



2021-2022 Legislative Agenda

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms (NYCF), New York's statewide evangelical Christian advocacy organization, works to protect human life, promote strong families, preserve religious liberty, and proclaim justice and mercy. NYCF's agenda for the 2021-2022 New York State Legislative Session advances each of these four important objectives.

Protecting Human Life

In regard to the protection of human life, NYCF supports the following measures:

- The Infant Recovery Centers Act, which would create a pilot program in which four recovery centers for opiate-addicted infants would be opened in the State of New York;
- The Liv Act, which would criminalize the act of knowingly causing injury to a pregnant woman;
- A measure promoting voluntary immunization against COVID-19 through the use of safe and ethical vaccines;
- A law creating an affirmative, enforceable requirement that medical care be provided to infants born alive following abortion procedures;
- A law protecting unborn children who are harmed due to violent crimes perpetrated against their mothers;
- A requirement of parental notification before an abortion procedure is performed on a minor; and
- The repeal of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA).

NYCF opposes the following measures:

- The Medical Aid in Dying Act, or any other measure that would legalize physician-assisted suicide;
- Government funding for elective abortions and/or for abortion providers;
- Legislation that would impose compelled speech requirements or onerous reporting requirements upon pregnancy centers;
- Any measure that would require or promote the distribution of "emergency contraception" on college and university campuses; and

- Any Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution that would establish a fundamental right to abortion.

Promoting Strong Families

In regard to the promotion of strong families, NYCF supports the following measures:

- The creation of a statewide strategic plan to place all adoption-eligible foster children in adoptive homes;
- The creation of a responsible fatherhood agenda in which the state partners with faith-based organizations and nonprofit charities to combat fatherlessness in the State of New York;
- Legislation creating tax credits or deductions for parents who adopt special-needs children or who adopt children through the foster care system;
- Legislation requiring that married couples with children who file for separation or divorce be provided with educational materials regarding the negative impact of divorce upon children;
- Increasing the Empire State Child Tax Credit to make it equal to the amount of the federal child tax credit;
- A bill requiring mothers to be notified of their rights concerning the burial of miscarried babies; and
- A tax credit for the parents of stillborn children.

NYCF opposes the following measures:

- The legalization of prostitution;
- Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination;
- Mandatory human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for young people;
- The proposed Healthy Teens Act, which would provide a funding stream for counterproductive types of sex education in schools;
- The legalization of supervised drug injection sites;
- A bill allowing the commercial sale and marketing of marijuana for recreational use; and
- The legalization and state licensure of online poker games, sports gambling, and/or additional gambling casinos.

Preserving Religious Liberty

In regard to the preservation of religious liberty, NYCF supports the following measures:

- Full mandated services reimbursement for nonpublic schools;
- The removal of unnecessary required approvals in certain church real estate transactions;
- Legislation allowing nonprofit adoption and foster care organizations to place children only in families with a married mother and father;
- Legislation protecting individuals, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses that conscientiously object to participation in same-sex ceremonies from being held liable for discrimination.

NYCF opposes the following measures:

- Any bill requiring faith-based health care providers to engage in medical procedures that violate the tenets of their respective faiths;
- The imposition of provisions of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) relating to sexuality and gender identity upon faith-based schools; and
- Any measure which would create tax liability for churches or nonprofit charities.

Proclaiming Justice and Mercy

In regard to the proclamation of justice and mercy, NYCF supports the following measures:

- The withdrawal of COVID-19-related emergency powers from the Governor of New York;
- The creation of a commission to investigate the impact of COVID-19 upon residents of nursing homes and of homes and facilities for the developmentally disabled, with a special focus on the impact of government mandates upon those vulnerable populations;
- A law preventing the inclusion of non-budgetary matters within budget legislation;
- Tax credits for grocery stores and restaurants that donate excess food to charity;
- A funded mandate to eliminate the existing rape kit backlog in the State of New York within a specified time period;
- A law establishing the crimes of predatory sex trafficking and sex trafficking of a vulnerable person;
- A law providing for an appropriate level of grand jury transparency in regard to officer-involved deaths; and
- Legislation allowing judges to order the pretrial detention of arrestees based upon a determination that an arrestee is potentially dangerous.

NYCF opposes the following measures:

- The proposed New York Health Act, or any other legislation providing for a single-payer state government takeover of health insurance;
- Any legislation limiting parental rights in regard to school choice, as every New York parent should have the freedom to educate a child in a public school, a non-public school, or at home;
- Any legislation giving public entities increased authority to investigate, penalize, or close nonpublic schools under the guise of “substantial equivalency”;
- A proposal to require all school districts to adopt policies pertaining to gender identity; and
- Any proposed legislation or constitutional amendment that would unjustly create new rights or protections based upon chosen behaviors not mentioned in the First Amendment.