“The first week he was there, he cried, he literally cried because he didn’t want to leave. It brought me to tears.”

ANITA BELCHER
AS TOLD TO ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE

In 2013, Anita Belcher was a single mom in Arizona trying to raise two young boys, both with learning disabilities. Thanks to the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) program, she was able to enroll the oldest child in a private school that met his special needs.

“The first week he was there, he cried, he literally cried because he didn’t want to leave,” Anita said. “It brought me to tears. That’s the great thing about the scholarship, you get to decide where you want to place your child or if you even want to homeschool.”

(You can watch Anita tell her story at this YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opEcRNECeyI)

In the four years since Anita used Arizona’s ESA program to rescue her child from public schools that couldn’t meet his needs and her own expectations, additional school choice programs have been created and existing programs expanded all across the country. That’s good news for kids and parents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
School Choice Arrives
After a long and slow climb beginning half-a-century ago, school choice has finally arrived. New programs are starting and existing programs are being expanded in unprecedented numbers. After false starts in the 1990s, when Milwaukee launched the first modern voucher program, and again in the first decade of the twenty-first century, when the Supreme Court cleared away concerns about the constitutionality of letting parents choose the schools their children attend, school choice has finally arrived.

According to EdChoice, today 25 voucher programs operate in 14 states, 21 tax-credit scholarship programs in 17 states, individual tax deduction programs in four states, and education savings accounts programs in four states. Forty-two states have charter schools, which collectively enroll nearly 3 million students.

Students who enroll in these programs experience improved academic achievement, graduation rates, and college enrollment rates. Parents are more likely to be engaged in their children’s education and to be more satisfied with school performance. The achievement gap between white and minority students is smaller.

There’s simply no denying it: School choice works.

Failed Coups
The success of the school choice movement has not gone unnoticed by its foes.

Teachers unions, the American Civil Liberties Union, and other liberal advocacy groups have sued to try to stop every new program and the expansion of every existing program. They spend millions of dollars every year trying to defeat pro-school-choice candidates in elections, and millions of dollars more harassing and defaming parents who simply want a better life for their kids.

In recent years, school choice opponents tried two novel ways to destroy the movement. The first came from within. Liberal activists succeeded in taking over the leadership of some pro-charter school organizations and used them to campaign against vouchers and tax credits. It was a clever strategy, since charter school operators don’t want the increased competition from private schools that real school choice would bring.

Groups like Democrats for Education

Types of School Choice Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of School Choice Programs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vouchers</td>
<td>Vouchers give parents a portion of the public funding set aside for their children’s education to use to pay tuition at the private schools of their choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Savings Accounts</td>
<td>Education savings accounts (ESAs) act like vouchers but deposit the public funds into government-authorized savings accounts, which parents can then use to pay for a wider range of educational services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-Credit Scholarship Programs</td>
<td>Tax-credit scholarships allow corporations and individual taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofit organizations that pay for private school scholarships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Tax Deductions</td>
<td>Individual tax deductions allow parents to deduct some educational expenses from their state income taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>Charter schools are public schools run by private entities that must compete with other schools for students and funding.</td>
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Reform, StudentsFirst, and Parent Revolution raised millions of dollars from gullible conservative and libertarian philanthropists, only to become part of the left’s resistance to real school choice. Thankfully, these groups are losing funding and influence as the charter school movement sputters due to their mismanagement, and many donors realize their mistakes.

The second attack came from Washington, DC. Seeing enrollment rising in choice schools, teachers unions and liberals used their control of the U.S. Department of Education under President Barack Obama to bring about the adoption of a national curriculum for K–12 schools. If they couldn’t stop parents from choosing the schools their children attend, why not pass laws forcing all schools to teach the same dumbed-down and politicized curriculum? Brilliant!

The story of how Common Core State Standards were created and then foisted on an unknowing public has been told well in past Heartland publications by Joy Pullmann and others. Thankfully, the rapid demise of Common Core thanks to dedicated parents and brave elected officials is reported every month in School Reform News, one of Heartland’s four public policy newspapers.

Freedom Rising
The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States has put school choice on the front page of newspapers across the country once again, as he and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos promote national programs to advance school choice and promise to end federal support for Common Core. Newly elected state legislators and governors already are moving school choice legislation, long stalled by partisan opposition, across the finish line.

In January of this year, National School Choice Week broke all past attendance records with an astonishing 21,392 events taking place across all 50 states and total attendance exceeding 6.4 million people. It was, as its organizers say, “the world’s largest series of education-related events in US history.”

(Heartland played a small role by running full-page and half-page ads for the events in multiple issues of School Reform News leading up to the big week.)

The rallies for school choice continue. Earlier this month, on May 2, more than 1,500 students, parents, and grassroots leaders attended a rally at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus to celebrate school choice.

It can be difficult to recognize victories when one has fought many battles over the course of three decades that seemed to win so little ground. Even today, educational choice programs enroll too small a percentage of the total student population, and provide too little financial relief to parents who choose private schools, to allow us to declare victory over what Secretary of Education Bill Bennett famously called “the blob” way back in 1987.

But the numbers don’t lie, and neither do parents like Anita Belcher. School choice has defeated its foes both from without and within, and it has a new momentum that promises a brighter tomorrow.

It was a long time coming, but school choice has finally arrived.

Joseph L. Bast (j bast@heartland.org) is president of The Heartland Institute.
During the first quarter of 2017, The Heartland Institute...

- Published print and digital issues of four public policy newspapers: *Budget & Tax News*, *Environment & Climate News*, *Health Care News*, and *School Reform News*.


- Released two books, one booklet, five *Heartland Policy Briefs*, and 67 *Research & Commentaries*, and submitted 104 op-eds.

- Contacted elected officials 168,627 times, including 4,712 one-on-one contacts by phone, email, or in person, and testified eight times.

- Generated at least 44 broadcast, 1,011 online, and 210 print media hits reaching 24.4 million subscribers.

- Added 308 blog posts to *Freedom Pub* and released 57 podcasts attracting a total listening audience of 451,380 people.

- Hosted 10 events, spoke at eight, and attended, exhibited at, or cosponsored seven events, reaching a total in-person and online audience of 14,247 people.

**Center for Constitutional Reform**

- Published five *Research & Commentaries* on constitutional reform issues.

- Logged 284 personal and 16,274 group contacts for a total of 16,558 contacts with legislators on constitutional reform issues.

- Generated at least 13 online media hits on constitutional reform.

- Produced two new podcasts on constitutional reform issues.

- Hosted three events on constitutional reform issues, spoke at one, and attended or exhibited at three, reaching an estimated total audience of 2,201 people.

- Issued 73 tweets from the @usconstreform Twitter account.

**Center on Budgets and Taxes**

- Published three issues of *Budget & Tax News*, 13 *Research & Commentaries*, three papers in the *Roadmap for the 21st Century* series, and two testimonies on budget and tax issues.

- Logged 1,087 personal and 49,429 group contacts for a total of 50,516 contacts with legislators on budget and tax issues.

- Generated at least five broadcast, 61 online, and nine print media hits reaching nearly 532,834 people.

- Produced 13 new podcasts on budget and tax issues, attracting 49,230 listeners.

- Hosted two events on budget and tax
issues, including one on tobacco harm reduction, and spoke at one event on tobacco harm reduction, reaching an estimated total audience of 1,132 people.

**Arthur B. Robinson Center on Climate and Environmental Policy**

- Published two issues of *Environment & Climate News*, nine issues of *Climate Change Weekly*, and nine *Research & Commentaries* on environment and energy issues.
- Logged 1,465 personal and 37,344 group contacts for a total of 38,809 contacts with legislators, and testified twice on environment and energy issues.
- Generated at least 24 broadcast, 674 online, and 159 print media hits reaching nearly 24.7 million people on energy and environment issues.
- Produced 12 new podcasts on energy, environment, and climate issues, attracting 156,434 listeners.
- Hosted two events on environment and energy issues – including the two-day Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change – and spoke at four, reaching an estimated total audience of 8,602 people.

**Center for Transforming Education**

- Published three issues of *School Reform News*, 10 issues of *School Choice Weekly*, 20 *Research & Commentaries*, and one *Policy Brief* on education issues.
- Logged 923 personal and 42,697 group contacts for a total of 43,620 contacts with legislators on education issues.
- Generated five broadcast, 82 online, and 17 print media hits reaching nearly 2.5 million people on education issues.
- Produced 13 new podcasts on education issues, attracting 40,054 listeners.
- Hosted four events on education issues, spoke at three, and attended three, reaching an estimated total audience of 3,229 people.
- Made 866 contacts with allies; distributed more than 2,700 copies of Heartland publications; added 414 names to Heartland’s mail/email lists; and issued nearly 9,000 tweets on education issues.

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**Clexit: For a Brighter Future**

By Donn Dears

*Clexit* explains why efforts to cut carbon dioxide emissions are not only harmful, but fruitless. The United States can reassert its leadership on the global energy and environment stage by withdrawing from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change treaty.

Go to Amazon.com or store.heartland.org to purchase a copy of Donn Dears’ newest book.

Available Now - $9.95
After eight years of proposing alternatives to Obamacare and voting for its repeal, congressional Republicans have so far failed to agree on a repeal-and-replace plan. House Republican leadership had tempered its proposal, the American Health Care Act, in hopes of facilitating easy passage by the Senate, but conservatives and libertarians blocked the measure, terming it “Obamacare Lite” and “Obamacare 2.0.”

AHCA would have capped federal spending per Medicaid enrollee and repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, tax penalty, and employer mandate. But it would have left in place the guaranteed issue, community rating, and essential health benefits mandates. The bill would have reinforced the fallacy that “health care” and “health insurance” are the same. To achieve real reform, “Republicans must un-deify health insurance, [refuting] the conventional wisdom that chasing a deductible every time a medical need arises is rational or frugal,” Research Fellow Michael Hamilton wrote in an op-ed for Townhall.

Anticipating a vote on AHCA scheduled for March 24, staff represented Heartland on the nationally syndicated Mike Siegel Show (radio), Chicago Tonight (television), and with an oped published by RedState, among other outlets.

Free-Market Alternatives
The alternative to AHCA most supported by congressional libertarians and conservatives is Sen. Rand Paul’s Obamacare Replacement Act. In an op-ed for Townhall, Hamilton wrote, “Paul’s proposal contains important clues for escaping the Obamacare labyrinth. Trump and Congress should grab hold of it.” Paul sent us a handwritten thank-you note after reading the article.

Most individuals who gained insurance coverage under Obamacare did so by enrolling in Medicaid. Haskins, Hamilton, and Research Director Sam Karnick posted online the “Personal Health Care Safety Net Medicaid Fix,” which would deposit Medicaid funds into HSAs owned by enrollees. Over time, most enrollees would bank unspent funds to build their personal health care safety nets. The authors explained the plan in an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal (circ. 1,337,483).

Oral Health Care Counts
Medicaid patients frequently struggle to find health care providers, including dental care providers, willing to work at the program’s low reimbursement rates. States can increase patient access to oral health care by licensing dental therapists.

Heartland and the Texas Public Policy Foundation published “The Case for Licensing Dental Therapists in North Dakota,” a Policy Brief by Hamilton, Research Fellow Bette Grande, and TPPF Senior Fellow John Davidson. Hamilton distributed the brief to lawmakers in person, testifying before the North Dakota House Human Services Committee. We sent lawmakers a Research & Commentary and Policy Tip Sheet on the topic; Grande promoted the brief at the statehouse and Hamilton on local radio. The Huffington Post, Watchdog, and Say Anything Blog noted Heartland’s engagement on the bill, which passed in committee but was defeated on the House floor.

Dental hygienists promoting a similar bill in Connecticut asked Hamilton to testify
to the joint Public Health Committee. He debunked 10 objections to dental therapy. The committee vice chair publicly thanked Heartland for an interesting presentation. The bill remains under consideration.

**CON, MOC Reform**
Certificate of need laws are a barrier to health care access in 35 states, requiring medical facilities developers to obtain expensive approval from a state board before building, renovating, or making large equipment purchases. Heartland sent elected officials in Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia researching & Commentaries examining CON reform, and government relations staff met with several Virginia elected officials in Richmond.

A similarly unnecessary burden, this one on board-certified physicians, is the maintenance of certification process endorsed by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Lawmakers in Texas are considering legislation to ensure MOC could not be used as the sole requirement for medical staff membership, privileging, credentialing or re-credentialing, or participation in an insurance network. The Texas bill mirrors one passed in Oklahoma in 2016. Heartland sent a Research & Commentary on MOC to Texas legislators and to Tennessee lawmakers considering similar legislation.

**Prescription Drug, FDA Reform**
Elected officials are looking for ways to reduce spending on prescription drugs. Trump has voiced support for reimporting drugs from other countries – an idea that may sound laissez-faire but in fact would undermine trade by importing price controls to the United States.

Galen Institute President Grace-Marie Turner and Peter Pitts, former associate commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and current president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, eloquently made the case against drug importation in back-to-back episodes of the *Health Care News Podcast*. Heartland presented their arguments in a Research & Commentary on drug importation, and *Hypeline News* republished a 2003 article by President Joseph Bast titled “What’s Wrong With Importing Drugs From Canada?”

Democrats are calling on Trump to negotiate price cuts from companies that sell drugs to seniors through Medicare Part D. This would destroy the only successful part of the otherwise bloated and inefficient Medicare program. Heartland updated and relaunched SaveMedicarePartD.com, which connects users to news, research, and commentary on the program as well as to allies and action items.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb’s confirmation as FDA commissioner will play a key role in implementing reforms Trump has promised. As Hamilton reported in *RealClearPolicy*, “Regarding the FDA’s obstruction of last-chance efforts by terminally ill patients to save their lives with experimental drugs, Trump said: ‘We’re going to get the approvals much faster. ... So we’re going to be changing a lot of the rules.’” Lawmakers in Iowa, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are considering legislation that would make one of them the 34th state in the nation to allow terminally ill patients to obtain experimental drugs without getting federal approval, a policy commonly called “right to try.”
The Heartland Institute’s Center for Constitutional Reform reached tens of thousands of people in the first quarter with events, outreach to allies, government relations, communications, and publications activities.

U.S. Supreme Court Nomination
On April 10, President Donald Trump’s nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, was sworn in. The U.S. Senate had voted to confirm the nomination 54–45.

Heartland weighed in on the nomination several times before Gorsuch’s confirmation. In January, the Free Lance-Star, Las Vegas Sun, and Inside Sources published an oped by Executive Editor Justin Haskins titled “Who will Trump pick for the Supreme Court?” He followed up with opeds for the Washington Examiner and The Hill.

In March, in an oped for The Hill, Policy Advisor David D’Amato commented on the Court’s 1984 decision in Chevron v. NRDC, a case of some special interest now, he notes, because one of the defendants was Neil Gorsuch’s mother, Anne Gorsuch, who at the time was head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Neil Gorsuch has been critical of Chevron, which allows too much deference to rulemaking by administrative agencies.

Defending Free Speech
The First Amendment protects a freedom widely understood to distinguish America from other countries: freedom of speech. How disturbing, then, that college students at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Michigan were arrested and jailed in September 2016 for refusing to stop distributing pocket Constitutions on school grounds. In an oped for the Washington Examiner, Haskins wrote, “Call me crazy, but I think students need all the ‘access’ to the Constitution they can get ...”

On February 22, Steve Simpson of the Ayn Rand Institute discussed Defending Free Speech, a book for which he served as editor, at Heartland’s Andrew Breitbart Freedom Center. Simpson suggested the media ignore the freedom of speech issue not because they don’t understand it, as Haskins suggested in an article for The Blaze, but because they support the goal of attacking Western culture. Ninety-seven people attended the event and 843 watched online.

On March 1, Dr. Richard Bishirjian, a political theorist and education entrepreneur, spoke at the Breitbart Center about his book, The Coming Death and Future Resurrection of American Higher Education. Thirty guests attended and 430 watched online. Bishirjian discussed 11 illnesses affecting higher education, most of which revolve around government regulations, intervention, and accreditation. He also provided 13 solutions to address those illnesses.

Free speech is an issue not only on college campuses, but in philanthropy as well. On January 26, the Acton Institute and Eurasia Review published an oped describing attempts by state attorneys general to silence the expression of donors to organizations like The Heartland Institute.

Defending the Second Amendment
Lennie Jarratt, project manager for Heartland’s Center for Transforming Education, spoke at an Illinois State Rifle Association meeting in Deerfield, Illinois. Among other topics, he explained...
how Common Core State Standards allow anti-gun rhetoric and other political agendas into the classroom.

On March 22, Heartland hosted an event for David Keene, past president of the National Rifle Association. Fifty-one people attended and 538 watched the livestream. Keene explained why, nearly 50 years after President Lyndon Johnson signed the Gun Control Act of 1968, the NRA still works to address the regulations and wrong thinking embedded in that measure.

Other Issues We’re Watching

On March 29, William Watkins, Jr., author of Crossroads for Liberty: Recovering the Anti-Federalist Values of America’s First Constitution, discussed differences between the Articles of Confederation – the original governing document of the United States – and the U.S. Constitution, which replaced it. He contends the Articles protected individual liberty and community-centered government in ways the looser language of the Constitution does not. Forty-seven people attended and 735 watched the livestream.

Heartland’s government relations staff and policy advisors, research fellows, and senior fellows are monitoring several other issues that involve the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions across the country, including:

► Public land ownership by the federal government and state constitutional amendments guaranteeing the right to hunt and fish.

► A constitutional sovereignty measure pending in Kentucky, which would prohibit state government agencies and judges from applying other nations’ laws in government actions and judicial decisions if those laws conflict with U.S. constitutional protections.

► A lawsuit filed by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, which says a California law capping reimbursement rates out-of-network providers may charge health insurers violates the state’s constitution and U.S. Constitution.

► The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017, known as the REINS Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives and awaits action in the Senate.

Article V and State Efforts

Marketing Director Veronica Harrison and Government Relations Coordinator Lindsey Stroud host a monthly conference call on constitutional reform regularly joined by nearly two dozen allies from organizations across the country. The March call featured as a guest speaker state Sen. Kevin Lundberg of Colorado.

Arizona became the fifth state to commit to ratifying a federal Balanced Budget Amendment when Gov. Doug Ducey signed the Compact for a Balanced Budget, HB 2226, on March 30.

Stroud and other members of Heartland’s government relations team produced Research & Commentary collections addressing constitutional reform in Iowa, Kentucky, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming – which became the 29th state to pass a resolution calling for a convention of states to propose a federal balanced budget amendment.

New Media Efforts

You can subscribe to the center’s new podcast on iTunes or listen on the center’s website at https://www.heartland.org/Center-Constitutional-Reform. Barry Poulson and Neal Schuerer, advisors to the center, were interviewed for the inaugural podcasts.

You can follow the center’s activities on Twitter and Instagram @usconstreform. During the first quarter, the center issued 73 tweets, posted nine Instagram updates, and wrote 28 articles for Heartland’s blog, Freedom Pub.
Throughout the final quarter of 2016 and first quarter of 2017, The Heartland Institute published and promoted papers in the Roadmap for the 21st Century series, reflecting top free-market experts’ views on major public policy choices facing the nation, especially those affecting economic growth and prosperity. The papers feature research and analysis by Heartland Institute Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara and National Tax Limitation Committee President Lewis Uhler.

In January, Heartland published the Roadmap paper “Personal Accounts for Social Security and Medicare,” in which Ferrara and Uhler argue it is imperative for lawmakers and President Donald Trump to address Social Security now, as the status quo cannot be maintained much longer. We sent 8,300 media contacts a press release promoting the paper, which was featured in our Heartland Weekly and The Leaflet e-newsletters.

E-Cigarettes and Harm Reduction
Heartland continued to fight against e-cigarette and tobacco regulations. We released a new policy booklet, Vaping, E-Cigarettes, and Public Policy Toward Alternatives to Smoking, written by Dr. Brad Rodu, one of the nation’s leading experts on tobacco harm reduction; Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans; and Government Relations Coordinator Lindsey Stroud.

“Efforts by state and local governments to ‘improve public health’ by taxing or heavily regulating e-cigarettes present a real threat to those using a product that already has helped as many as 2.5 million Americans quit smoking or stay smoke-free,” they write.

Heartland distributed more than 10,000 copies of the booklet and on March 15 hosted an event featuring Rodu and Pamela Gorman, executive director of the Smoke Free Alternatives Trade Association. Forty-two people attended and another 1,000 watched the livestream. A week later, Stroud met with allies on the issue and delivered a presentation about the booklet.

Budget & Tax News reported on e-cigarette liquid manufacturers’ efforts to force Indiana state regulators to accept their applications to sell to consumers. A month earlier, a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had struck down the state’s law protecting in-state vaping companies from out-of-state competition after local reporters uncovered lawmakers’ connections to businesses benefitting from the law. Indiana lawmakers are considering bills to remove the protectionist restrictions on e-cigarette fluid.

Research Fellow Jesse Hathaway and Stroud interviewed Smokeless Pennsylvania founder Bill Godshall about the U.S. Food & Drug Administration’s decades-long efforts to squash tobacco and e-cigarette products. Godshall, a longtime tobacco control and e-cigarette policy activist, explained how FDA has used regulatory power to pursue prohibition, instead of regulation.

A February issue of Heartland’s e-newsletter The Leaflet, distributed to almost 8,000 state and local lawmakers, featured an item discussing how government regulations, such as FDA’s “deeming rule,” are crippling the vaping industry and eliminating less harmful options for current tobacco consumers.

Fighting for Tax Cuts
Heartland explained to lawmakers how lower and fairer taxes benefit everyone, and we worked with lawmakers to improve their tax policies. The effort paid off in Arkansas, where Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed tax relief into law, building on reforms he enacted in previous years, reducing the state government’s overall tax burden by $50 million, reducing tax rates, and flattening...
the state tax code’s brackets.

In his new budget, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker included similar reforms, lowering the state’s income tax rate for low-income earners and including more households in the brackets paying those lower rates. If the budget is enacted, Walker’s cumulative tax reforms between 2013 and 2018 will allow each Wisconsin household to keep about $1,542 in annual income.

Heartland sent 252 Pennsylvania elected officials a Research & Commentary examining a bill proposing to swap state property tax cuts for increased sales taxes—a plan Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans noted fails to address the state’s real fiscal problems. And we sent Tennessee lawmakers a Research & Commentary analyzing a proposal to boost state government revenue by taxing out-of-state businesses selling to in-state consumers, a proposal that would violate federal legal precedents set in the 1992 Quill v. North Dakota Supreme Court case.

At the national level, Ferrara and Uhler analyzed Trump’s pro-growth tax policies for Investor’s Business Daily. They explain how Trump can unlock the prosperity-building power hidden “deep within the economy.”

Heartland also pressed for corporate tax reforms, promoting economic conditions favoring prosperity for everyone. Congress is working with Trump to reform federal business taxes, and Heartland remains at the forefront of the effort to educate and inform lawmakers about sound tax policies toward business.

Hathaway recorded a podcast with Scott Lincicome, an international trade attorney and Heartland policy advisor, about the destination-based cash-flow tax (DBCFT), a business income tax reform idea prohibiting deductions for imports and exempting export-related revenue from taxation. DBCFT would partially offset reductions in the federal corporate tax with new taxes on imported goods.

More Work on Right-to-Work
Heartland worked with lawmakers across the country to help states improve their business climates. One reform Heartland recommends is cited by many business owners as highly important to their decisions to relocate or expand: right-to-work laws, which say workers cannot be compelled to join and pay membership dues to labor unions as a condition of employment.

Kentucky became the 27th state to pass a right-to-work law, an occasion Heartland marked with a press release sent to 4,020 press and media contacts. The release quotes Hathaway calling the law’s enactment “a victory for workers.” Hathaway was joined on a podcast by Jim Waters, president of the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions, who explained how Kentucky workers will benefit from the new law.

Shortly after Kentucky’s reform, Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens signed right-to-work into law, and Missouri joined the growing number of states where union membership is voluntary. As reported in Budget & Tax News, Missouri’s right-to-work law takes effect in August 2017, and experts predict it will boost the state’s economic fortunes.

Some Heartland staff enjoy spring weather outside our Arlington Heights headquarters.
The Heartland Institute’s activities on climate and energy issues in the first quarter of 2017 were unmatched in their scope, breadth of coverage, and influence.

The election of climate realist Donald Trump as president of the United States opened the way for a shift in the focus of climate science and economic research, providing the opportunity for “Resetting U.S. Climate Policy,” the theme of Heartland’s Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-12), which took place March 23 and 24 in Washington, DC.

The conference featured presentations by U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; Princeton University Professor William Happer; Myron Ebell, leader of the Trump administration’s transition team for the Environmental Protection Agency; and 33 other distinguished scientists, economists, and policy experts. It attracted an audience of 300 in person, more than 7,000 watching the livestream on YouTube and Facebook, and significant media coverage.

Toronto’s National Post published an op-ed about the conference. Referring to claims of near-universal consensus among scientists that a manmade climate change catastrophe is imminent, the author wrote, “In fact this 97 per cent claim is part of the problem. In addition to the multitude of scientists who work in fields so remote from climate as to have no professional opinion, there are countless geologists, physicists, chemists and others who dissent over how much, (a) climate is changing, (b) man is responsible, and (c) it is dangerous. I’m about to hear a lot of their voices at a Heartland Institute Conference in Washington. To say they do not exist is to be, how shall I put it, a ‘denier.’”

A Time magazine article, “Former EPA Aide Wants President Trump to Roll Back Climate Regulations ASAP,” covered the talk by Ebell, who was presented with the “Speaks Truth to Power Award” at the conference. And Science published multiple op-eds discussing the conference, including “Climate Doubters Gather, Call for Killing EPA’s Finding That Carbon Dioxide Endangers Public Health.” The Washington Post published two articles and Newsweek published a news story covering the conference.

E&E News published several news stories about ICCC-12, including “Skeptics Buoyed by a President Who Questions Warming.” The story reported, “About 300 people attended a conference held by the Heartland Institute yesterday to hear speakers raise questions about the scientific accuracy of climate change and the policies to address it. For perhaps the first time, the ideas embraced by this minority of scientists, economists and activists are more aligned with the White House than ever before.”

Breitbart published an op-ed about ICCC-12, “Environmentalists Aren’t Just Wrong. They’re Loathsome And Evil Too.” Heralding those who have been “brutally vilified, traduced, mocked and monstered by the Servants of the Green Blob over the years,” columnist James Delingpole wrote, “I refer, of course, to the tiny, elite fellowship of scientists, economists, politicians, journalists,
and bloggers who have bravely taken the right side of the climate argument and spoken up for truth, integrity, and the scientific method in defiance of the vast and terrifying propaganda behemoth they call the Green Blob. Many of them were present at the annual [sic] Heartland Institute Climate Conference in Washington, D.C. this week.”

**Why Scientists Disagree**

In December 2015, Heartland released *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming* at the United Nations’ COP-21 meeting in Paris. The book was so well-received, donors made it possible for us to produce an updated, full-color second edition. In the first quarter of 2017, we distributed an astounding 151,000 copies of the second edition, accompanied by a 10-minute DVD produced by Free To Choose Media featuring Willie Soon and David Legates. Copies were sent to 45,000 corporate CEOs, 53,000 K–12 science teachers, and 53,000 college science professors.

Numerous media outlets covered our educational outreach, including the *Washington Post* and PBS’s *Frontline*. *Frontline* quoted the cover memo accompanying the booklet from Lennie Jarratt, project manager of Heartland’s Center for Transforming Education, writing, “He asks teachers to ‘consider the possibility’ that the science is not settled. ‘If that’s the case, then students would be better served by letting them know a vibrant debate is taking place among scientists.’”

Heartland has received both positive and negative reactions from dozens of teachers so far. Led by Policy Analyst Tim Benson, we are responding to those who disagree with or have questions concerning the evidence presented in the book. Some teachers have requested additional copies of the book, and we are working with several who have asked to have a Heartland speaker address their students.

As a prelude to Heartland’s climate science education outreach, on February 24 Jarratt attended “Climate Change and Energy: A Minority Report,” featuring Heartland Policy Advisor Steve Goreham, executive director of the Climate Science Coalition of America. The event was organized by Jeanette Ward, a school board member in Elgin (Illinois) School District U-46, and held at Elgin’s Gail Borden Library in response to the “National Biodiversity Teach-In” on global warming taking place in U-46.

**Environment Policy in the Trump Era**

Even before Trump took the oath of office, Heartland was covering his preliminary moves to change the national government’s energy and climate policies. *Newsweek* published an op-ed, headlined “Meet the Climate Change Skeptics Defending Trump’s EPA Pick, Scott Pruitt,” which reported, “‘This is a great day for the environment, the American people, and the economy – which will soon no longer be crippled by totally insane regulations, including the idea that humans exhale a pollutant with every breath,’ said Heartland’s science director Jay Lehr back in December.”

The *Detroit News* published an op-ed by Burnett titled “Trump picks climate realists for new administration.” He wrote, “Only time will tell how effective Trump will be in putting the needs of people ahead of the misanthropic desires of the powerful green lobby, but his picks for key administration positions should give hope to supporters of limited government and personal freedom.”

Four of Heartland’s 12 *Environment & Climate Podcasts* over the first quarter focused on the expected impact of Trump’s cabinet appointments and his energy plan, including an interview with Clyde Wayne Crews, vice president for policy at the Competitive
Enterprise Institute. Crews said Trump got off to a great start with his executive order requiring executive agencies to cut two rules for every new regulation they enact.

Heartland extensively covered Trump’s efforts to get the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines restarted. RedState published an op-ed by Policy Advisor Bette Grande, “The Dakota Access Pipeline Must Be Built.” Grande wrote, “The Alt-Left successfully shut down DAPL, a project that had been fully vetted, had passed every regulatory requirement, and is 99 percent complete. If it’s not completed, the … result would [be] a chilling effect on private investment in future traditional energy projects.”

The National Observer published a news article quoting Research Director S.T. Karnick, “Notley welcomes President Trump’s revival of Keystone XL pipeline.” The story reported, “Sam Karnick, director of research with libertarian think tank The Heartland Institute, said Trump’s decision to move ahead with the Keystone and Dakota pipeline projects is part of a ‘clear program’ to stimulate job growth in the U.S.”

Research Fellow Isaac Orr discussed the pipelines as a guest on WHEC 10 News in Rochester, New York; on Lifeline with Craig Roberts on KFAX-AM and KDOW-FM in San Francisco, California; and on the nationally syndicated Mike Siegel Show and Kate Dalley Radio Show.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ultimately granted the final easement needed to finish the Dakota Access Pipeline, and it has been completed. On March 24, the Trump administration approved a permit for completion of the Keystone XL pipeline.

**Budget Bites Climate Programs**

On March 16, the Trump administration released a 2018 budget proposal that would cut EPA’s budget by 31 percent and end the agency’s climate change programs. Heartland President Joseph Bast said Trump’s EPA budget-cutting efforts were a good start but the president should do more. The Associated Press published, and Fox News republished, a news article quoting Bast as saying, “If Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt are serious about ending the national scandal that is EPA, they will accept nothing less than a 20 percent cut this year and make this year’s cut the first step in a five-year plan to replace the agency.”

Burnett’s views on the proposed EPA budget cuts were quoted in the San Jose Mercury News in “Trump’s planned EPA cuts: Zero dollars for Bay Area program.” The article reported, “It’s long overdue – maybe if they have significantly reduced budgets, they might focus on their core mission,” said Burnett.”

Fifty-eight newspapers with a combined circulation topping 4.5 million published
an op-ed by Burnett, “Junk Science Treaty Should be Junked.” He wrote, “While the United States is expected to restrict its people’s fossil-fuel use, China, India, and other major carbon-dioxide emitters get to keep growing their coal, natural gas and oil use. Their economies get to thrive while ours is expected to stagnate – all without any hope of a real climate benefit.” Newspapers publishing the piece included the Cincinnati Enquirer, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Detroit Free Press, Indianapolis Star, Nashville Tennessean, and Sacramento Bee.

On March 28, Trump signed an executive order suspending, revising, or rescinding four actions related to the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan, steps toward a repeal Heartland has advocated since the plan was first implemented.

**Fracking Freedom, State Energy Laws**

Heartland sent 824 local and state elected officials in Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia a Research & Commentary titled “Nationwide Study Finds Communities Benefit from Fracking.” Discussing a study that found fracking boosts local economies, Policy Analyst Tim Benson wrote, “According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, fracking now accounts for 51 percent of all U.S. crude oil production. The oil and natural gas hydraulic fracturing has enabled us to exploit … can ensure the United States is the world’s largest energy producer well beyond the 21st century.”

As Nevada and Florida legislators were considering bills to ban fracking in their states, we sent lawmakers Research & Commentaries explaining why banning fracking would be a mistake. On March 7, Benson testified before the Florida Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee in opposition to SB 442, Florida’s proposed fracking ban. He testified, “Drilling is currently being conducted across the country, including in Florida, in a safe and responsible manner. Federal, state, and local governments have tested thousands of sites for hydraulic fracturing-related pollution of groundwater and drinking water resources, as well as for air quality.”

The Tampa Bay Times and Bradenton Herald noted Heartland’s efforts in defense of fracking in an op-ed titled “Dana Young’s Anti-fracking Bill Advances in Senate.” The article reported, “Opposing the bill were ExxonMobil, the Florida Chamber, the James Madison Institute, the Heartland Institute of Washington, D.C. [sic], the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Petroleum Council, which argued … hydraulic fracturing has been proven safe in other states and that it must remain an option if Florida is to meet its energy needs.”

As states grappled with proposals to reduce, end, or expand their renewable energy mandates and net metering plans, Heartland provided the intellectual ammunition supporting their reduce-and-repeal efforts. For instance, Heartland’s government relations team provided research and commentaries detailing why solar subsidies in Minnesota should be repealed and why net metering programs in Indiana, Minnesota, and Montana should be ended as those states’ legislatures considered bills to do just that.
Challenging Climate Change Curricula

By Teresa Mull
Research Fellow
Managing Editor
School Reform News

Heartland has been a stalwart champion of young children being indoctrinated with an alarmist climate change agenda. We sent copies of *Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming* in several large mailings throughout the first quarter, with the plan of ultimately reaching 200,000 teachers and college professors. (The campaign is described in more detail in the Environment report on pages 12–15.)

The website of the PBS program *Frontline* reported on the effort on March 28, and numerous media outlets quickly followed suit. Stories about the effort ran in the *Washington Post* (circ. 351,278), *Christian Science Monitor*, *Teen Vogue* (circ. 1,007,108) and *Huffington Post*, among other outlets.

Encouraging a Classical Alternative

One of the main advantages of education choice is that it gives educators other than the government an opportunity to innovate and personalize the learning experience for students. Heartland encourages industry leaders who are making strides in providing quality learning alternatives that educate the whole person in the classical sense.

Lennie Jarratt, project manager for Heartland’s Center for Transforming Education, attended a Chicago Classical Academy event with Dr. Larry Arnn, president of Hillsdale College, and Phil Kilgore, director of the Barney Charter School Initiative, among other speakers. Forty-five people attended the event.

Members of a group working to get the Chicago Classical Academy started joined Research Fellow Teresa Mull on her weekly podcast. They shared their struggles with getting the charter school approved, the advantages of a classical education, and what lies ahead for them.

Mull also produced a podcast with the Pioneer Institute’s Jamie Gass, who explained why the teaching of civics – history, government, and the duties of citizens – has largely disappeared from many classrooms. He pointed to Common Core and political correctness as culprits in the decline of modern curricula and discussed the revival of true liberal arts learning that has come about through homeschooling and the education choice movement.

Defending Free Speech on Campus

Heartland showed its commitment to upholding college campus free speech rights during a quarter marred by many instances of protestors preventing, often with violence, conservative and libertarian speakers from expressing views contrary to the mainstream, politically correct doctrines of contemporary higher education.

A press release titled “Heartland Institute Experts React to Arrest of College Students Distributing Constitutions at Public College” was sent to 6,940 reporters and media contacts, and two issues of *School Choice Weekly* highlighted incidents of campus speech suppression. *School Reform News* featured stories about a University of Virginia professor who was pressured into taking a leave of absence for a Facebook post and a group of college professors who have formed the “Heterodox Academy” to fight for free speech at campuses across the country.

Holland titled “Entire Campus Should Be Safe Space for Free Speech,” and RedState published one by Senior Fellow Rob Natelson, “Preet Bharara Is Further Proof Colleges Favor the Left, Discriminate Against Conservatives.”


ESAs, Tax-Credit Scholarships
Heartland produced more than a dozen Research & Commentaries extolling the value of education savings accounts (ESAs) and tax-credit scholarships. Policy Analyst Tim Benson testified before the Missouri Senate Committee on Government Reform, and Research Fellow Bette Grande testified before the North Dakota House Education Committee. ESA legislation was introduced in Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval pledged $60 million to fund the state’s ESA program. Kentucky, Minnesota, Texas, and Wyoming took up tax-credit scholarship measures.

Mull and Holland published a combined ten op-eds and letters to the editor on ESAs, including hits in the Las Vegas Review-Journal (circ. 111,405) and American Spectator.

Jarratt met with Oklahoma state Rep. Mike Rogers to discuss ESAs, tax-credit scholarships, and Native American education, among other issues. He also spoke with Illinois state Rep. Tom Morrison about education choice in Illinois and the chances of a tax-credit scholarship bill being introduced this session.

School Choice Weekly called attention to the debate over a national tax-credit scholarship program. “President Donald Trump spoke in favor of education choice during his campaign, and now that he’s in office, Politico reports a national tax-credit scholarship program may be in the works,” Mull reported.

National School Choice Week
National School Choice Week (NSCW), held the last week of January, brought a record turnout. Jarratt spearheaded Heartland’s participation in the effort. He discussed NSCW on the nationally syndicated Mike Siegel Show, and a January issue of the government relations department’s weekly e-newsletter, The Leaflet, called NSCW to the attention of 8,334 elected officials and allies.

Heartland hosted Jamie Gass, director of the Center for School Reform at the Pioneer Institute, for an NSCW event on January 25. He discussed Blaine Amendments, which opponents of education choice have regularly tried to use in court to block reform. Forty-two people attended the event, with another 619 watching online.

Townhall published an op-ed by Holland titled “The Left Didn’t Groove to the Beat of School Choice Week.” He wrote, “The record-breaking numbers for the seventh annual National School Choice Week (NSCW), which wrapped up January 28, were stunning: There were 21,392 events held, with participation from some 16,000 schools and 2,000 homeschooling groups.” RedState published an op-ed by Mull titled “The Left’s Failing, False Narrative on School Choice.”
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