuch in Denver, Colorado. When he was in high school his mother Ann was unanimously appointed to be the first female head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

He is a former trial lawyer who graduated from Columbia University, Harvard Law (he attended at the same time as former President Barack Obama), and Oxford University. His extensive experience and education speak well of the Trump administration.

While running for office then candidate Donald Trump promised supporters that he would nominate a justice who would not seek to legislate from the bench. Gorsuch stated immediately after being nominated that he believes that “it is for congress and not the courts to write new laws. It is the role of judges to apply, not alter the work of the people’s representatives.”

Cases

Gorsuch’s career as a judge was spent at the 10th circuit in Colorado. He participated in multiple important cases related to religious liberty and the sanctity of life; this list includes Hobby Lobby Stores v. Sebelius, Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged v. Burwell, and Summum v. Pleasant.

He showed his commitment to religious freedom and the constitution when the 10th circuit heard the Hobby Lobby case. Gorsuch wrote that the Affordable Care Act burdened the religious freedom of Hobby Lobby, and stated the importance of allowing the organization to follow the beliefs of their faith. He wrote his objection to forcing businesses to “underwrite payments for drugs or devices that can have the effect of destroying a fertilized human egg.” The 10th Circuit and eventually the Supreme Court ruled in Hobby Lobby’s favor.

Personal Life

Mr. Gorsuch is married to British born Marie Louise and is a father to two daughters, Emma and Belinda. The family resides in a Mountain View community in Boulder, Colorado. He is an outdoors man who enjoys fishing, hunting, and the like.

Praise for Judge Neil Gorsuch

“Gorsuch is the gold standard of public service.”

– Former 10th Circuit Judge Reece Tacha, recently retired Dean of the Pepperdine School of Law

“He has a well-known jurisprudence. He shares that distinction as a nominee with the man that he will replace [Judge Scalia]. He’s a textualist, and that should come as no surprise.”

– Professor Jonathan Turley of George Washington University

“Gorsuch was unanimously voted by the standing committee to be well qualified [the highest level the association awards]. He...is a preeminent member of the legal profession, has outstanding legal ability and an exceptional breadth of experience, and meets the very highest standards of integrity, professional competence and judicial temperament.”

– Ms. Nancy Scott Degan, the Chair of the American Bar Association

“Judge Gorsuch participated in over 200 cases related to civil rights while at the 10th Circuit. My research reveals that Judge Gorsuch’s approach to civil rights cases is consistent with generally accepted textual interpretation of the relevant statutory provisions as well as governing precedent. His opinions are squarely in the judicial mainstream when it comes to civil rights.” Gorsuch joined in the majority opinion with 43 cases in which the other judges on the panel were appointed by Democrats.

– Peter Kirsanow United States Commission on Civil Rights
The Georgia Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a case challenging the constitutionality of the state’s tax-credit scholarship program.

Georgia launched the Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit program (QEETC), a tax-credit scholarship program, in 2008. Individual and corporate donors receive dollar-for-dollar tax credits in exchange for donations made to QEETC. The scholarships help “prior public school students access schools that best fit their needs.”

EdChoice reports 93 percent of students statewide are eligible for the program, which awarded 12,917 scholarships in 2015.

Ongoing Lawsuit

In April 2014, four Georgia taxpayers, represented by the Southern Education Foundation (SEF), filed a lawsuit alleging the tax-credit scholarship program violates the state constitution’s Blaine amendment, which prohibits use of public money to fund religious institutions.

In February 2016, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams ruled, “Courts that have already considered whether a tax credit is an expenditure of public revenue have answered this question in the negative. … Plaintiffs have not presented any arguments for why this Court should not follow this persuasive authority.”

The plaintiffs appealed the ruling, and the Georgia Supreme Court began hearing arguments in Gaddy v. Department of Revenue on January 23, 2017.

‘Did Not Have Standing’

Leslie Hiner, vice president of programs at EdChoice, says the plaintiffs’ initial case was dismissed for two reasons.

“The trial court held that plaintiffs did not have standing to challenge the tax-credit program, and even if they had standing, their constitutional arguments failed because contributions to tax-credit scholarship organizations for which individuals receive tax credits are not government funds,” Hiner said.

Hiner says SEF has a history of challenging the validity of school choice programs.

“About a year prior to filing this lawsuit, [SEF] took a position against private religious schools based on what the SEF determined to be ‘anti-gay’ policies of religious schools,” Hiner said. “This discriminatory view of religious schools, which runs counter to our constitutional protections supporting freedom of religion, is just one of their objections.

“The SEF waited until 13,000 children were successfully using scholarships to access a better education,” Hiner said. “This strong effort to take scholarships away from children…many of whom were failing to thrive in their prior schools but who are now enjoying the benefits of quality education, is despicable.”

Program Is ‘Wildly Popular’

Ben Scafidi, director of the Education Economics Center at Kennesaw State University and a fellow at...
Maine legislator and presidential hopeful James G. Blaine (1830–1893) was a member of Congress in the mid-to late 1800s, a time when Catholic immigrants were flooding into the country and public schools were overwhelmingly Protestant.

On December 14, 1875, then-Congressman Blaine introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would have had the effect of prohibiting Catholic schools from receiving the public funds. Blaine’s proposal would have prevented states from allowing any taxpayer money to flow to any “religious sects”—a term that was well-known code for “Catholic.” His proposal passed overwhelmingly in the House and failed in the Senate by just four votes; however, others in the states and Congressional territories joined his effort.

By 1890, 29 states had restrictions in their state constitutions that blocked public funds from sectarian schools. Many referred to the provisions as Blaine’s amendments in respect to his federal effort.

Today, more than one-third of the United States is affected by these antiquated and historically bigoted amendments, and even more states are affected by variations on its restrictions.
Republicans agree that Obamacare has failed and must be repealed. But they can’t agree on the replacement “plan.” The one thing they shouldn’t do is devise another grand scheme like the Obama “plan.”

The answer is not a new and better big government “plan.” Instead, the president and Congress should take specific actions to free the market so patients and providers can create a health care system that serves everyone. When President Barack Obama proposed his federal takeover of the healthcare system, he was right about one thing: American medical care was a mess. Government provided half the funding, created incentives for cost-plus care, and pushed insurance onto employers. While care cost more than it should for many, some people didn’t have access to the treatment they needed. But instead of seeking to empower patients by giving them greater control over their own futures and more opportunities to find the best care possible in the marketplace, the president and Democrats in Congress took medical decisions away from the public and transferred them to Washington.

Unsurprisingly, that approach didn’t work. Insurers, mandated to discard actuarial principles in order to cover patients with serious pre-existing conditions, were forced to offer one-size-fits-all policies to cover everything from falling hair to sex change procedures. No wonder the cost of health insurance spiked. People got stuck paying for “benefits” they didn’t want.

Washington’s coverage mandates forced companies to cancel health insurance plans that employees had relied on for years. Patients were lucky to find replacements, and usually ended up paying a lot more for a lot less. Having coverage did not mean having access to care.

Young, healthy people who were supposed to sign up in greater numbers and pay more to subsidize their well-off elders, understandably chose not to do so.

Insurance companies were stuck serving a sicker population, causing them to lose money and drop plans. The promises of Obamacare proved to be false.

Republicans correctly believe the misguided law must be repealed. But what to replace it with, they ask.

The answer is nothing. At least, not in the sense of another comprehensive government program to set insurance requirements, mandate coverage, fix outcomes, and the like. Misguided government
intervention created the health care mess we’ve got. It’s time we allow economic incentives and free market principles to solve the problem.

The solution is to free the market to innovate and experiment, to find the best way to provide quality coverage for less cost. For example, health insurers should have a national marketplace. Let people buy medical plans across state lines like every other kind of insurance. And bar states from imposing special interest coverage mandates that raise health insurance premiums for everyone.

Moreover, employees, not employers, should control their health insurance coverage. After all, none of us expects our company to buy us homeowners or auto insurance. The tax deduction could be shifted to individuals from businesses, or eliminated entirely with an equivalent individual income tax cut. Tax-free contributions to health savings accounts would enable people to finance the level of risk they’d be comfortable with.

The market today doesn’t have the flexibility to offer an answer, so government must get out of the way and encourage the private sector to do so. Those of limited means could be subsidized through vouchers to purchase their own private insurance. State high-risk pools could provide access to care for people with chronic or pre-existing conditions.

Medicaid needs to focus on the poor who have nowhere else to turn. Reform should emphasize allowing the states to provide better care for their most needy citizens without interference or mandates from Washington. States that do the best job will serve as models for others. Doctors who reject Washington’s cut-rate reimbursement rates need to be encouraged to re-enter the Medicare and Medicaid patient markets.

None of these measures constitutes a “plan” as such. Instead they each address a particular problem. In some cases they eliminate regulatory and tax barriers. In others they repair bad government incentives. In some instances they reward employers and providers of care to fill health care gaps.

The emphasis should be on addressing the individual problems in a coordinated manner. A workable reform requires targeted fixes designed to work interdependently, instead of one big “plan” requiring so many political compromises and tradeoffs that it would be doomed from the start.

It’s particularly important to get the principles and language right. We need to change the way policymakers think. Centralized government solutions don’t work regardless of who designs them. We also need to change people’s expectations. The government should be the backstop for those without other options, not the protector of first resort. The disaster called Obamacare provides an important reminder that we ignore at our peril. It is a fact that even the most well-intentioned programs designed by politicians and run by federal bureaucrats do not work. We can’t afford to ignore the lessons we’ve learned.

Instead, we need to restore and build on market principles that we know work, emphasizing the pragmatic over the ideological, and adapting to reality, not the world we wish existed.

People are suffering, so Congress needs to “fix” health care now. But not by repeating Obamacare’s ham-handed approach. Instead, policymakers should adopt a collection of logical steps to enable the marketplace to innovate and meet the diverse health care needs of the American people.

Ken Blackwell was a Domestic Policy Advisor to the Trump Presidential Transition Team. He is a Senior Fellow at both the American Civil Rights Union and the Family Research Council.

How the Minimum Wage Discriminates Continued from 7

wage conspiracy against blacks. After a bitter 1909 strike by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen in the U.S., an arbitration board decreed that blacks and whites were to be paid equal wages. Union members expressed their delight, saying, “If this course of action is followed by the company and the incentive for employing the Negro thus removed, the strike will not have been in vain.”

Our nation’s first minimum wage law, the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, had racist motivation. During its legislative debate, its congressional supporters made such statements as, “That contractor has cheap colored labor that he transports, and he puts them in cabins, and it is labor of that sort that is in competition with white labor throughout the country.” During hearings, American Federation of Labor President William Green complained, “Colored labor is being sought to demoralize wage rates.”

Today’s stated intentions behind the support of minimum wages are nothing like yesteryear’s. However, intentions are irrelevant. In the name of decency, we must examine the effects.
Even as President Trump completes his first month in office, our country feels divided, our future is uncertain, the issues are many, and the answers few. As conservatives and liberals alike search for guidance and understanding, it’s imperative to keep in mind that while the challenges of today are difficult and complex, they must also produce real answers.

DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—is on the top of the list.

Everyone acknowledges that our immigration system is broken. With more than 11 million undocumented immigrants living in this country, we are experiencing a crisis of failed policies. Indeed, President Trump forcefully campaigned on the importance of a secure border and its implications for national security and job creation at home—issues that resonated with the public across traditional partisan and socioeconomic distinctions. But a sensible immigration framework can’t be measured in head counts or statistics; it must be considered one human story at a time, as families have been torn apart and innocent children suffer.

The immigration actions taken by the Obama administration over the past eight years have left a complicated and muddled legacy. A record number of deportations have occurred under President Obama, and the Gang of 8 immigration reform bill failed to pass out of the Senate. One bright spot, however, is the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the President’s executive order to allow the “DREAMers”—those undocumented immigrants brought here unwittingly as minors by their parents—to avoid deportation if they otherwise remained in compliance with the law. As President Trump’s travel ban has enraged many and taken over the media, we must not forget that DREAMers living inside the United States are uncertain about their future as well.

DREAMers are precisely the segment of the undocumented population that should be allowed to remain in the United States. They bring many things to our communities: a strong work ethic, desire to advance themselves, and a faith and family values bedrock that will only benefit our great country. Each has been vetted through criminal background checks, and have gone on to graduate from college (more than 80 percent work their way through school) and start businesses at twice the rate of the general population.

DACA was beneficial in its substance, but controversial for the way in which it was implemented. President Obama worked around Congress to create the law via executive order. Our democratic system
is set up to allow our elected officials to write and pass the laws, not the president. With a change in administration, President Trump has an opportunity to restore the proper separation of powers by resisting the recent drift to executive overreach and returning this kind of authority to Capitol Hill, where members could craft a bill that addresses the whole picture on immigration.

Although the future of DACA remains unclear, this past week President Trump stated in a press conference that he will “deal with DACA with a lot of heart.” As the new administration considers a path forward, it would be in everyone’s best interest if this path could be a democratic one, where Congress enacts legislation and ensures that DREAMers and American citizens alike create a future together. A viable solution for the 750,000 plus people who are currently under DACA protection, would be a first step into solving the major immigration problem in the United States. By working with Congress, this solution would not be one that could be taken away by a signature, like the other executive orders President Obama signed. Instead, it would be created by consensus from all interested parties.

As Leviticus 19:34 reads, “the stranger that dwells with you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” As the new administration and our elected representatives consider their actions on policies on immigration, this passage should remain top of their minds.

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Catherine Davis was born in Stamford, Connecticut and graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. She was raised in a traditional two parent household and describes that family values were strictly enforced by society when she was a youth. She talked about how during this time period, “shot gun weddings were common. Back then, if you got pregnant you got married. Abortion wasn’t an option.” After getting an abortion in college, Catherine hid her pain over what she now readily admits was a selfish decision. She never dealt with that pain until 1987, when she attended Manna Christian Fellowship in Richmond, Virginia.

The pastor there, Bishop Boone, taught on the issues of abortion and recommended she read the book Grand Illusion: the Legacy of Planned Parenthood. This information was a rude awakening to Davis—the book focused on Planned Parenthood and their targeting of women of color, specifically black women. Today, 79% of Planned Parenthood’s surgical facilities are within a 2-mile radius of a black or latino neighborhood. Since 2006, new President Cecile Richards has taken a more aggressive approach to the spread and targeting of poor minorities, and has constructed 25 new facilities in 10 years. Some of these facilities are over 10,000 square feet and 90% are located within a 2-mile radius of Historically Black Colleges or Universities.

This information propelled Davis to begin grassroots campaigns to inform others. In 2010, she partnered with Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation to do an endangered species campaign. They raised funds and purchased 80 billboards that exposed the leading cause of death in the Black community—abortion.

The campaign was a massive success and garnered attention nationwide. Soon after this Davis started her own nonprofit: The Restoration Project. The Restoration Project is dedicated to rebuilding families, promoting the sanctity of life, and providing related educational materials, in order to transform American public policy and culture’s impact on Black life into a restored culture of uprightness, evenhandedness, and virtue.

Last year, Davis wrote Senator Jeff Sessions (now the attorney general) imploring him to prosecute Planned Parenthood for genocide. She believes that according to the definition outlined in the U.N. Genocide Convention, Planned Parenthood has evidently committed actions of genocide against the Black community. The law was signed by Ronald Reagan in 1988 and defines genocide as acting with a specific intent to destroy, in whole or in substantial part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Evidence includes killing and imposing measures to prevent births.

Davis is committed to fight until Planned Parenthood’s Negro Project has been stopped and their agenda exposed for the damage it has done to countless black women and children, including Cree Irwin, Diana Lopez, Edrica Goode and others.
Trinity Lutheran applied to the program and was ranked fifth out of 44 applicants.

The government then rejected their application. The Missouri constitution, they said, prohibits directing government funds to religious institutions because of an 1875 amendment—the Blaine Amendment.

The church filed a lawsuit but lost in district court and then lost again on appeal. They then, under representation by the Alliance Defending Freedom, petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, and the high court has agreed.

What does making a playground safer for kids at a church school have to do with religion? Why should it be any different than any other school?

The constitution’s first amendment guarantees each citizen’s right to “free exercise” of their religion. The fourteenth amendment guarantees “equal protection” under the law. Refusal of a state government to use public funds, designated for the safety of children, for children at a school run by a church is anything but “free exercise” of religion and anything but “equal protection” under the law for kids at a church school.

Religion is now widely viewed in our courts as an obstacle to freedom rather than something crucial that a free society must protect.

It is one thing to use the power of government and government funds to promote a certain religion. This is clearly what the U.S. constitution wishes to prevent. But it is quite another thing to discriminate against a citizen of faith and not make government resources available to that citizen, resources that are available to other citizens, because of that individual’s faith.

Can it possibly be that the safety of a child playing at a church-operated school is a different issue than the safety of a child a secular school?

The Trinity Lutheran Church has already lost twice on this question. It’s why our courts need a strong and powerful conservative injection.

Religious Freedom Case Continued from 1
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Star Parker speaking to a crowd of over 10,000 students and faculty at Liberty University. She received a standing ovation for her stirring speech.

Star with young people at the March for Life. Over 10,000 people attended to protest abortion in the nation's capital.

Rev. Derek McCoy, Star, Dr. Lois Evans, and Dr. Tony Evans after an interview at CURE's booth at the NRB Proclaim 17 conference in Orlando, Florida.

America's Sheriff, David Clarke, and his wife Julie attending a CURE function at the Capitol Hill Club on Inauguration Day.

Alveda King after an interview at CURE's booth while at NRB Proclaim 17 in Orlando, Florida.

Star with David M. Friedman, the newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

Star, AEI Scholar Gerard Robinson, and Rev. Derek McCoy at a CURE panel on education and the nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education.

Rev. Derek McCoy on EWTN Nightly News to discuss Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education.

Star with other dignitaries and honorees at the Good Samaritan Prayer Breakfast.
What are people saying about CURE?

My husband and I are great fans of Star Parker and her editorials. We live in West Palm Beach and the ONLY reason we still subscribe to the Palm Beach Post is because of the shining Star that glows weekly!!!

—Joan and Dave Bonello

Star...you are a light at the end of a tunnel in these confusing and hate filled times. You have wisdom beyond your years. Hopefully, others will absorb your values and read your column with open minds! Continued success and hopefully someday we can thank you in person!!!

—Oscar Harris

Your column on Monday 3/6/17 was again, in my eyes, exceptional...I generally can grade authors opinions in the OP-ED section of the daily paper by looking for something said that’s NEW...you manage to do that...After reading numerous articles written by you I’m convinced you are a winner!

—Terry McKurtis

Great message, Star! ‘Chuck Schumer’s fake news’ really hit the spot, even in the Lakeland Ledger, a liberal newsletter. Keep up the great work! May God bless you and keep you well!

—George Engel

I attended the Rally in Portland today and I was especially moved, encouraged and motivated by what you shared. You are an incredible woman and an excellent speaker. I am so grateful God has placed you in a sphere of such influence, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to hear you speak today. I will be praying regularly for you. I can hardly wait to start reading one of your books tonight. May God greatly bless you.

—Kimberly Rilette

This morning I reviewed Star Parkers column “Leftist leader misses point of Trump-led rebirth of U.S.”. Please express my appreciation and gratitude in the manner that Star captured and represented our voice and values.

—Greg Atkins

I just read your column in the Fort Wayne News Sentinel, “If you want excellence in education, support choice”. Thank you for contributing this. You make excellent points about the inadequacy of the public school system and the need for educational choice.

—Laurie Hapner
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