

BOBBIE PATRAY – My Eagle Forum Story

I was minding my own business, raising our daughter, involved in the life of our church in Huntsville, AL, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, studying sign language, etc.



In the mid-1970s the wife of the principal at the Christian school where daughter Sherri attended, gave me some materials to read (some written by Phyllis Schlafly who became my Hero). These papers were about the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. When I read them, I thought that was the most stupid proposal I had ever read - that it had nothing to do with 'equal rights for women' but had everything to do with constituting a 'unisex society'!!

That opened the door to a world that had been completely foreign to me -- the world of politics and public policy.

I joined AL Eagle Forum where I became active, starting and becoming president of Huntsville Eagle Forum until our family moved to Lexington, KY in 1979. I joined with other conservatives to start a chapter of Eagle Forum in Lexington and served as president until our family moved in 1986. The last three years in KY, I also served as a legislative aide in the KY General Assembly, which became my "Civics 101".

Our family arrived in Nashville in August of 1986, where I became President of TN Eagle Forum and started at the Capitol in early 1987 as a full-time lobbyist for our wonderful organization and have continued there for 30 years now.

God used the casual act of a friend to change my life forever. He took someone with no political background, education, experience or training and planted into her heart a passion for and commitment to promoting and defending Biblical principles in the market place of ideas while working to pass conservative legislation and public policies.



I am so honored and blessed to do what I do and am as excited and passionate about this work as I was over 40 years ago when I started in Huntsville.

The Scriptures God gave as a basis for what became my life's work:

Nehemiah 4:14 – “Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

2 Chronicles 14:11 – "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name, we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you."