



## Pro-Life Bills Pass the Florida House and Senate



We give praise to our great and mighty God for the final votes in the Florida House and Senate regarding the numerous pro-life bills. There have been six bills that passed both chambers and will become law when Governor Scott signs them. God has heard our cries as a country and answered our prayers. Please continue to pray. Thank you so very much for being a prayer partner with Embraced by Grace.

### ***Pro-Life Bills Pass the Florida House and Senate***

#### ***Ultrasound prior to an abortion (CS/HB 1127)***

House final vote: 81-37 Senate final vote: 24-15

Requires that ultrasound be performed on women obtaining abortions

#### ***Parental Notification of Abortions (HB 1247)***

House final vote: 82-35 Senate final vote 26-12

Revises Parental notice requirements relating to termination of pregnancy of minor

#### ***Choose Life license plate (HB 501)***

House final vote: 82-35 Senate final vote: 28-10

Provides for fees to be distributed to Choose Life, Inc., rather than county governments

#### ***Public Funding of Abortion (CS/HB 97)***

House final vote: 80-35 Senate final vote: 28:11

Prohibits certain health insurance policies & health maintenance contracts from providing coverage for abortions

#### ***Ban on Taxpayer Funding of Abortion-Constitutional Amendment (on Ballot 2012) (CS/HJR 1179)***

House final Vote: 79-34 Senate final vote 27-12

Prohibits public funding of abortions

To read more on each bill visit <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>



## Family: God's Design

*"It's old fashioned to say children need a mother and a father." "Marriage is a dying institution because it no longer fits our society." "Children can thrive in any environment equally as long as their basic needs are met."*

One of Embraced by Grace's core values is family. We believe children can thrive in homes where they are given the opportunity to bond with a mother and father through loving familial relationships. Being that our primary purpose above all else is to glorify God, we want that to extend to raising our children, and we believe this is best done in a home with a mother and father. So, what about those who say this type of family is "outdated," "no longer necessary," or "a dying institution?"



The reason we believe so strongly in marriage and family as the desirable place to raise children is because it was God's design for His creation. God created man and woman, distinct but equal, and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply: to raise children who would also reflect their Creator. Men and women throughout time have been sanctified together through the covenant of marriage, as fellow heirs of God's grace, and it is now one of the most fascinating pictures of the gospel.



In Ephesians 5, Paul quotes an Old Testament passage describing a man leaving his father and mother and holding fast to his wife, and the two becoming one flesh. "This mystery is profound," Paul says, "and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." Male and female roles cannot be rightly understood until they are seen as a picture of Jesus Christ and His Church. As Christ sacrifices and lovingly leads, provides, and protects, the church submits by responding with joy, affirming His leadership, and joining Him in world mission. It was God's plan that men would be strong protectors and providers with tender hearts toward God as they submit all things to Christ. Women, in turn, affirm and encourage that strength and leadership and become the nurturers of the home, giving life as they join their husbands in living out the gospel in their lives.

Welcomed into this environment, children can easily begin to understand their God. Mothers and fathers who are intentionally involved, consistent and joyful shepherds and models can serve to captivate their child's heart toward a true, sovereign, caring God. The complimenting roles in marriage each teach a child important and beautiful characteristics of their God that the other cannot fully express. Children needing freedom, yet structure, encouragement, yet discipline, love and forgiveness can find it in a family that is grounded in the Word of God and seeking to cultivate it in the lives of children to the praise of His glory.

It's not just Christians who understand the value of a stable mother and father fully involved in raising children. In December 2010, the U.S. government published a study examining family structure and children's health in the United States. They found that "families consisting of two married adults who are the biological or adoptive parents of all children in the family—were generally healthier, more likely to have access to health care, and less likely to have definite or severe emotional or behavioral difficulties than children living in nonnuclear families." These conclusions point to a much broader and deeper underlying truth, that a man and woman, under the lordship of Christ and in the community of the local church, represent the very design of our Creator God and His plan for the development of those made in His image.

Every parent fails daily. While still on this earth, no person can fully embrace all that they might desperately want to display to their children. Yet through God's grace, parents can grow into the role designed for them by their Creator, in their particular family, and, through this, provide an important and unique element to their child's growth and development.

Embraced by Grace is dedicated to the glory of God, and this promotion of family through the adoption process. We believe that the best place for any child to be raised is in a godly family, with a father and mother whose roles point to Christ and His Church. And we know God is glorified in this beautiful picture of the earthly family.



Issues regarding homosexual couples and adoption have been the cause of much political debate across the country in recent months. Rights of public and private adoption agencies and couples wishing to adopt have been discussed and results vary state-by-state.

- **Illinois:** Adoption and foster care services through Catholic Charities closed their doors this week permanently because the state no longer allows them to turn away homosexual couples. A bill that would have ensured this right for religious agencies failed in the state Senate in April.
- **Virginia:** In April, the Virginia State Board of Social Services rejected a similar proposal that would have prohibited any agency from referring homosexual couples to other agencies based religious conviction.
- **Arizona:** Married couples have preference when adopting now, due to a bill signed by Governor Jan Brewer in April. Both state and private adoption agencies must give preference to heterosexual couples.
- **Arkansas:** The Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a state law in April that banned homosexual couples from adopting or fostering.
- **Louisiana:** In April, the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals held that Louisiana rightly refused to issue a birth certificate including both names of a homosexual couple who adopted a child.

U.S. Representative Pete Stark, a Democrat from San Francisco, has proposed a federal bill that would remove "sexual orientation" as a legal reason an agency can turn away a person wishing to adopt. It would apply to agencies that receive federal funding or contract with agencies that receive such funding.

Rulings on these issues will have deep impact on the lives of countless children.

Pray to our sovereign God of all wisdom for His perfect will to be carried out in our nation.

Recently among Evangelicals, specifically among the Reformed, there has been a huge awakening to biblical adoption and the call on the Church to "visit widows and orphans" as James 1:27 clearly teaches us! So we praise God and ask you to prayerfully consider your part in visiting these fatherless. [If Christians would step up and adopt every available child from foster care homosexual adoption would be a moot point.](#)



### Meet the Board– Trace Pendry



"What an amazing blessing it has been to be a member of the board for Embraced By Grace (EBG). The compassionate heart and caring hand that all those associated with EBG exhibit is truly God's hand at work in this ministry. As a board member, I am given the opportunity to pray for and direct the employees and families who God has led to EBG in the fulfillment of God's calling of adoption upon our lives. This experience has opened my eyes to how many wonderful children there are, in Florida alone, that are ready to be adopted right now. The progress that EBG has made since I joined the board in 2008 is only explainable through God's grace and mercy. EBG is now able to assist families in adopting not only in the United States, but internationally as well. Please commit EBG to prayer and pray about opening your home to one of these children or becoming a partner with EBG in fulfilling God's calling. "

### ADVOCATING AND SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY ON ADOPTION

One of the areas of ministry in which Embraced by Grace is engaged is advocacy. Our advocacy efforts seek to...

- ♦ Make adoption a positive option for birthparents, children and adoptive parents through helping to influence and shape public-policy and legislation.
- ♦ Educate adoptive parents, churches and Christians concerning current public policy issues related to adoption, foster care, pro-life, and family.
- ♦ Educate pregnancy and healthcare workers of the option of infant adoption so that women can make informed decisions.
- ♦ Facilitate adoption from foster care by helping to make it easier through advocating for much-needed reforms.
- ♦ Work for the continuation of adoption tax credits to make adoption more affordable for Christian families and to decrease the financial burden of the government's care for children in foster care.

If you would like to make a difference as an advocate for adoption, contact our office at (386) 615-9767 to learn how you can influence policy and legislation on adoption issues.



447 South Nova Road  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

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JULY 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Upcoming Events

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
  - 6-9 NCFA in Washington DC  
(National Council For Adoption)
  - 12 Ambassador Briefing 7-8
  - 23 Adoption Orientation 9-12\*
  - 30 Ambassador Training 9-12\*
- RSVP\*

## STAFF

**Robert Picerne**  
Founder and Executive  
Director

**Gwyn Picerne**  
Founder and President

**David Wooten**  
Director of Operations and  
Development

**Amber Marshall**  
Director of Social Services

**Cathy Fish**  
Association Executive/  
Birth Parent Liaison

**Pepper Wooten**  
Adoption Specialist

**Patti Parks**  
Office Administrator

**Deirdre Gaetano**  
Administrator Assistant

**Leah Heinsch**  
International Adoption  
Coordinator

### Mission Statement

*Embraced By Grace, Inc.* is an adoption and home study agency dedicated to the glory of God, the proclamation of Christ, and the promotion of family through the adoption process. We seek to partner with biblical churches in order to cultivate awareness of the scriptural focus and need for adoption, assist families in need, and provide adoption services. We are devoted to the ministry of placing adoptable children into permanent godly, Christian homes.

### Psalm 68:5

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.



[www.embracedbygrace.org](http://www.embracedbygrace.org)

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