



**2017
TRUMP/PENCE
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CENTENNIAL
INSTITUTE**

Faith • Family • Freedom • Future

Colorado Christian
UNIVERSITY

Introduction



The purpose of this agenda is to provide a framework to guide President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and their administration in advancing public policy positions that will better serve the American people. The Centennial Institute believes that limited government, vibrant civil society, and strong families provide the best foundation for human flourishing. The following thoughts are rooted in a biblical/conservative worldview and acknowledge the importance of natural law and timeless principles in shaping our public policy.

President Donald Trump ran on the promise to *Make America Great Again*. We believe the policy prescriptions detailed in this paper work to that end. God has blessed the United States of America so that we might use these blessings in service to our neighbor.

People of good will working toward a shared vision can find cobelligerent opportunities. While not everyone may agree on specific policy prescriptions, we can find areas to work together. Establishing our principles and working together in common cause is the first step to *Making America Great Again*.

We hope the Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University can continue to be a resource to the Trump/Pence administration. Our professors, fellows, 1776 scholars, and students are committed to advancing ideas that strengthen faith, family, and freedom for our future.



God bless America,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hunt".

Jeff Hunt

**Vice President of Public Policy, Colorado Christian University
Director, Centennial Institute**

About the Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University

The Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University works to enhance public understanding of the most important issues relating to faith, family, and freedom.

As part of this endeavor, the Centennial Institute focuses its efforts on conducting research, analyzing public policy options, and sponsoring seminars, conferences, and other activities that involve students, faculty, staff, and outside experts. The Centennial Institute and all sponsored activities are guided by Colorado Christian University's strategic objectives, primarily:

*Impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor,
Biblical view of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets,
natural law, original intent of the Constitution and Western civilization.*

The Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University was established in 2009 and is directed by Jeff Hunt, reporting to Colorado Christian University President, Dr. Donald Sweeting.

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Contributors provided comments on areas related to their expertise. Their contribution to aspects of the agenda does not mean they agree with all aspects of the agenda.

Table of Contents

2nd Amendment	5
Bioethics	5
Crime	6
Defense	6
Economics	7
Education	8
Energy	9
Environment and Natural Resources	9
Family and Marriage	10
Foreign Affairs	11
Healthcare	12
Immigration	13
Limited Government	14
Marijuana	15
Original Intent of the Constitution and the Supreme Court	16
Personal Freedom and Ordered Liberty	16
Poverty and Opportunity	17
Religious Freedom	18
Sanctity of Life	18
Trade	19

2nd Amendment

Protect the Constitutional right to bear arms, reduce ineffective restrictions, and expand personal defense freedoms

The 2nd Amendment protects the fundamental human right to keep and bear arms. This exists not only for personal safety and recreation but as an important check on the tyranny of government. Under Democratic leadership, Colorado has suffered from overbearing gun restrictions, often financed by outside influencers, with little results to show.¹ On the contrary, in 2015 Colorado saw increases in rapes, homicides, and beatings even as we faced stricter gun control.²

In Colorado, over 34 percent of residents own guns, higher than the national average.³

The Trump/Pence administration should respect the right of Americans to keep and bear arms as protected by the U.S. Constitution. We specifically recommend:

- Appointing Supreme Court justices that will respect the original intent of the U.S. Constitution to protect the right to keep and bear arms
- Support the expansion of "Make My Day" laws to include not only private homes but also private businesses
- Support a national right to carry interstate reciprocity law
- Reduce federal regulations on gun ownership

Bioethics

Protect the legal definition of a human being, restrict embryonic stem cell research, and ban human cloning

With the rise of post-humanism, concerns about attempts to assign personal freedom and human rights to animals and machines should be taken seriously. President Obama disbanded the President's Council on Bioethics, creating in its place the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. President Obama sought practical public policy recommendations over philosophical reflection.⁴ The Trump/Pence administration should reinstate the President's Council on Bioethics and seek both

¹ Tenser, P. (2015, October 15). *Colorado's gun control laws: What the data shows so far*. Retrieved from <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/database/colorados-gun-control-laws-what-the-data-shows-so-far>

² Hamm, K. (2016, July 5). *Homicides, rapes increased in 2015 in Colorado, according to CBI report*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/07/05/homicides-rapes-increase-in-colorado/>

³ Kalesan, B. (2015, June 29). *Gun ownership and social gun culture*. Retrieved from <http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2015/06/09/injuryprev-2015-041586.full.pdf?keytype=ref&ijkey=doj6vx0laFZMsQ2>

⁴ Wade, N. (2009, June 17). *Obama Plans to Replace Bush's Bioethics Panel*. Retrieved from: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/18/us/politics/18ethics.html>

philosophical thought and public policy recommendations on important bioethical issues. We specifically recommend:

- Reinstate and empower the President’s Council on Bioethics
- Protect the legal definition of the human being from attempts to provide human rights to animals and machines
- Support a ban on human cloning
- Reinstate strict limits on human embryonic stem cell research

Crime

Reduce crime rates, strengthen local law enforcement, and reduce recidivism

Christians are deeply committed to the restoration of human beings, especially those incarcerated. National voices like Chuck Colson have devoted their lives to the redemption of all human beings, even the most difficult and violent offenders. Christians also recognize the importance of the rule of law justly applied, as it establishes safe and stable societies that allow for human flourishing.

In Colorado, 1 in 31 adults are in the criminal justice system, and this creates an annual cost to the Colorado taxpayers of \$30,374.00 per person incarcerated.⁵

The Trump/Pence administration should promote opportunities for prison and prisoner reform while maintaining high expectations that all Americans abide by the law. We specifically recommend:

- Local solutions to crime be given priority as crime is a local problem
- Just application of law and law enforcement in our communities
- Attacks against law enforcement cannot be tolerated and should result in stronger penalties
- Restorative Justice programs should be promoted as an effort to reform inmates
- Support successful programs with strong evidence of returning inmates back into society as productive citizens

Defense

Strengthen military and ally relationships, confront threats, and provide international stability

The United States must first provide for its national security. A strong national defense is in the best interest of the United States, our allies, and the international community. In addition, the United States must be willing and able to promote stability around the world.

⁵ *Colorado Criminal Justice Overview*. (Retrieved 2017, January 18). Retrieved from <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/advocacy/legislation/state-legislation/colorado/>

The Trump/Pence administration should fund and support the U.S. military so that it may continue to be the strongest military in the world. We specifically recommend:

- Confront radical Islam, defeat ISIS, and bring stability to the Middle East
- Continue to reduce nuclear stockpiles while maintaining world nuclear supremacy
- Stop Chinese aggression in the western Pacific Ocean and Russian aggression in eastern Europe
- Maintain military alliances, particularly NATO and NORAD, while requiring partner countries to pay their fair share
- Support Israel as an American ally and the only democracy in the Middle East and defend Israel and Jews against anti-Semitic threats
- Improve and expand U.S. missile defense systems to confront growing threats from countries like Iran and North Korea
- Improve U.S. cybersecurity and cyber warfare capabilities to address international threats and protect Americans from foreign attacks
- Contribute to a strong international defense force to prevent humanitarian crises, like Syria, from happening in the future

Economics

Lower taxes, reduce regulation, reform spending, and improve monetary policies

The free-market is one of the hallmark contributors to America's greatness. The government should reduce regulation of the free-market, seek fiscal reform on spending, and address monetary reform to encourage sound money. Without reforming our spending and monetary policies, the positive effects of lower taxes and less regulation will eventually be overwhelmed by the negative effects of accumulating more debt and of the malinvestment caused by unsound money.

The Trump/Pence administration should reduce government regulation of businesses, lower taxes, and reform government spending. We specifically recommend:

- Reduce the federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent
- Implement the "penny plan" on government spending, cut one cent out of every one dollar of spending
- Pass a federal balanced budget amendment
- Return to sounder money by allowing market forces to set interest rates
- Flatten the tax structure, move away from the progressive feature of the income tax, and lower marginal rates toward an eventual uniform flat rate
- Eliminate the "death tax"
- Reduce tax loopholes
- Repeal the federal minimum wage and remove onerous overtime burdens on employers for non-exempt employees

- Protect tax deductions on gifts to 501c3s

Education

Empower local decision making, provide school choice for parents, and create new opportunity

Founded in 1914, Colorado Christian University (CCU) is now the premier interdenominational Christian college in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region, delivering world class education to thousands of students. CCU is one of only two colleges or universities in Colorado – and only 25 nationwide – to be rated in the top 2 percent of colleges for how well we prepare students through our core education requirements.

Colorado’s high school graduation rate, however, is below the national average.⁶ Furthermore, in 2015, Colorado high school graduation rates were stagnant while the dropout rate slightly increased.⁷ The Trump/Pence administration should empower education decisions to be made locally, allow parents to choose the best education for their children, and recognize the unique contributions of a variety of schools including public, charter, private, religious, and homeschooling. We specifically recommend:

- Do not penalize universities with Title IX exemptions based on religious beliefs as previously done by the Obama administration
- Support school (including religious) vouchers that will empower parents to make the best education decisions for their children
- Increase support for homeschooling networks and charters schools
- Remove top-down federal approaches to education like “Common Core” and allow states and local counties to develop their own standards
- Rescind Gainful Employment regulations
- Allow financial aid directors to exclude some budget components (transportation, housing costs) for students taking online classes
- Place responsibility for loan counseling with lenders, not with universities or government, and provide a way for schools to determine if borrowers are credit worthy
- Remove regulations prohibiting incentive compensation to employees whose primary role with the University is recruitment
- Open options for 10-15 percent of federal work-study funding to be used for students who do not have demonstrated need, but still could use work study funding to find on-campus employment

⁶ U.S. High School Graduation Rate Hits New Record High. (2015, February 12). Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-high-school-graduation-rate-hits-new-record-high>

⁷ Robles, Y. (2016, January 21). *Colorado’s school graduation rate stagnant for first time in 5 years*. <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/01/21/colorados-school-graduation-rate-stagnant-for-first-time-in-5-years/>

Energy

Remove restrictions on responsible energy development, explore all options, and provide wise stewardship of public lands

Colorado is an energy state ranking high in America for total energy production, crude oil production, natural gas production, coal production, and wind capacity.⁸ “The oil and gas industry provides 213,000 jobs and contributes more than \$25 billion to the state's economy, representing 9.1 percent of the state's GDP.”⁹ Colorado is a leader in renewable energy development with 18 percent of total electricity generated from renewable energy¹⁰, resulting in significant financial investments.¹¹

The Trump/Pence administration should free up restrictions on responsible energy development, promote an ‘all of the above’ energy approach without picking favorites, and work to protect and conserve Colorado’s beautiful open spaces. We specifically recommend:

- Remove energy development restrictions on federal (BLM, Forest Service, others) lands not specifically reserved by Congress
- Fast-track construction of new nuclear power plants
- Promote a free market of energy development and remove artificial supports and restrictions
- Ease federal restrictions on oil and natural gas exports
- Provide ecological stewardship and preserve our open spaces in balance with energy research and development

Environment and Natural Resources

Protect the environment, reduce onerous government regulations, and improve local control

Conservatives believe in responsible environmental conservation. In Genesis, God calls humans to the proper dominion and stewardship of His creation. Colorado is one of the most beautiful states in the nation and has tremendous natural resources that can benefit the local economy and jobs. Striking the

⁸ *Colorado State Profile and Energy Estimates*. (2016, December 15) Retrieved from <http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CO> and <http://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.cfm?sid=CO&CFID=15284702&CFTOKEN=588c3dd370c982f2-B9F0896C-5056-A34B-92E3A55FAFFB305E&jsessionid=843038125ee71f32d6c33a45104044d7d254>

⁹ *Colorado Energy Facts*. (Retrieved 2017, January 18). Retrieved from <http://www.rockymountainenergyforum.com/expert-facts/expert-facts>

¹⁰ *Colorado State Profile and Energy Estimates*. (2016, December 15) Retrieved from <http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CO#tabs-4>

¹¹ *Colorado State Profile and Energy Estimates*. (2016, December 15) Retrieved from <http://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.cfm?sid=CO&CFID=15284702&CFTOKEN=588c3dd370c982f2-B9F0896C-5056-A34B-92E3A55FAFFB305E&jsessionid=843038125ee71f32d6c33a45104044d7d254>

right balance between protecting our environment and natural resources while developing Colorado's economy is important to ensuring a bright future for our children.

The Trump/Pence administration should protect our environment while reducing unnecessary burdens on economic development. We specifically recommend:

- Remove harmful EPA restrictions on coal and natural gas development that are killing jobs in Colorado
- Encourage domestic energy development by approving the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines
- A temporary moratorium on federal land acquisition, pending a thorough analysis of how well government is managing the land it already owns and what resources are necessary to improve management
- No new national monuments, parks, or historical designations without the unanimous consent of the state's Congressional Delegation and support of the Governor
- A requirement that any new threatened or endangered species listings be accompanied by de-listing criteria at the same time
- A firm deadline of 2 years should be established for publications of de-listing criteria for all endangered species already listed
- State, local governments, and private landowners should be empowered to raise and reintroduce endangered species into the native habitat, not prohibited from doing so
- Pass good Samaritan legislation and reduce liability for mining companies and non-profits that attempt to clean up mining sites

Family and Marriage

Strengthen families, affirm the role of a mom and dad in developing children, and improve adoption and foster care processes

American families and marriages are facing a crisis. The overall marriage rate is at its lowest point in 150 years.¹² The percent of people living alone has nearly doubled since the 1960s.¹³ The birth rate to

¹² Zagorsky, J. (2016, June 3). *Marriage may be obsolete: Fewer couples are getting hitched than ever before*. Retrieved from http://www.salon.com/2016/06/03/marriage_may_be_obsolete_fewer_couples_are_getting_hitched_than_ever_before_partner/

¹³ Zagorsky, J. (2016, June 3). *Marriage may be obsolete: Fewer couples are getting hitched than ever before*. Retrieved from http://www.salon.com/2016/06/03/marriage_may_be_obsolete_fewer_couples_are_getting_hitched_than_ever_before_partner/

unmarried African-American mothers is 70.4 percent, 52.9 percent for Hispanic mothers and over a third, 35.7 percent for white mothers.¹⁴

In Colorado, the birth rate to unmarried mothers is very low, ranking 49th in the country. The overall number of births in Colorado rose between 2013-2014.¹⁵ The divorce rate, however, at 3.9 percent per 1,000 people is above the national average.¹⁶

As conservatives, we believe the health of our communities and nation is directly tied to the health of marriages and families. The Trump/Pence administration should make the promotion of healthy families one of their top priorities. We specifically recommend:

- Remove welfare barriers to promoting marriage and healthy families
- Support the religious freedom to define gender as male and female and marriage as between one man and one woman
- Prevent the redefinition of marriage to include polyamorous and incestual relationships
- Support local organizations training healthy families
- Support policies to improve the foster care and adoption processes
- Promote maternity leave policies that support both mothers and fathers
- Invest in initiatives to promote and strengthen fatherhood

Foreign Affairs

Actively engage abroad, strengthen alliances, confront radical Islam, and promote religious freedom

President Barack Obama's failure to lead internationally has resulted in a weakening of general stability, democracy, and human rights abroad. The United States has been blessed by God so that it can be a blessing to the world. The United States must have a strong, active, and engaged foreign policy that includes both confronting threats as well as providing important aid.

The Trump/Pence administration must strengthen America's foreign policy and its partnerships with allies. We specifically recommend:

- Ensure the support of our traditional allies, particularly NATO, while requiring partner countries to pay their fair share
- Confront radical Islam and support moderate Muslim leaders seeking to create stable democracies and promote religious freedom

¹⁴ Hamilton, B. (2015, December 23). *Births: Final Data for 2014*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf

¹⁵ Hamilton, B. (2015, December 23). *Births: Final Data for 2014*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf

¹⁶ *Stats for the State of Colorado*. (Retrieved on 2017, January 18). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/colorado/colorado.htm>

- Confront the growing aggression from China and Russia and seek non-military ways to reduce their influence
- Promote free trade deals with other countries but keep them accountable for trade/monetary manipulation
- Support international peacekeeping efforts without funding most missions
- Promote religious freedom in hostile countries and strengthen penalties against countries that reduce religious freedom
- Support Israel, reduce growing anti-Semitism in the Middle East and Western Europe, and penalize the United Nations for anti-Semitic activities
- Review and consider re-negotiating the nuclear deal with Iran
- Address growing trans-national crimes including arms dealings, drugs, and human trafficking
- Provide a common-sense refugee crisis plan that protects the safety of the American people while caring for refugees from distressed countries

Healthcare

Reduce government intervention and embrace free market principles to lower cost and improve coverage while caring for the most vulnerable

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was a top-down, government approach to the nation's complex health insurance and healthcare industries that has reduced competition, raised premiums, and trapped the American people into a system that reduces the overall quality of care. In Colorado, premium rates have jumped 20 percent on average with some parts of Colorado facing a 40 percent increase.¹⁷ Furthermore, residents in 14 counties have the choice of only one carrier on the state healthcare exchange.¹⁸ An audit of the Colorado's Obamacare marketplace discovered that the state misused \$9 million dollars in federal grant funds.¹⁹

The Trump/Pence administration should make the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act one of their top priorities. We specifically recommend:

- Reduce government intervention and overregulation into health insurance and healthcare as much as possible
- Allow insurance coverage to be purchased across state lines

¹⁷ Ingold, J. (2016, September 20). *Colorado health-insurance rates to jump 20 percent on average for individual buyers in 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/09/20/colorado-health-insurance-rates-2017-individual-buyers/>

¹⁸ Ingold, J. (2016, September 20). *Colorado health-insurance rates to jump 20 percent on average for individual buyers in 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/09/20/colorado-health-insurance-rates-2017-individual-buyers/>

¹⁹ Phippen, T. (2016, December 30). *Colorado Obamacare Marketplace Misused \$9 Million In Grant Funds*. Retrieved from <http://dailycaller.com/2016/12/30/colorado-obamacare-marketplace-misused-9-million-in-grant-funds/>

- Provide Medicaid spending via block grants to the states
- Provide greater transparency on medical costs to encourage competition
- Maintain protections on pre-existing conditions via the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Provide greater transparency on insurance intermediaries who interfere with the patient/doctor relationship
- Prevent people of faith from being forced to pay for healthcare coverage for themselves or others that violate their freedom of conscience
- Protect families from lifetime, maximum insurance caps

Immigration

Secure the border, improve legal immigration system, and protect Americans

The rise of illegal immigration in America is the result of the United States government failing to enforce its laws and illegal immigrants unwilling to follow the law. In Colorado, we “had 200,000 undocumented immigrants who accounted for 3.8 percent of the state’s total population of 5.38 million in 2014. That remains below the peak of 220,000 logged in 2008, but shows a rebound from the 180,000 that Pew counted in 2012.”²⁰

The failure to follow immigration laws has made it more difficult for people to immigrate to the United States legally. It has also led to additional crime in the United States. There are nearly 180,000 illegal immigrants with criminal records who have not been deported.²¹ Moreover, 121 criminal aliens released from ICE went on to be charged with homicide.²²

The Trump/Pence administration is under a mandate from the American people to fix our immigration problems, provide a better pathway for legal immigration, and protect the American people. We specifically recommend:

- Enforce current border security laws and, where appropriate, build a barrier along the U.S./Mexico border
- Make E-verify system mandatory for all employers nationwide and increase punishments for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants

²⁰ Svaldi, A. (2016, November 3). *Undocumented immigrant workers number 140,000 in Colorado, Pew estimates*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/11/03/pew-undocumented-immigrant-workers-number-140000-in-colorado/>

²¹ Valverde, M. (2016, July 22). *Trump: Nearly '180,000 illegal immigrants' have criminal records but haven't been deported*. Retrieved from <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jul/22/donald-trump/trump-nearly-180000-illegal-immigrants-have-crimin/>

²² Saldana, S. (2016, February 11). *The Department of Homeland Security’s Response to Chairman Grassley’s and Sessions’ July 16, 2015 Letter*. Retrieved from [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-02-11%20ICE%20to%20CEG%20Flake%20Sessions%20\(Criminal%20Aliens\)_Redacted.pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-02-11%20ICE%20to%20CEG%20Flake%20Sessions%20(Criminal%20Aliens)_Redacted.pdf)

- Limit access to the welfare system to only U.S. citizens
- Limit federal funds to sanctuary cities that flagrantly violate federal immigration law
- Enhance security screening process for visa applications, especially from countries with terrorist operations
- Issue a smart identification card to each nonimmigrant visitor at his or her point of entry
- Stop the visa lottery program and reallocate annual quota to skill-based immigration
- Consolidate all immigration visa programs into three: skill-based, family-based, and humanitarian-based
- For non-immigration visas, consolidate all programs into three: work, visitor, and students/scholar
- Eliminate non-immigration visa quotas for temporary workers and let the market decide what type of workers it needs and how many

Limited Government

Limit the role of the federal government in peoples' lives and empower civil society

The growth of the federal government removes local control and centralizes power with bureaucrats who do not connect with the people they purport to serve. Moreover, as government grows it eliminates the role of civil society and mediating institutions like families, churches, and non-profits, demanding allegiance that should be reserved only for God. Under President Obama, the federal workforce grew to record numbers; 1.4 million people or by 10 percent from the time he took office. President Obama's growth doesn't match the 17 percent growth experienced under President Bush.²³

As a federal system of government, most power ought to reside with the people as they make decisions for their communities. The Trump/Pence administration should reduce the size of the federal government, returning power to the states and local communities. We specifically recommend:

- Implement a hiring freeze on federal employees, exempting military, health, and public safety
- Pursue block grants to states for government services to reduce government control over spending and begin the process of scaling back the federal government, including lowering taxes, to permanently transfer authority to the states
- Emphasize the role of civil society in serving local communities and empower them to be primary caretakers
- Maintain the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to promote and support religious communities in providing local services

²³ Dinan, S. (2016, February 9). *Federal workers hit record number, but growth slows under Obama*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/9/federal-workers-hit-record-number-but-growth-slows/>

Marijuana

Stop decriminalizing marijuana, invest in research and public awareness campaigns, and reduce youth use

The legalization of marijuana has devastated Colorado. According to the 2016 report by the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, “marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 62 percent from 71 to 115 persons after recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013. Colorado youth rank #1 in the nation for past month marijuana use, 74 percent higher than the national average. Emergency Department rates likely related to marijuana increased 49 percent since Colorado legalized marijuana.”²⁴

While the solution to recriminalizing marijuana rests with the people of Colorado, the federal government can take steps to reduce the spread of marijuana into states that do not wish to legalize it. According to the same report, “Highway Patrol yearly interdiction seizures of Colorado marijuana increased 37 percent from 288 to 394 (2013-2015), since recreational marijuana was legalized. Of the 394 seizures in 2015, there were 36 different states destined to receive marijuana from Colorado. The most common destinations identified were Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Iowa, and Florida. Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail has increased 471 percent from an average of 129 pounds (2010-2012) to 736 pounds (2013-2015) in the three years that recreational marijuana has been legal.”²⁵

The Trump/Pence administration should use every federal resource available to limit the spread of recreational marijuana. We specifically recommend:

- Use federal agencies to stop the black-market cultivation and sale of recreational marijuana in Colorado and the illegal transfer of marijuana to other states
- Increase penalties for illegal marijuana operations on federal land
- Fund public anti-marijuana awareness campaigns along the lines of anti-smoking campaigns to reduce marijuana use especially among youth
- Fund federal research on the impact of marijuana especially as it relates to psychological and prenatal development
- Maintain DEA classification of marijuana as a Schedule 1 substance and prohibit banks and credit unions from taking marijuana money
- Withhold federal education money from schools with drug use above the national average

²⁴ Rocky Mountain HIDTA Investigative Support Center Strategic Intelligence Unit. (2016, September). *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*. Retrieved from <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/2016%20FINAL%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>

²⁵ Rocky Mountain HIDTA Investigative Support Center Strategic Intelligence Unit. (2016, September). *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*. Retrieved from <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/2016%20FINAL%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>

Original Intent of the Constitution and the Supreme Court

Restore the separation of powers between government branches and appoint judges to interpret the U.S. Constitution according to its original intent

The Supreme Court has overstepped its constitutionally allotted responsibilities by often legislating from the bench and reducing the power of the legislative branch of government. The Trump/Pence administration should support the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution and reduce the legislative activism of the U.S. Supreme Court by appointing judges that will uphold the original intent of the U.S. Constitution. We specifically recommend:

- Appoint judges who will preserve the religious liberty of Christian universities and schools
- Appoint judges who will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*
- Reduce the size and scope of the federal government, returning power to the states and the people
- Limit the use of presidential executive orders
- Appoint judges that will interpret the U.S. Constitution per its original intent and will not legislate from the bench

Personal Freedom and Ordered Liberty

Promote personal freedom, ordered liberty, and self-governance.

Conservatives believe that personal freedom must be partnered with self-governance and ordered liberty, under God, for humans to flourish. America cannot be a self-governing society without first practicing self-governance. As John Adams wrote, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”²⁶

The Trump/Pence administration should restrain government interference with personal freedom and promote self-governance and ordered liberty. We specifically recommend:

- Reduce burdensome restrictions on freedom of religion and freedom of conscience
- Protect and strengthen freedom of speech and freedom of the press
- Promote character development to strengthen self-governance
- Support ordered liberty and the importance of justice, order, and freedom

²⁶ Campbell, M. (1848). *Revolutionary Services and Civil Life of General William Hull*. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Poverty and Opportunity

Reduce poverty, invest in local solutions, reform and eliminate redundant federal programs, and create jobs and opportunity for all people

In Colorado, Governor John Hickenlooper, as mayor of Denver in 2005, set out to end chronic homelessness altogether within ten years. The city spent \$63 million dollars to end homelessness,²⁷ but “has as many homeless individuals today as it did ten years ago.”²⁸ While homeless families have seen a drop over the past six years on average, “Colorado was one of only 22 states that had an increase in homelessness over the past year.”²⁹

Fortunately, at 4.2 percent, Colorado’s unemployment rate is below the national average. The rising costs of housing, however, are outpacing incomes and this is creating a very difficult economy for young people and the middle class.³⁰

The Trump/Pence Administration should prioritize strategies to empower local communities to care for those in poverty. We specifically recommend:

- Empower the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to invest and support local programs that are better equipped to serve those in poverty
- Strengthen the economy by reducing government regulations and lowering taxes to bring blue-collar and middle-class jobs back to Colorado
- Provide Medicaid funding to states in the form of block grants
- Review and improve EITC and ACTC tax credits to reduce fraud and remove marriage penalties from low-income couples
- Evaluate federal government programs that care for the poor and eliminate redundancy
- Restrict burdensome regulations attached to federal grants for local organizations that serve those in poverty
- Strengthen requirements for non-disabled people receiving welfare to be required to work or seek job training
- Encourage states to adopt drug testing for recipients of welfare

²⁷ Pazulski, K. (2015, April 22). *Plan to End Homelessness in Ten Years Won't, Denver Seeks Input on Sequel*. Retrieved from <http://www.westword.com/news/plan-to-end-homelessness-in-ten-years-wont-denver-seeks-input-on-sequel-6651156>

²⁸ Walker, C. (2016, December 4). *Homelessness in Denver: The Cold, Hard Facts Behind Six Myths*. Retrieved from <http://www.westword.com/news/homelessness-in-denver-the-cold-hard-facts-behind-six-myths-7348310>

²⁹ Mitchell, K. (2016, November 18). *Number of homeless families drops 50 percent in Colorado in past 6 years, report says*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/11/18/homeless-families-drops-50-percent-in-colorado/>

³⁰ Svaldi, A. (2014, December 13). *Housing costs outstrip incomes, putting Colorado economy at risk*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2014/12/13/housing-costs-outstrip-incomes-putting-colorado-economy-at-risk/>

Religious Freedom

Advance religious freedom domestically and internationally, protect the rights of conscience for all people, and embrace the role of religion in serving the public good

Religious liberty is the first freedom of a free society and is not limited to the four walls of a religious institution. Religious values are critical to the development of public policy and civil society's role in serving our communities. People of religious conviction can and should be involved in the civil governance of our nation.

The Trump/Pence administration should heal the damage done to religious freedom by the Obama/Biden administration, empower religious freedom for all Americans, and recognize the importance of religious values in shaping public policy. We specifically recommend:

- Empower the State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to advance religious freedom internationally
- Remove Obamacare HHS mandates that violate the religious freedom and freedom of conscience of business owners and non-profit organizations
- Prevent government from restricting the religious freedom of educational institutions
- Repeal the Johnson Amendment and allow pastors to speak freely on political and public policy issues
- Recognize the importance of the Bible as a foundational document in the formation of the United States of America

Sanctity of Life

Support life from conception, support religious freedom against abortion, and reduce suicide

The sanctity of life means that human beings have a unique and irreplaceable moral status, given that they are created in the image of God. Roe v. Wade reduced options for Americans to regulate abortion by wrongly finding a 'right to abortion' in the U.S. Constitution.

Colorado is one of the most liberal states with loose regulations on abortions, allowing late-term abortions, no spousal consent, weak fetal homicide laws, and no waiting periods for abortions.

Colorado also struggles with a very high suicide rate that continues to increase³¹ and recently legalized doctor-assisted suicide.

³¹ The Denver Post. (2016, May 3). *Report: Colorado suicide rate climbs*. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/05/03/report-colorado-suicide-rate-climbs/>

The Trump/Pence administration should support a culture of life that recognizes the human rights of the preborn, prevents taxpayer funding of abortion, protects the religious freedom of people and organizations from supporting abortions, and works to reduce suicide. We specifically recommend:

- End federal government funding for Planned Parenthood
- Appoint Supreme Court justices who will overturn Roe v. Wade and allow the American people to propose regulations on abortion
- Sign into law a permanent ban on taxpayer funding of abortions
- Remove executive orders that force organizations to provide abortifacients in healthcare that violates their freedom of conscience
- Overturn doctor-assisted suicide in Washington, D.C. and prevent suicide from becoming legal in other states
- Protect the religious freedom of individuals and organizations from having to perform doctor-assisted suicide or euthanasia
- Prevent insurance companies from refusing more expensive life-saving drugs while covering doctor-assisted suicide drugs

Trade

Promote free trade and level the playing field for American businesses internationally

Smart and fair international commerce for the American people entails an integrated approach, not just a separate set of policies and programs on trade alone. America must consider, in examining trade relationships going forward, the equity and even the punishment of some aspects of unfair and discriminatory behaviors while responding to what is best for America's economic interests.

The Trump/Pence administration must review current trade policies, promote free trade, and level the playing field for American businesses internationally. We specifically recommend:

- Maintain free trade principles while penalizing unfair trade activities such as intellectual property theft in a foreign country
- Provide an honest evaluation of TPP, NAFTA, and other major free trade arrangements, and their effects on American employment and the economy
- Reject protectionist, biased anti-trust rules to prevent American competition in regional trade blocs
- Remove onerous federal regulations and unfair tax policies hurting American businesses and exports



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