



## Inside Track

### **“Pro-choice” Groups: Require Doctors to Perform Abortions**

Abortion proponents on March 26 made clear their displeasure with the Trump administration’s proposed conscience protections for healthcare providers, saying in effect that doctors and nurses who have religious objections to abortion should be forced to participate in the practice nonetheless.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) proposed rule, which largely reinstates a George W. Bush-era policy that had been scuttled by the Obama administration, is founded on a number of federal laws guaranteeing that individuals and associations participating in healthcare programs receiving federal funding — a category that today encompasses the vast majority of care in the United States — will not be forced to participate in practices to which they have moral objections. The deadline for public comment on the rule was March 27.

Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, organized a comment-writing campaign, explaining March 27 on Facebook: “The Trump-Pence administration is trying to make it easier for a wide range of institutions and entities, including hospitals, pharmacies, doctors, nurses, even receptionists, to deny patients the critical care they need through a new proposed rule.”

Planned Parenthood further argued that the rule “could lead to widespread discrimination in virtually every part of the health care system,” a message echoed by the pro-abortion National Women’s Law Center (NWLC), which claimed in a March 26 tweet, “This rule would allow religion or morality to interfere in the patient-provider relationship. The bottom line is that this rule puts patients dead last.”

Both Planned Parenthood and the NWLC are essentially arguing that people whose moral compasses prohibit them from complying with requests for certain medical procedures should be compelled to violate their consciences. “Personal beliefs,” wrote the NWLC, “should never determine the care a patient receives.”

The conscience protections of HHS are desperately needed because, as LifeNews pointed out March 27, “There is increasing pressure for Christian medical professionals to not only assist abortions or perform them — but to refer patients to other people who will kill their unborn children if they refuse to do so.” The Trump administration deserves applause for restoring these legally mandated protections.

### **Is This the Beginning of the End of Facebook?**

In the wake of revelations that Facebook data was breached and used to manipulate voters in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the market turned against the company, with shareholders dumping stocks. The result of that sell-off is that the company, which had hit a peak in value on February 2, saw stock values decrease by 22 percent in the next three weeks. The total loss is estimated at a whopping \$100 billion.

As Facebook desperately scrambles to recover those market losses, the company has been hit with multiple lawsuits from both investors and users. As of the end of March, at least four lawsuits had already been filed against Facebook as a result of the Cambridge Analytica data breach. Three of those four lawsuits could become class-action suits. Any one of these suits could be enough to push Facebook closer to the edge of the cliff it has built for itself. Together, they could push it over.



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In addition to those woes, Facebook is also facing backlash from government agencies at both the federal and state levels. In 2011 — three years before the 2014 Cambridge Analytica breach — Facebook entered into a consent agreement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). That agreement obligated the company to safeguard users' data — something the company clearly failed to follow through on. As a result of that agreement, the social-media giant could face FTC fines of \$40,000 per violation per day.

Besides the FTC investigation and the other issues listed above, Facebook is now in the cross hairs of investigations at the state level. Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley announced this week that he is launching a probe into the data breach and how it impacted residents of the Show Me State. He is not alone among state authorities wanting to know what happened. As Bloomberg reported April 2, Hawley joined other attorneys general in signing a March 28 letter requesting information about Facebook's policies and practices for protecting consumer data.

Just to top all of this off, the ongoing #DeleteFacebook campaign is continuing to gain ground, with users abandoning the platform every day. Considering all of the well-deserved problems facing the company after years of harvesting user data, it may soon be curtains for Facebook.

## **High-school Students Stage Walkout to Support Gun Rights**

The completely unplanned, unstaged, unfunded, and spontaneous gathering of 75 students outside Rockledge High School in Brevard County, Florida, on the morning of March 30 was almost completely ignored by the mainstream media. Organized by Chloe Deaton, a sophomore, and Anna Delaney, a junior, the event lasted 20 minutes, just long enough for the students to make their point: Other students in the same high school and around the country who urged more infringements on the people's right to keep and bear arms didn't speak for them.

After playing the national anthem (no one kneeled) and "God Bless America" on loudspeakers set up on the school's track, Delaney told her classmates, "We were built on certain rights and that was one of the original rights, that we should have the right to bear arms."

Seventy-five students, compared to the thousands — some say hundreds of thousands — of "students" bused in to Washington the week before, no doubt caused some in the freedom fight to ask: How can such low numbers of people who dare to speak the truth outshine the mainstream media's anti-gun agenda, which aims to drown out or ignore that truth?

The one-sidedness of the media slant was even more evident the next day when a grassroots gathering sponsored by Minnesota Gun Rights and North Star Liberty Alliance brought together 1,000 people at the state capitol in St. Paul to support the Second Amendment and to complain about their legislators' determination to infringe upon it. Once again, the silence from the mainstream media was deafening.

When the mainstream media fails to report on such events, that doesn't mean that those events aren't occurring everywhere all the time. Those in the freedom fight take heart from such events, knowing that they do not labor alone. In the present case, those who are ignored by the media are far from alone: Polls show that less than half of students age 13 to 17 think that more gun control would reduce mass shootings, and that the vast majority of adults recognize that the availability of guns actually reduces violent crime and murders.



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## **Secession Push Grows as South African Regime Plots Land Thefts**

As the world has finally started realizing in recent weeks, South Africa is coming apart at the seams amid an explosion of violence, tyranny, and hate. Most recently, the rapidly deteriorating situation was exposed in South Africa's Parliament. In February, lawmakers there voted in favor of a racist plot to confiscate property from European-descent South Africans without any compensation. The scheme to authorize mass theft, which requires a change to the Constitution, comes amid a growing tsunami of racist violence targeting Afrikaner farmers, often labeled Boers. There have been thousands of unimaginably brutal "farm attacks" and "farm murders," known as *plaasmoorde* in Afrikaans, since whites voted to surrender political power some 25 years ago in the face of a brutal communist terror campaign.

One non-political civil-rights organization, CapeXit, formerly known as the Afrikaner Society, has already put the South African government on notice that the people of the Cape are working to secede using a lawful, internationally recognized process. In a December 2017 letter delivered to then-South African President Jacob Zuma, the group said the effort would comply with the South African Constitution and international law. The area in question is known as the Cape region, which includes the provinces of the Western Cape, the Northern Cape, and parts of the Eastern Cape. According to the latest census data, a majority of the region's residents are Afrikaans-speaking Christians who are either white or what is known in South Africa as "coloured."

While all of the efforts are guided by, and in compliance with, South Africa's Constitution and a variety of international treaties to which the central government is a party, the South African government is unlikely to accept any move that would threaten its wealth, territory, power, or prestige. But with the South African Constitution recognizing and protecting "the right of self-determination of any community sharing a common cultural and language heritage," the law may be on the side of the secessionists. And with essentially no acceptable options left, this may be literally a fight for survival.



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