



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on July 6, 2018
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California: Fighting for Freedom — and Survival

From the print edition of The New American:

“It’s not over ‘til it’s over.” Refusing to submit and surrender to tyrannical government, many Californians are fighting a desperate battle to reclaim their state.



The steamroller got steamrolled. California’s legislative machine, which intended to roll over the state’s homeschooling families, got squished instead, as thousands of homeschool parents and students swamped the Capitol in Sacramento on April 25, 2018. They presented a vigorous (but orderly) demonstration of opposition to AB 2756, authored by Democrat Assemblyman Jose Medina. The Medina bill would have demanded that all homeschool families submit to involuntary home inspections by state agents.

The shocking case of David and Louise Turpin, who were arrested in Riverside County on charges of extreme child abuse, provided the pretext for the legislation. The Turpins’ 13 children had been shackled, tortured, and fed starvation rations for years. Media accounts of their horrific conditions played up the Turpins’ claim to be homeschoolers, thus providing the teachers unions and left-wing politicians with an excuse to clamp down. The Turpins, of course, are no more representative of homeschoolers than terrorist Sayfullo Saipov (who intentionally ran over and killed eight people with a truck in New York City) is representative of truckers, or Parkland high-school shooter Nicholas Cruz is of NRA members and gun owners.

Following an enormous outcry from the homeschooling community, Medina removed the inspection requirement, but changed the bill to identify (and publish) the name and address of every homeschooling family in California. This not only would have violated their privacy, but also would have opened them up to potential harassment and endangerment. On April 25, hundreds of parents, grandparents, teachers, attorneys, and children testified against the bill in a three-hour session before the Assembly Education Committee. AB 2756 died when not a single member of the Democrat-dominated committee was willing to make a motion to vote on the bill. It was a stunning victory for homeschoolers and a stinging defeat for the California Teachers Association (CTA), which calls homeschooling “educational anarchy.” David had beaten Goliath. A video posted on the website of the California Family Council provides an impressive view of the massive gathering of homeschoolers filling the halls of the Capitol. AB 2756, which was supposed to have been a slam-dunk for Medina and the



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CTA, instead got slammed and junked by organized homeschoolers. The Christian Home Educators Association (CHEA) of California, Home School Legal Defense Association, Family Protection Ministries, California Homeschool Network, Homeschool Association of California, Parents United 4 Kids, and dozens of other organizations not only showed up in force in Sacramento, but also besieged legislators by e-mail and telephone for weeks leading up to the hearing. “Homeschoolers are freedom-loving people,” CHEA notes on its website, and “California legislators have learned that if you act to compromise the liberty, safety, and privacy of their homeschools, you will find yourself face to face with a mama bear protecting her cubs.”

CHEA and the other homeschool activists fully realize that victory over AB 2756 is not the end of the story, and they are urging the “mama bears” to stay vigilant — and ferociously protective. There are many more battles to be fought on this one front alone. But there are many other fronts as well — and many “mama bears” that are being roused on a wide array of issues. And not a moment too soon. The state of the state in California is so dire that it will require a steadily rising crescendo of roars by angry bears — as well as a fair number of political maulings — to save the Bear Flag state from a headlong plunge into the infernal abyss.

Photo: AP Images

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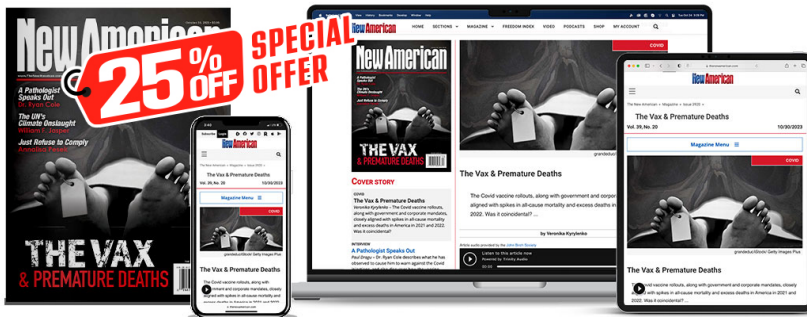
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