As interim president of The Heartland Institute, I expect this essay leading off The Heartlander will be the first and only “president’s essay” written by me and with my face next to the text. I am quite honored to write these words in this important moment for the institute, and I’m grateful that Heartland’s board of directors entrusted me, your director of communications since 2010, to lead Heartland in this time of transition.

The story of how I (and Heartland) got to this moment is a story about Heartland’s strength as an organization, which it enjoys thanks to a corporate culture that rewards loyalty, encourages excellence, demands respect, and insists that all achievements and struggles be shared.

Knowing What You Don’t Know
I first came to Heartland in 2008 as managing
editor of InfoTech & Telecom News—a now defunct publication that would be quite relevant these days. Sadly, Heartland could not sustain funding for that project. (If you think InfoTech & Telecom News should be back in circulation, we’re always looking for funding to get it back into production!)

In the summer of 2010, Joe Bast rewarded my work and dedication to Heartland’s mission—and my 16 years in journalism, including some high-level work in Washington, DC—by asking me to be director of communications. I was thrilled to take the position, but I had no idea then just how much I’d learn working for several years side-by-side with Joe.

I thought I was a solid free-market thinker before coming to Chicago to work as Heartland’s communications director, but Joe taught me that I didn’t know as much as I needed to know. Joe introduced me to the deeper practical and philosophical writings of Milton Friedman, Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard, Ludwig von Mises, Thomas Sowell, and so many others. I tried to introduce Joe to sports, but his brain is reserved for more important matters: libertarian philosophy, economics, and his family.

‘Never Lie’
The most vital thing Joe Bast taught me about Heartland’s corporate culture, the foundation of everything we do around here, is this: “Never lie.” Following that rule requires the courage to admit when you screw up. It requires the humility to know that you’re right without damaging the egos of others. And most of all, it requires a level of trust among everyone in the organization—from interns to the president—that always telling the truth is never the wrong thing, for you or the organization.

We have that good advice posted all over our headquarters in Arlington Heights, Illinois. In fact, Anthony Watts, Heartland’s new senior fellow for environment, was so impressed to see that up on the wall during his first visit to Heartland that he took a picture of it and shared it on social media. Anthony told me how rare such a rule is for any organization. Maybe it is. That only makes me appreciate more how special and liberating it is to work at The Heartland Institute.

Here’s another thing we’ve come to learn, this time only recently, at Heartland: Founding President Joseph Bast is irreplaceable. Over the past decade, Joe and I watched as Heartland’s peers in the free-market think tank world transitioned from their founding leader to … well, someone who couldn’t measure up. Joe and I talked often about the struggles they endured, and we hoped to learn from their mistakes, to handle it better when it was our time.

‘Replacing the Irreplaceable’
Alas, Heartland learned that finding a man with all the tools Joe brought to the table in 1984 and developed over three decades is virtually impossible. Where do you find someone who has the intellectual heft to establish and maintain a consistent and distinctive ideological identity, manage a diverse and dispersed staff of 40, and grow an organization’s operating budget from about $15,000 to more than $6 million a year?

The answer is: You don’t. So, Heartland has another plan.

Soon, we will have a new president in place whose main job will include maintaining our recent levels of annual revenues, managing and growing the Development Department and our financial resources, and serving as a respected public spokesperson for the principles Heartland has advanced for all these years.
The good news for the new president is that Heartland has in place all the supporting staff he will need to succeed—yet another legacy of Joe Bast.

Kevin Fitzgerald, who worked as a senior manager at Heartland for years and knows how and why our internal culture and structure work so well, is our new CEO. His job is to make sure the senior management team and the president are working closely together to achieve all the goals you support.

Wanda Davis is Heartland’s new executive vice president. She makes sure all departments are working together and getting their jobs done on time. She keeps the department heads accountable for their work and offers support and solutions when we run into challenges. There really is no better person for that task in this organization than Wanda, and we’re lucky she has taken on that vital management responsibility.

Latreece Reed will serve as vice president of administration, and in so doing she will continue filling the role she has played for nearly two decades: being the glue that keeps Heartland together. The new president will soon learn just how important it is that Latreece is here each day to make sure every staffer is respected, motivated, and accountable to his or her peers.

David Hoyt is Heartland’s new executive director of development. He will work directly with the new president to create and execute a long-term fundraising plan, to ensure the organization’s financial health and growth. We are excited about the fresh perspective he brings to the table after working successfully for years with free-market nonprofits across the country.

Gwendalyn Carver, formerly the director of development, is now Heartland’s director of marketing, a position we’ve had unfilled for far too long. Heartland has been in desperate need of a marketing director who has strong organizational skills and drive—qualities that perfectly describe what Gwen has provided to our organization for years.

We are also close to hiring a new director of government relations, and we’re very excited about the experience this individual will bring to our team. I expect the hiring to occur almost close enough to the deadline for this essay to announce it to you, but not quite. I’m happy to leave that task to our next president, who we expect to be in place by the time you read these words.

I’m also happy to leave the president’s essay in future editions of this quarterly publication to our next president. He will have a lot of exciting news to report, and his vision for the future of Heartland will no doubt be compelling reading.

There are great days ahead for Heartland, and I’m excited to be a part of it. We all hope you are, too.

Jim Lakely (jlakely@heartland.org) is interim president and director of communications at The Heartland Institute.

The Heartland Institute is an independent source of research and commentary founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1984. It is not affiliated with any political party, business, or foundation. Its activities are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Heartland’s mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. Such solutions include parental choice in education, market-based approaches to environmental protection and health care finance, tax and spending limitation, and deregulation in areas where property rights and markets do a better job than government bureaucracies.

©2019 The Heartlander is published quarterly for donors to The Heartland Institute. Nothing in The Heartlander should be construed as reflecting the views of The Heartland Institute or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any legislation.

3939 North Wilke Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
Phone 312/377-4000
Web heartland.org
Email think@heartland.org
Heartland: By the Numbers

During the second quarter of 2019, The Heartland Institute ...

- Published seven print and digital monthly issues of Budget & Tax News, Environment & Climate News, and Health Care News.
- Produced 47 Research & Commentaries addressing issues in 39 states.
- Testified or submitted comments in five states.
- Signed one coalition letter.
- Contacted elected officials 205,357 times, including 964 one-on-one contacts by phone, email, or in person.
- Generated at least 36 broadcast, 1,252 online, and 469 print media hits reaching more than 48.1 million subscribers.
- Released 70 podcasts, attracting a total listening audience of 1,154,999 people, and added 224 blog posts to Freedom Pub.
- Added 24 videos to our YouTube channel. Videos on the channel attracted a total of 415,230 views.
- Attracted 1,466,632 impressions on our Facebook page.
- Achieved 1.1 million impressions from our tweets.
- Hosted 11 events attended by 2,935 people and spoke at six events attended by 390 people.
- Published and distributed three Policy Briefs on drug access models, global sea-level rise, and the Green New Deal.
- Published and distributed four Policy Tip Sheets on opportunity scholarships, tax code reform, Medicaid work requirements, and Medicaid waivers.
- Released 40 issues of our weekly e-newsletters: Climate Change Weekly, Heartland Weekly, and The Leaflet.
- Generated at least 22 broadcast and 26 online hits on socialism issues, as well as three print media hits that reached approximately 373,807 people.
Heartland podcasts continued to roll strong into the second quarter of 2019, with 1,154,999 downloads, including an all-time high monthly number of 447,774. We’re on pace to exceed four million downloads in 2019. (See page four.)

**Highlights:**


The *Environment & Climate News Podcast*, hosted by Senior Fellow and *Environment & Climate News* Managing Editor H. Sterling Burnett and Senior Fellow Anthony Watts, was downloaded 310,958 times. Highlights from this quarter include Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore explaining why the organization wrongly opposes golden rice, and Dr. Roy Spencer, who discussed El Niño and the how activists are twisting the global warming debate.

The *Health Care News Podcast*, hosted by Research Fellow and *Health Care News* Managing Editor AnneMarie Schieber and Policy Advisor Sarah Lee, was downloaded 220,014 times. A highlight from this quarter is an interview with former Navy SEAL and current Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX). Crenshaw discussed different approaches to health care being floated by both political parties in Washington, DC, including the Medicare for All proposals now being pushed by 2020 Democratic presidential candidates.

The *Voices of Vapers Podcast* is hosted by State Government Relations Manager Lindsey Stroud. It was downloaded 29,521 times. A highlight from this quarter includes an interview with Washington State Rep. Drew MacEwen. Rep. MacEwen discussed proposed state legislation in 2019, including a possible flavor ban and tax increases.

The *School Reform News Podcast* is hosted by State Government Relations Manager Lennie Jarrett. It was downloaded 66,402 times this quarter. A highlight includes an interview with Mark Joseph, producer of the upcoming documentary *No Safe Spaces*, which stars comedian Adam Corolla and columnist Dennis Prager and looks at the censorship on college campuses.

Heartland’s *In the Tank Podcast* recently launched a live video format available to watch on YouTube. Hosted by Donald Kendal, Jim Lakely, and Justin Haskins, as well as occasionally featuring Policy Advisor Isaac Orr, this podcast was downloaded 125,780 times. It is released every Friday and features work from think tanks across the country. This quarter, *In The Tank* featured work from the The Heartland Institute, the RAND Corporation, FEE, PRI, Gallup, and the National Center for Public Policy, to name a few. ICCC-13 promotion and the Green New Deal were also highlighted.
From Alberta to Australia, from Finland to France and beyond, voters are increasingly showing their displeasure with expensive energy policies imposed by politicians in an inane effort to fight purported human-caused climate change.

Skepticism over whether humans are causing dangerous climate change has always been higher in America than in most industrialized countries. As a result, governments in Europe, Canada, and other developed countries are much farther along the energy rationing path cutting carbon dioxide emissions requires. However, residents in these countries have begun to revolt against the higher energy costs they suffer under due to high taxes on fossil fuels and mandates to use expensive renewable energy.

For instance, protesters in France donning yellow vests took to the streets in 2018—and have stayed there ever since—in large part to protest scheduled increases in fuel taxes, electricity prices, and stricter vehicle emissions controls, which French President Emmanuel Macron claimed were necessary to meet the country’s greenhouse gas reduction commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. After the first four weeks of protest, Macron’s government cancelled the climate action plan.

Also in 2018, in part as a reaction against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s climate policies, global warming skeptic Doug Ford was elected as premier of Ontario, Canada’s most populous province. Ford announced he would end energy taxes imposed by Ontario’s previous premier and would join Saskatchewan’s premier in a legal fight against Trudeau’s federal carbon dioxide tax.

In August 2018, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was forced to resign over carbon dioxide restrictions he’d planned to meet the country’s Paris climate commitments. His successor announced reducing energy prices and improving reliability, not fighting climate change, would be the government’s primary energy goals going forward. Subsequently, Australia’s deputy prime minister and environment minister announced the country would continue using coal for electricity and expand coal mining and exports.

2018 was just a prelude for the political climate revolt to come.

In mid-March, the Forum for Democracy (FvD), a fledgling political party just three years old, tied for the largest number of seats, 12, in the divided Dutch Senate in the 2019 elections. FvD takes a decidedly skeptical
stance on climate change. On the campaign trail, Thierry Baudet, FvD’s leader, said the government should stop funding programs to meet the country’s commitments to international climate change agreements, saying such efforts are driven by “climate-change hysteria.”

In Finland, climate change policies became the dominant issue in the April 14 election, as support for climate skepticism surged. While all the other parties proposed plans to raise energy prices and limit energy use, when all the votes had been counted, the Finns Party, which made the fight against expensive climate policies the central part of its platform, came out the big winner with the second highest number of seats in Parliament. The second place finish was an important victory for the Finns Party and its skeptical stance because just two months prior to the election, polls showed its support hovering below 10 percent. After the Finns Party made battling alarmist climate policies its main goal, its popularity soared, delivering it the second most seats in Finland’s legislature, 39, just one seat behind the Social Democratic Party, with 40 seats. Even The New York Times noted the Finns Party’s electoral surge was based on its expressed climate skepticism.

In Alberta, where the economy declined after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s climate policies were enacted, on April 16 voters replaced the reigning Premier Rachel Notley and her New Democratic Party (NDP), which supported federal climate policies, with the United Conservative Party, headed by newly elected Premier Jason Kenney, who vowed to scrap the province’s carbon tax and every other policy in NDP’s climate action plan. As part of that effort Kenney said he would reverse plans to accelerate the closure of the province’s coal power plants and its cap on emissions from the oil sands. In addition, Kenney says he will challenge the federal government’s climate impositions in court and streamline regulations hampering the province’s critical oil and gas industry and pipeline construction.

Even as daily headlines in the lamestream media become ever shriller, hyping climate fears based on projections made by unverified climate models, the public is becoming increasingly weary of the chicken-little claims of impending climate doom. Voters in developed countries are saying “enough is enough” to high energy prices that punish the most vulnerable, but do nothing to control the weather.

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D. (hburnett@heartland.org) is a senior fellow on energy and the environment at The Heartland Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research center headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois.
Can the U.S. economy grow at a rate of 3 percent, 4 percent, or even better in the years ahead? Or will the growth rate slow to what some have called the “new normal” of 2 percent? It all depends on whether government gets out of the way.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. economy grew at an average rate of 4.3 percent, according to financial adviser Douglas Carr, writing for The Hill. At that rate, the standard of living – or gross domestic product per person – would double over a 40-year period. By comparison, from 2010 to 2017, the U.S. economy grew at a rate of 2.2 percent a year, and the European Union grew at a dismal 1.4 percent annually. “Neither figure is good,” wrote Carr.

The population of the United States increases every year because births and immigration outnumber deaths. The American population grew by a bit less than 1 percent annually after the year 2000. That means that if the U.S. economic pie grows by only 1 or 2 percent, any increased economic output must be shared by more people, and thus the average American family isn’t noticeably better off from one year to the next.

Fortunately, U.S. economic growth has accelerated since Donald Trump entered the Oval Office. In 2018, U.S. output grew by 2.9 percent, after adjusting for inflation, in part due to the effects of the Trump-led Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the administration’s deregulatory effort. Even better, in the first three months of 2019, the economy grew at an annual rate of 3.1 percent, according to revised figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce released May 30.

Although these numbers are a major improvement over the weak growth in the Obama era, even 3.1 percent growth means it would take many decades to double living standards. Under these conditions, it would take far too long to raise all Americans (willing and capable of working) out of poverty.

Hence, the rate of economic growth matters significantly. Although the 4.3 percent
growth of the 1960s sounds impressive by today’s standards, it was lower than the growth in the 1950s and paled in comparison to the surging economies of Western Europe during the same period.

“Heart of the 1960s to the early 1970s today’s basket cases – Greece and Portugal – were growing at impressive annual rates of 7.7 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively,” writes Carr. “Spain expanded 7.3 percent per year, while Austria, Belgium, Finland and France all grew around 5 percent.” Japan grew at a very impressive 9.7 percent rate from 1960 to 1973.

What has led to the slowed growth of developed countries in Europe, East Asia, and North America in recent years? The answer is simple, according to Carr: Government spending in these countries has increased substantially.

“Since the early 1970s,” writes Carr, “one-fifth of the economies of Greece, Portugal, and Spain has shifted from the private sector to the public sector, as government expenditures doubled [as a share of the economy].” In Japan, government’s share of the economic pie grew from around 20 percent in the 1960s and early 1970s to nearly 40 percent today, says Carr. In the United States, government spending has grown from 30 percent to nearly 40 percent of output since the 1970s.

What has driven the increase in government spending in all of these countries has been a vast expansion of the welfare state. Unfortunately, this has dampened investment, innovation, and economic growth, because less capital is available for the private sector, the home to innovation and technological advancements.

Unless we get government spending under control, slow growth and lower living standards for all Americans could be the “new normal” for generations to come.

Joe Barnett (joepaulbarnett@att.net) is a research fellow with The Heartland Institute.
The Heartland Institute’s

Dear Friend,

Thank you for being a valuable supporter of The Heartland Institute. It’s because of your generous support that we are so successful fighting for free-market solutions. As we push forward into the third quarter of 2019, we have enhanced our donor benefits.

If you’ve already given this year, great! We will continue to honor your current membership level of giving. But if not, this is a huge opportunity for you to become a Heartland supporter, patron, silver sponsor, gold sponsor, or platinum sponsor. We truly appreciate your increased loyalty, respect, and dedication to help us promote freedom.

For more information on how to support our mission of freedom at The Heartland Institute, please contact David Hoyt, our executive director of development. Call 312/377-4000 or email dhoyt@heartland.org.

What level of giving is right for you?

Please refer to the enclosed #9 business reply envelope for a detailed list of Heartland’s new donor benefits.

BY MAIL: Complete and return the enclosed business reply envelope. Mail your donation to The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004. Our federal tax identification number is 36-3309812.

DONATE BY PHONE:
Call 312/377-4000 and ask for David Hoyt or a staffer on Heartland’s elite fundraising team.

GIVE ONLINE: heartland.org/donate
Explore all the ways to give and contribute to the work of The Heartland Institute.

DONATE MONTHLY: Monthly giving is the easiest and most efficient way to support Heartland. You can easily start, change, or stop your gift at any time online or by phone. Visit heartland.org/donate or contact the fundraising team at 312/377-4000 to set up your monthly giving account.

DONATING IRA DISTRIBUTION: If you are the owner of a traditional or beneficiary IRA and are over 70.5 years of age, you can make a qualified charitable distribution up to $100,000 per person. For more information on how you can do this, please contact David Hoyt.
The Heartland Institute’s Free To Choose Medicine (FTCM) project earned a huge lift in May 2018 when President Trump signed into law the Right to Try Act. The momentum behind FTCM has only grown since.

The president’s imprimatur indicates his support of the solution. The primary differences between Right to Try (RTT) and FTCM are important. While RTT is limited to patients with terminal illnesses, which leaves out entire disease groups, FTCM is open to anyone suffering from a debilitating disease. FTCM also seeks to create an alternate path around the lengthy (10–12 years) and expensive ($2.9 billion) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug approval process.

The project has two complementary goals: deliver life-enhancing and life-saving drugs and therapies to patients sooner and at a lower cost.

FTCM is a six-round project that culminates with Congress passing FTCM legislation. The first two rounds—adoption of FTCM in Japan and China and passage of RTT in the United States—have already been accomplished. Of the remaining four rounds, only the last requires congressional action; the other three can be implemented at the agency level or via executive order.

The goal of FTCM is to forge an alternate, innovative path around FDA’s antiquated drug approval process. Very few people realize that this has already been done once by FDA, in the 1990s, when it allowed early access to a promising HIV/AIDS drug. FTCM extends this precedent to drugs that have passed Phase 1 safety testing and demonstrate promise in helping patients.

The Heartland Institute continues to meet with and brief Senators and Congressmen and their staff on Capitol Hill, senior officials at FDA, and key White House leaders. These efforts have resulted in Congressional leaders in the House and Senate sending letters to the FDA in support of implementing FTCM principles. In addition, Heartland held a public breakout session at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February and commissioned a survey focused on national health care issues, the results of which we shared directly with the White House.

On the issue of drug prices, the Left is proposing what it always does: increasing government control of drug prices and health insurance. FTCM takes a different approach, inserting free-enterprise principles and patient choice within the drug approval process—the result of which would be the development of higher-quality drugs that would be available more quickly and at a lower cost.

This is as close to a bipartisan issue as Washington, DC can get—everyone knows someone who can benefit from FTCM and faster, more affordable access to breakthrough drugs and therapies.

Interested in learning more or helping with this landmark effort? Please call Christina Herrin at (312) 377-4000 or email her at cherrin@heartland.org.
By Christina Herrin

For Jaci Hermstad and many others suffering from debilitating diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), time and treatment options are limited. Hermstad is a 25-year-old native of Spencer, Iowa, who is fighting for her life against a rare form of ALS. Tragically, her twin sister lost her battle with the same deadly disease, which attacks one’s muscles, eliminates one’s ability to walk or talk, and eventually paralyzes the entire body.

Fortunately for Hermstead, there is a glimmer of hope. Soon, she is set to receive a personalized molecular therapy developed specifically for her. Because of research advancements and the use of biomarkers, personalized therapies are more common than ever. For instance, Antisense Oligonucleotide (AO) could stop the progression of Hermstad’s ALS.

Unfortunately, this potentially lifesaving treatment (and countless others) has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is responsible for the approval and oversight of all prescription drugs, therapies, and medical devices. AO is a last hope for Jaci, who is literally running out of time waiting for the FDA’s gold stamp of approval. Making matters worse, Hermstad’s family has...
financed this therapy, which has cost about $700,000 so far.

Obviously, the vast majority of Americans with debilitating diseases cannot afford to finance such costly treatments. Even worse, most cannot wait for the FDA to approve drugs and therapies that could be lifesaving.

Just consider, it takes 12 years and $2.9 billion for an average drug to go from lab to market.

Fortunately, a comprehensive solution to this problem exists: the Free to Choose Medicine (FTCM) track.

In 1992, a parallel track was created during the height of the AIDS epidemic to expedite access to treatment, which saved more than 12,000 lives. FTCM would allow medication that has passed the FDA's stage one safety evaluation and at least one stage two efficacy test to be placed on a track that would allow patients to access potentially life-saving medication.

The FTCM track would be made available to patients with debilitating diseases who have exhausted all other treatment options. Patient experience and real-world data would be part of the clinical trial process and would be stored in a Trade Off Evaluation Drug Database (with ample privacy protections). This database would provide a plethora of patient data that could be used for drug development. Even better, it could likely slash the excruciatingly long time and catastrophic cost factors that currently plague the drug development process.

Currently, patients like Hermstad writhe in pain, with little hope. Fortunately, FTCM can alleviate much of this needless pain and suffering. The invisible graveyard of innumerable patients who have died while waiting for FDA approval is totally tragic. The current FDA approval process is outdated, convoluted, and extremely costly to the point that lives are being lost.

For patients like Hermstad, time is limited. We must reform the FDA approval process and wholeheartedly embrace FTCM.

Unlike so many of its predecessors, FTCM is not a Band-Aid solution because it addresses the root of the problem by allowing patients suffering with debilitating diseases to access potentially lifesaving medication, which would save millions of lives.

Christina Herrin (cherrin@heartland.org) is the campaign manager for Free to Choose Medicine, a project of The Heartland Institute, a nonpartisan, free-market think tank headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois.
Debates continue to rage over the goals of education and methods used to achieve them. Sadly, however, precious little learning can occur when students live in fear of being attacked in the hallways or cafeteria, assaulted in restrooms or locker rooms, or bullied on school buses. The brutal psychological onslaught often extends beyond school hours, too, in the form of nasty insults and vile threats made via social media.

In our fractious age, the overriding wish of many parents—well documented in numerous surveys—is that their children make it safely through a school day. No doubt their kids agree. And the chatter at some schools about future shootings only magnifies the tension.

Despite these massive problems, there is a ray of hope for families stuck living with schools in which administrators won’t or can’t make student safety a top priority, the *sine qua non* for all learning. It comes with the May 7 introduction of a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, House Resolution 2538, that would make Child Safety Accounts (CSAs) available in the Washington, DC public schools.

Under the proposed CSA program, parents could pull their kids out of dangerous schools when they have a “reasonable apprehension” for their kids’ physical or emotional safety and then use tax-free CSAs to pay for tuition, fees, therapies, or other education-related expenses in the public or private schools of their choice.

Why just the Washington, DC schools? Because the District of Columbia is the sole K–12 school district over which the federal government has direct financial and operational authority. CSAs would be a blessing for families across the country, but it is up to lawmakers in each state to decide whether to extend this lifeline to endangered children.

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN), sponsor of the Washington, DC CSA bill, stated in a press release he hopes success of the program will “inspire more states to adopt similar policies and help children feel safe and free to learn at school.”

My colleagues at The Heartland Institute have pioneered the CSA reform that would allow parents to pull their children out of a dangerous school without delay. The immediate relief contrasts sharply with the Unsafe School Choice Option in federal education law that is so littered with
bureaucratic obstacles as to make it just about impossible for any public school to be designated unsafe and for parental choice thereby to be activated. A mere 50 of every 100,000 public schools nationwide annually meet governmental criteria for an “unsafe” designation.

The latest edition of *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* from the feds’ primary data-collecting agency for education, the National Center for Education Statistics, indicates how much bigger the problem is. In 2017 there were 827,000 incidents of theft and “nonfatal violent victimization” (including assault, robbery, sexual assault, and rape) among students aged 12 to 18, or 33 incidents per every 1,000 students. Further, one in five students reported being bullied at school, and 16 percent of students in grades 9–12 said they had carried a weapon (such as a gun, knife, or club) with them somewhere at least once during the previous 30 days, with 4 percent admitting they had brought such a weapon onto school grounds.

It’s not surprising then that fully one-third of parents responding to the 2018 Phi Delta Kappa survey of attitudes toward public schools said they have fears about the safety of their children while attending school. The level of apprehension rose to a troubling 48 percent among parents who earn less than $50,000 per year.

Although it’s unlikely Democrats in Congress will support Child Safety Accounts because of their close ties to public school unions, state and local policymakers don’t have to wait to see if a bipartisan majority in Congress coalesces to make CSAs available for most parents and their kids. They can examine the need in their own communities and act accordingly.

If they do, millions of lives would be improved, so what are state lawmakers waiting for?

Robert Holland (holland@heartland.org) is a senior fellow for education policy with The Heartland Institute.
By Lennie Jarratt  
Government Relations Director (Interim)

The Heartland Heat Map lays out the Government Relations team’s educational and legislative activities in the 50 states during the first half of 2019. We wrote and sent Research & Commentaries (R&C) to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. R&Cs are analytical pieces on specific policies facing individual states on issues such as income tax reform, tobacco harm reduction, education choice, student safety, renewable energy mandates, cap-and-trade schemes, certificate of need reform and repeal, and FDA reform.

We had face-to-face meetings with elected officials in 13 states and Washington, DC to discuss their legislative priorities, and our experts testified in 13 states. In 11 states, we hosted events for legislators in or near their state capital to brief them on issues and to encourage them to join our Legislative Forum.

In addition to what the map shows, many times we engaged in a variety of activities within a state on particular issues, further strengthening Heartland’s role in bringing about policy change. For example, we testified in North Dakota seven times in favor of bills that would allow dental therapy, reform civil asset forfeiture, and create education choice, and against bills on income taxes and ill-advised pension reform. We sent nine Research & Commentaries to Washington State lawmakers on topics such as dental therapy, capital gains taxes, vaping taxes, and multiple energy and environment issues.

All this work led to numerous legislative victories this year, such as the expansion of education choice in six states (Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and significant certificate-of-need reforms in Florida and Georgia. Other victories include the defeat of proposed carbon dioxide taxes in nine states and gas tax increases in four states. From Hawaii to Maine, Heartland logged more than 300,000 contacts with state elected officials on education, budget and tax, energy and environment, and health care issues in the first half of 2019.

In June 2018, Victory Enterprises, Inc. surveyed 500 randomly selected state elected officials representing all 50 states. The study found nearly 72 percent of all legislators recognize Heartland and 37 percent find Heartland to be “very” or “somewhat” valuable to them. Even more amazing, 78 percent of legislators said they have read at least one of our newspapers, with 45 percent of them indicating a Heartland newspaper changed their opinion on a public policy issue.

Heartland’s dedicated full-time staff and network of policy advisors continue to work overtime to make sure we take advantage of the current political makeup at the federal and state levels. The Government Relations Department is one of the things that makes The Heartland Institute unique among free-market think tanks. We treat state legislators like customers and with the utmost importance. Of course, we hope all 50 states will embrace individual liberty, but regardless of the political composition of a state’s legislature, Heartland is committed to educating and advising lawmakers in every political party. If you’re interested in free-market solutions, we’re here to help!
Heartland Heat Map

Testimony
Legislative Event
Legislative Meeting
Research & Commentary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Testimony</th>
<th>Legislative Event</th>
<th>Legislative Meeting</th>
<th>Research &amp; Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>RI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on 12pt ITC Caslon 224 bold
Based on 7pt ITC Caslon 224 medium horizontally scaled to 105%
Based on 12pt ITC Caslon 224 bold
Based on 7pt Frutiger; light horizontally scaled to 105%
The 13th International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-13) took place on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC.

The event featured the courageous men and women who spoke the truth about climate change during the height of the global warming scare. Now, many of them are advising the new administration or joining it in senior positions.
Self-described socialists Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) have become two of the most powerful Democrats in America. They routinely propose radical legislation that was considered unimaginable just a few years ago. They want to impose single-payer health care, have government pay for every student’s college tuition, ban all fossil fuels, launch a network of government-owned banks, start factories to manufacture all drugs, and institute a federal guaranteed income.

Together, these ideas pose the most significant threat to individual liberty in modern American history.

The far-Left is well-organized, well-funded, and deeply committed to fundamentally transforming America through continued indoctrination. The only way to keep them from succeeding is to fight back with a massive, far-reaching public education effort of our own.

To combat the rise of socialism, The Heartland Institute launched its Stopping Socialism project, led by Justin Haskins and Donald Kendal. The project develops numerous articles, podcasts, videos, and spokespersons to educate the public about the dangers of socialism and the benefits of capitalism. We’re also building up a new website—StoppingSocialism.com—that trains and energizes young people and provides the ammunition needed to stop socialism in its tracks.

Our Message Is Winning
The fight against socialism is the fight the liberty movement is craving. This continues to be proven by the response from audiences at our presentations as well as outreach from high-profile media outlets. In the second quarter of 2019 alone, Heartland had 22 TV and radio hits on the topic of socialism. Some of these include Tucker Carlson Tonight, Fox & Friends, and Varney & Co.
Get your copy of Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

*Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels* is the latest volume in the *Climate Change Reconsidered* series – now 5,000 pages of peer-reviewed science that shows humans are NOT causing a climate crisis.