

Solutions at Democratic Climate Town  
Hall Would Be a Nightmare, Not Salvation

Thanks to Trump, Millions  
Say Sayonara to SNAP

For Americans with Debilitating Diseases,  
Free to Choose Medicine Offers Hope

# THE HEARTLANDER

*Winning  
the Day for  
Freedom*



By Frank Lasée  
President

## Dear Heartlanders,

I am grateful to the Heartland Institute's Board of Directors for entrusting me to lead this 35-year-old organization into an era of growth and greater impact, carrying on the legacy of integrity, principle, and transparency established by Heart-

land's founding president, Joe Bast. I'm the new Joe Bast, just a bit taller and with less facial hair.

I am honored to introduce myself to you as the new president of The Heartland Institute.

With your support as the wind in our sails, it is my pledge to you that I will pilot Heartland toward our true north: American freedom!

There is much work to be done. The floodwaters of socialism swell beneath our feet, the shrill ring of climate alarmism fills our ears, and the political landscape is more uncertain than ever. Yet, I am convinced that Heartland's best days are ahead of us.

In this quarterly report, you will see why I believe that. First, I'd like to share with you a bit about me and why I am so passionate about fighting for liberty.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Who I Am

You may recall the many free-market reforms that were accomplished in the state of Wisconsin from 2011 to 2018. Outside of well-informed people like you, many people don't realize that Heartland played a leading role in Wisconsin's successes. As a legislator, I often turned to Heartland for sound data, information, and solutions to real-world policy problems.

I served the people of Wisconsin for 20 years in the state Assembly, Senate, and Gov. Scott Walker's administration. During my tenure, I stood proudly as an advocate for less taxes, less spending, less government, and more government transparency. I spearheaded several free-market reforms on behalf of my constituents, including the Taxpayer Protection Act, the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, ending prevailing wage laws, and much more. As the administrator of Gov. Walker's Workers' Compensation Division, I led one of the best systems in the states and world for injured workers.

As proud as I am of the free-market progress we made in a politically difficult state, I see an opportunity to accomplish much more through the coordinated efforts of Heartland's stellar team and committed supporters. Let's take a look at the powerful vehicle for change that is The Heartland Institute.

### Who We Are

From its founding in 1985, Heartland has carried out one of the most concise, effective mission statements in the free-market movement: "to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems."

We rally behind ideas that expand freedom for everyday Americans, and we stand against anything that violates it. As president, it is my duty to continue this tradition as a guiding light for the freedom movement. We will accomplish this goal by operating as a think and action tank that affects policy at the national level and in every state in America.

Heartland now includes:

- ▶ a full-time staff of 43;
- ▶ more than 500 academics and professional economists who participate in our peer-review process as policy advisors;
- ▶ 323 elected officials who serve in our Legislative Forum; and
- ▶ 25 senior fellows who write, speak, and comment in depth on Heartland's key public policy issues.

These metrics instill confidence that our team is producing well-formed solutions to social and economic problems. Our work goes beyond that of a traditional think tank, though. As an action tank, we also take an active role in seeing that these solutions are implemented.

Our educational communications to legislators and the public are uniquely effective. In 2018:

- ▶ Our Government Relations Department made more than one million contacts with elected officials in all 50 states, including 4,963 face-to-face contacts.
- ▶ 78 percent of state-level elected officials read Heartland's newspapers "sometimes" or "always."
- ▶ 45 percent reported that a Heartland publication "influenced my opinion or led to a change in public policy."
- ▶ Heartland hosted, attended, or spoke at 158 events, reaching more than 34,000 guests across the nation.
- ▶ We generated 1.8 million pageviews on our websites and blogs and amassed more than 100,000 Facebook fans, 13.6 million Facebook impressions, and 3.2 million podcast downloads. We are on pace for even more this year.

## What We Do

The Heartland Institute develops well-researched informational papers; we then create free-market solutions that can be turned into policies that work in the real world; we then market these ideas to state and national officials, influencers, and regular people like you. Our efforts are making positive impacts throughout the country, thanks to the generosity and support of thousands of donors hailing from all walks of life. We can and will do more with more donations.

Thank you for your support! It makes these transformational activities possible. For example, in August we hosted the 2019 Summer Emerging Issues Forum (EIF) in Austin, Texas. It included 80 lawmakers, representing 30 different states, and had more than 150 people in attendance. The Heartland team covered a wide range of issues—from budgets and taxes to environment and energy. At our EIF events we educate America's lawmakers on emerging issues and free-market solutions. We get to them when they are first developing their legislative perspectives and provide them with the information they need to make good public policy decisions.

In supporting Heartland, you help legislators at the state and national levels make more-informed decisions that have real-world impact on our rights and liberties.



We do not shy away from confronting the enemies of liberty with the facts, which are on our side! On September 23, the United Nations hosted its Climate Summit in New York City, to promote unfounded and hysterical claims of climate alarm. U.N. officials and climate alarmists tried to scare Americans into believing that we face a “climate crisis” that will end the world as we know it, and that the only solution is to restructure the world order into a socialist

hellscape. Heartland challenged them. We held our own event, moderated by journalist John Stossel, on the same day and in the same city. Unlike the U.N. summit, our event featured *real* scientists: Drs. Patrick Michaels, David Legates, and Willie Soon. Thousands watched

via livestream, and tens of thousands more will see it on YouTube.

Inside this report, you will find more examples of Heartland's continued leadership as an outspoken voice of freedom for all Americans. It is only with the continuing support of our donors that we are able to impact, influence, and inform lawmakers and citizens.

There are many challenges facing our great country. With your help, Heartland will rise to the occasion and win the day for freedom.

## Freedom Rising!

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.

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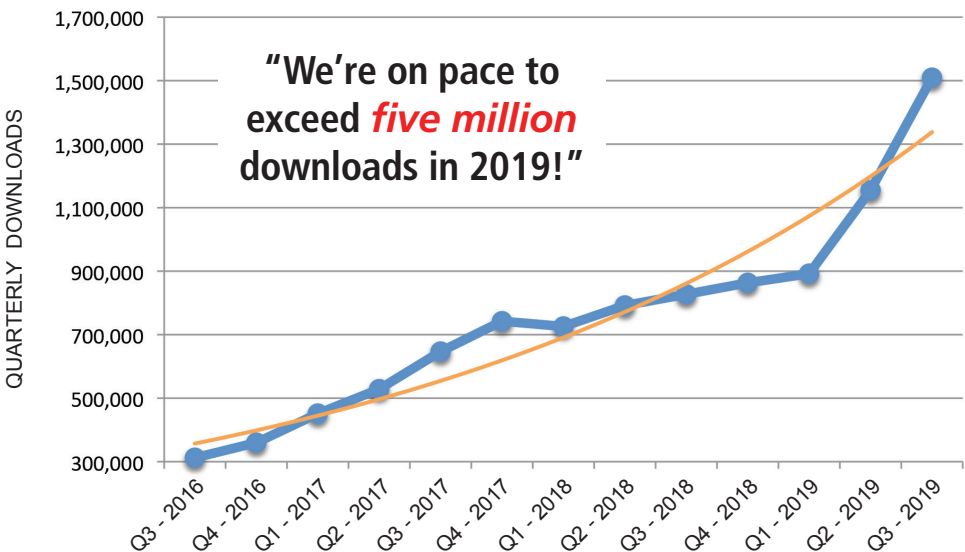
## HEARTLAND: BY THE NUMBERS

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

- ▶ Published eight print and digital monthly issues of *Budget & Tax News*, *Environment & Climate News*, *Health Care News*, and *School Reform News*.
- ▶ Produced 56 *Research & Commentaries* addressing issues in all 50 states.
- ▶ Testified or submitted comments in nine states.
- ▶ Contacted elected officials 169,881 times, including 2,342 one-on-one contacts by phone, email, or in person.
- ▶ Generated at least 40 broadcast, 421 online, and 122 print media hits reaching more than 48.1 million subscribers.
- ▶ Released 69 podcasts, attracting a total listening audience of 1,503,105 people, and added 130 blog posts to *Freedom Pub*.
- ▶ Added 53 videos and livestreamed 11 videos to our YouTube channel. Videos on the channel attracted a total of 589,052 views.

- ▶ Attracted 1,318,021 impressions on our Facebook page.
- ▶ Achieved 1.1 million impressions from our tweets.
- ▶ Hosted three events attended by 253 people, exhibited at four events attended by 7,480 people, and spoke at one event attended by 200 people.
- ▶ Published and distributed four *Policy Briefs* on greenhouse gases, tobacco harm reduction, Medicare for All, and local climate change science.
- ▶ Published and distributed 14 *Policy Tip Sheets* on topics such as gas taxes, telemedicine, e-cigarettes, and certificate-of-need laws.
- ▶ Released 35 issues of our weekly e-newsletters: *Climate Change Weekly*, *Heartland Weekly*, and *The Leaflet*.
- ▶ Generated at least 30 broadcast and 26 online hits on socialism issues, as well as three print media hits that reached approximately 373,807 people.

### PODCAST TRAFFIC BY QUARTER





Heartland podcasts continue to roll strong into the third quarter of 2019 with a stunning 1,503,105 downloads. We're on pace to exceed five million downloads in 2019.

### Highlights:

The *Budget & Tax News Podcast*, hosted by Research Fellow and *Budget & Tax News* Managing Editor Joe Barnett, was downloaded 120,796 times. A highlight from this quarter was a discussion with U.S. Representative Ron Wright about red light camera laws and their constitutionality. Other guests included Institute for Justice Attorney Anya Bidwell, Nebraska state Sen. Dave Murman, and Department of Labor Secretary Pat Pizzella.

The *Environment & Climate News Podcast*, hosted by both Senior Fellow and *Environment & Climate News* Managing Editor H. Sterling Burnett and Senior Fellow Anthony Watts, was downloaded 374,219 times. Highlights from this quarter include Dr. Judith Curry, Ph.D., who discussed how she became a climate skeptic, and Roger Bezdek, who discussed the necessity for fossil fuels in developing societies.

The *Health Care News Podcast*, hosted by both Research Fellow and *Health Care News* Managing Editor AnneMarie Schieber and Policy Advisor Sarah Lee, was downloaded 283,395 times. A highlight from this quarter is an interview with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Paxton talked about the Obama constitutional challenge his office is pursuing in a Louisiana appeals court. Additional podcast guests include

Pacific Research Institute President and CEO Sally Pipes, Goodman Institute for Public Policy Research founder John Goodman, and Idaho Freedom Foundation President Fred Birnbaum.

The *Voices of Vapers Podcast* is hosted by State Government Relations Manager Lindsey Stroud. It was downloaded 48,853 times. Highlights include Vaping Legion's Matthew Elliot, who discussed the ongoing battle over vaping in New York, and President of the American Vaping Association Gregory Conley on the state of vaping in 2019 and the recent hospitalizations mischaracterized as vaping-related illnesses.

The *School Reform News Podcast* is hosted by State Government Relations Manager Lennie Jarratt and was downloaded 93,319 times this quarter. A highlight includes an interview with Larry Sand, president of the California Teachers Empowerment Network, who discussed the alleged teacher shortage in California and around the country and why there are more teachers than ever today.

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 Policy Advisor Isaac Orr, this podcast was downloaded 166,870 times. It is released every Friday and features work from think tanks across the country. This quarter, *In The Tank* covered CNN's embarrassing climate town hall, the projected tax increases needed for Medicare for All, and a series of articles showing that capitalism is saving the planet.

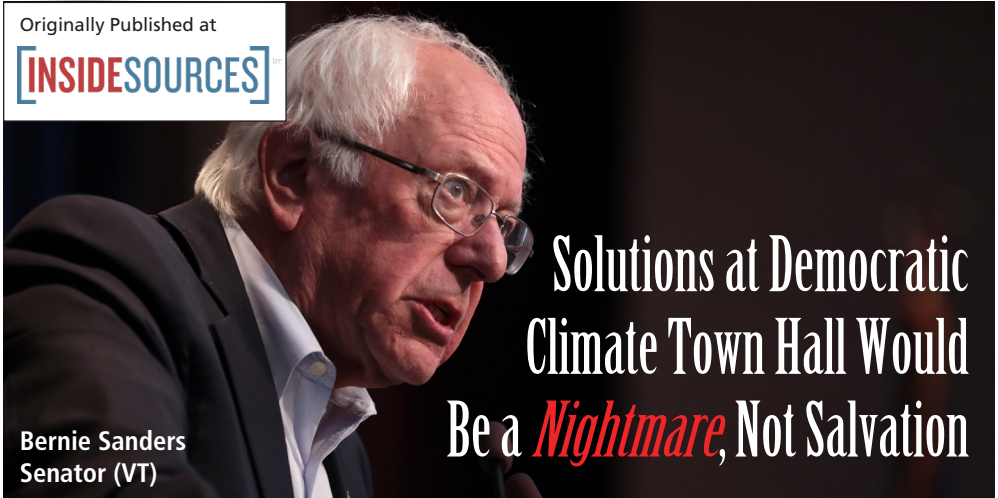




## ARTHUR B. ROBINSON CENTER ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Originally Published at

**INSIDESOURCES**



Bernie Sanders  
Senator (VT)

PHOTO COURTESY GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKICOMMONS

### By H. Sterling Burnett

Democrats participating in CNN's tortuous, seven-hour climate change town hall event in September proved, not unexpectedly, to lack any real understanding of climate science, promoting policies that would cause more harm than the so-called "climate crisis" itself.

Each Democratic candidate at the climate town hall proclaimed, in one form or another, the world will end in 10 or 11 years if we don't cut carbon dioxide emissions in half, and cut them out altogether shortly thereafter. Joe Biden, among the most moderate of the Democratic death cult brigade, gave us until at least 2050 to transition from fossil fuels.

However, these doomsday predictions aren't supported by science. Even the worst case scenarios promoted by climate alarmists don't say the earth will become a burned out husk if we don't stop using fossil fuels for energy, rather they project seas *might* rise a little more and a little faster and hurricanes might become a little more powerful and sustained than they otherwise would be absent fossil-fuel use.



**H. Sterling Burnett**

Senior Fellow

Managing Editor

*Environment & Climate News*

If the world is not coming to an end, why are Democrats saying it is? The answer is simple, to scare people into embracing the socialist policies they wish to foist upon the world. If you claim fighting climate change is a moral crusade to save the world, then they don't have to discuss the costs of the policies they are pushing.

The candidates all admitted their climate policies, all versions of the Green New Deal (GND), would cost trillions of dollars. They must have hoped the audience wouldn't examine their programs in detail, because if they did, they would find the policies wouldn't do much to prevent climate change, but they would harm the people and the environment in other ways.

Multiple studies have shown the GND's energy policies would cost average households thousands of dollars each year in lost income, higher energy prices, and more expensive goods and services.

Ending fossil-fuel use will kill people, not save the planet. Wealthier countries are better able to cope with natural disasters. One critical component of a country's wealth is access to cheap, reliable fossil fuels. Countries with access to fossil fuels suffer less and recover faster when natural disasters strike than do poorer countries lacking such access.

## THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

Fossil fuels are the foundation of modern agriculture, infrastructure, medicine, and transportation. They have contributed to a more than doubling of the average human lifespan, a steep decrease in poverty, and a huge increase in global food supplies over the past century. For instance, a March 2019 study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research found “that the drop in natural gas prices in the late 2000s, induced largely by the boom in shale gas production, averted 11,000 winter deaths per year in the US.” This progress would be reversed if the Democratic candidates have their way and end fracking either immediately or in the near term.

Democrats plan to pay for this unprecedented makeover of the economy by shutting down the federal government’s second largest source of revenues—the fees and leases from oil and gas production. At the same time, they propose to pay for, among other things, relocating at risk communities, retrofitting every building in the United States to increase energy efficiency, giving displaced fossil-fuel energy workers an income and training for new jobs, and “investing”—government speak for “subsidizing”—in increasingly more research and “green” technologies. Mind you, green energy companies receive more in subsidies than they pay in taxes, so with the end of fossil fuels, government expenses will grow by the tens of trillions.

Democrats will have to print money day and night to pay for their proposals, which will devalue the U.S. dollar, just like inflationary policies the world over always have. If you like the economic chaos and shortages of Weimer Republic Germany or modern-day Zimbabwe or Venezuela, then you are going to love the Democrats’ climate plans.

Yet for all this pain, assuming mainstream climate modelling is correct, eliminating all U.S. carbon dioxide emissions tomorrow would avert only 0.034°C to 0.062°C of

► Published three issues of *Environment & Climate News*, nine issues of *Climate Change Weekly*, two *Policy Briefs*, one *Policy Tip Sheet*, and 10 *Research & Commentaries* on environment and energy issues.

► Logged 632 personal and 32,567 group contacts for a total of 33,199 contacts on environment and energy issues.

► Generated at least seven broadcast, 228 online, and 62 print media hits reaching approximately 24.5 million people on environment and energy issues.

► Produced 13 new podcasts, attracting 374,219 listeners, and 41 new posts on *Freedom Pub* addressing energy, environment, and climate issues.

► Testified one time on environment and energy issues.

global warming by 2050, a change far too small to affect weather patterns, crop yields, the spread of tropical diseases, or to prevent wars or avoid a crush of climate refugees.

CNN’s Democratic climate town hall was a pain to watch, but the real pain will come if any of the climate plans offered to the audience become reality.

*H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D. ([hburnett@heartland.org](mailto: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.*



CENTER ON  
BUDGETS AND TAXES

Originally Published at

WASHINGTON  
**Examiner**

# THANKS TO TRUMP, MILLIONS SAY SAYONARA TO SNAP



**By Chris Talgo**

According to recently released government data, exactly 33,677,755 Americans (16,921,185 households) are currently enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Although it may seem as though a rather large number of Americans receive government subsidies for their groceries, the current SNAP figure should be celebrated.

Why? Because in 2016, the last year of the Obama administration, 44,219,656 Americans (21,777,967 households) received government-issued Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to buy foodstuffs.

In case you didn't know, EBT cards have replaced "food stamps." According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, EBT is a system that allows SNAP recipients to buy groceries via a debit card loaded with taxpayer funds.

Although there are many reasons for the major drop in enrollment, one cannot dispute that the booming economy is the primary driver of the dramatic decrease.

In other words, in less than three years, the Trump administration's free-market policies

have helped almost 11 million Americans become self-reliant when it comes to paying for their groceries.

How could this be? Well, it does not take an economic genius to understand that lower taxes and fewer regulations result in more jobs in the economy (employed people can afford groceries) and more money in people's pockets (to buy groceries).

Despite the Left and fake news media constantly decrying the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) as a "tax cut for the rich," the truth is low- and middle-income Americans benefitted big time from the Trump administration's tax cut.

Even *The New York Times*, notably not a fan of President Trump, admitted, "If you're an American taxpayer, you probably got a tax cut last year," in an April 2019 article. The authors went on to say, "to a large degree, the gap between perception and reality on the tax cuts appears to flow from a sustained—and misleading—effort by liberal opponents of the law to brand it as a broad middle-class tax increase."

Wow, did someone inject truth serum into the water supply at *The New York Times* offices?

Although it is still too early to judge the long-term impact of the TCJA, the Tax Foundation "estimates that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will increase long-run GDP by 1.7 percent, create 339,000 jobs, and raise wages



**Chris Talgo**

Editor

*The Heartland Institute*

## THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

by 1.5 percent.”

In short, the TCJA reduced the need to redistribute taxes via EBT cards because more Americans now keep more of their money in the first place.

No wonder the Left opposes tax cuts. Tax cuts negate the need for their redistributionist policies, which is a keystone of their misguided government-dependency agenda.

Although the tax cuts produced larger paychecks—hence more discretionary income for individual Americans—the Trump administration’s war on pointless regulations has made the economic situation better for *all* Americans.

According to President Trump’s Director of the National Economic Council Larry Kudlow, “Deregulation started everywhere across the board ... and I think that started this push and started the small business push and the blue collar hiring. ... Then comes the tax rate reduction, which adds to it on the incentive front, so they’re working very much together.”

The combination of tax cuts and regulatory rollback has produced a much-needed American job renaissance. According to the most recent employment snapshot from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “In August, the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent for the third month in a row.” This is excellent. Even more excellent, the unemployment rates for women (3.3 percent), blacks (5.5 percent), Hispanics (4.2 percent), and Asians (2.8 percent) are near or at all-time record lows.

Even better, “The labor force participation rate edged up to 63.2 percent in August ... The employment-population ratio, at 60.9 percent, also edged up over the month and is up by 0.6 percentage point over the year.”

No wonder wages (especially for those at the bottom rung of the economic ladder) are finally increasing after years of stagnation.

The current economic narrative is quite easy to grasp. President Obama’s administration raised taxes and regulations for eight years, which stifled business

► Published two issues of *Budget & Tax News*, 18 *Research & Commentaries*, two *Policy Tip Sheets*, and one *Policy Brief* on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Logged 713 personal and 75,448 group contacts for a total of 76,161 contacts with legislators on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Generated at least 75 online and 31 print media hits reaching approximately 4.5 million people on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Produced 12 new podcasts, attracting 169,649 listeners, and 33 new posts on *Freedom Pub* on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Testified five times on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

investment, expansion, and hiring. People had less income and there were fewer (good-paying) jobs. No wonder millions of Americans relied on the government for help buying their groceries.

Under Trump, the exact opposite has happened. In three short years, the Trump administration has cut taxes and regulations. Therefore, people have more money to spend, and businesses (finally) have incentive to create lots of good-paying jobs.

It should come as no surprise that 11 million fewer Americans are counting on Uncle Sam to help foot their grocery bills.

*Chris Talgo (ctalgo@heartland.org) is an editor at The Heartland Institute.*

# THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE'S ***NEW DONOR BENEFITS***

## ***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 fourth 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. 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](mailto:dhoyt@heartland.org).

### **What level of giving is right for you?**

Please refer to the enclosed reply envelope for a detailed list of Heartland's new donor benefits.



**BY MAIL:** Complete and return the enclosed 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 fundraising team.



#### **GIVE ONLINE:** [heartland.org/donate](http://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](http://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.

# FREE TO CHOOSE MEDICINE

## Better Prescription Drugs, Faster, and Lower-Priced

The public is demanding reform of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug-approval process. A poll commissioned by **The Heartland Institute found 95 percent of Americans favor patients and their doctors making health care decisions, rather than the government.** The current FDA process for certifying the safety and efficacy of new drugs is prolonged, convoluted, and expensive. The Heartland Institute's poll found health care is the number-one issue for voters across the entire political spectrum.

**The Free to Choose Medicine (FTCM) policy proposal offers a solution to the lengthy and costly drug approval process, which now takes on average 12 years and costs \$2.9 billion.** FTCM has two complementary goals: to deliver life-enhancing, life-saving drugs and therapies to patients sooner and at a lower cost.

The goal of FTCM is to forge an alternative, innovative path around FDA's antiquated drug-approval process. Few people realize this has already been accomplished by FDA. In the 1990s, FDA allowed early access to promising HIV/AIDS drugs. FTCM extends this precedent to treatments that have passed FDA's Phase I safety tests and at least one Phase II efficacy test.

The Heartland Institute continues to meet with and brief congressional representatives and their staff on Capitol Hill,

senior FDA officials, and key White House leaders. Because of this outreach, members of Congress have sent letters to FDA in support of FTCM.

In June, The Heartland Institute supported an initiative in the North Carolina General Assembly to pass H.B. 934, which would expand Right to Try (RTT) legislation in the state. RTT would allow all patients, not only those who are terminally ill, to access potentially lifesaving treatments. This legislation would also protect doctors who choose to prescribe treatments that could potentially reduce patients' pain and suffering.

The Heartland Institute is working directly with patient advocacy groups and other free-market organizations to craft messaging on drug approval reform. Our coalition of 16 organizations, which represent millions of Americans, sent a letter in support of FTCM to President Trump in July.

As drug prices have continued to rise, the Left has proposed more government control of drug pricing and health insurance. FTCM would take the opposite approach, addressing the root of the problem by utilizing free-enterprise principles and improving patient freedom. FTCM would result in the development of higher-quality drugs that would be available sooner and at lower cost.

**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN  
SAVE  
LIVES!**

Everyone knows someone who can benefit from FTCM and faster, more affordable access to breakthrough therapies.

Interested in learning more or helping with this landmark effort? Please email Christina Herrin at [cherrin@heartland.org](mailto:cherrin@heartland.org) or visit our website [freetochoosemedicine.com](http://freetochoosemedicine.com) and click "Join the Fight."



CONSUMERS FOR  
HEALTH CARE CHOICES

Originally Published at  
**Townhall**



**By Christina Herrin**

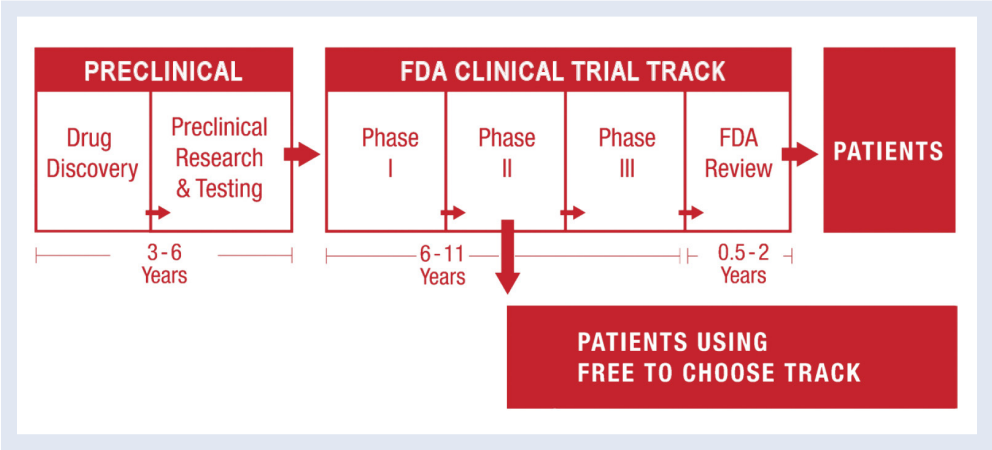
Americans suffering from debilitating diseases should not have to lobby Congress or Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bureaucrats for special permission to access potentially lifesaving treatments, yet that’s the situation many patients are in.

Consider Jaci Hermstad, a 25-year-old Iowan who suffers from a rare form of ALS. Hermstad has been fighting for her life for months, but has found hope in a groundbreaking molecular therapy developed specifically for her. It seems like common sense that Hermstad should be able to access this innovative, highly specialized treatment

before it is too late. However, in the upside-down world of the FDA drug approval process, common sense no longer applies.

It takes, on average, 12 years and \$2.9 billion to bring a drug from lab to market. For thousands of Americans, this is far too long.

Even though Hermstad’s life hangs in the balance, FDA’s drug approval process is not currently able to test and approve medicines quickly enough for the new molecular therapy to matter for Jaci. Until just weeks ago, it looked as though Hermstad would almost certainly die while waiting for the FDA to grant her permission to access a procedure that could save her life.



## THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

**“Free to Choose Medicine would allow thousands of patients to access needed drugs sooner and at a lower cost, all while protecting patients’ right to pursue medications that could improve or save their lives.”**

Fortunately for Jaci, she has received overwhelming support from the public and Congress with a recent bill introduced on her behalf, H.R. 2855. This legislation, called “Jaci’s Bill,” would provide access for Hermstad and suffering patients like her to seek molecular therapy by way of a compassionate use request.

The pressure put on FDA by Congress and the public has helped her story reach thousands of people. Thankfully, in the wake of public demands, the FDA has announced it will allow Jaci to access the medicine that could save her life.

However, not everyone is so lucky, and it’s unrealistic to expect every person suffering in pain to create a vast public campaign resembling the effort that led to Jaci’s victory. No patient should be forced to fight for access to a treatment he or she should have every right to access in the first place. Jaci is not the first or the last American to be diagnosed with a terminal or debilitating disease.

Thankfully, there is a public policy solution that would streamline the antiquated drug approval process: Free to Choose Medicine. Under a Free to Choose Medicine track, patients would have the ability to access potentially life-saving medications—at the discretion of the drug manufacturer, doctor, and patient, not FDA bureaucrats.

Free to Choose Medicine would allow thousands of patients to access needed drugs

- ▶ Published three issues of *Health Care News*, 14 *Research & Commentaries*, and six *Policy Tip Sheets* on health care issues.
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- ▶ Testified three times on health care issues.

sooner and at a lower cost, all while protecting patients’ right to pursue medications that could improve or save their lives.

It is truly a blessing FDA reacted positively to the public outcry about Jaci’s story, but what about next time? What about the thousands of others suffering while they wait for FDA to act? We must press for reform now, before it’s literally too late for dying patients.

*Christina Herrin (cherrin@heartland.org) is the campaign manager for Free to Choose Medicine, a project of The Heartland Institute.*



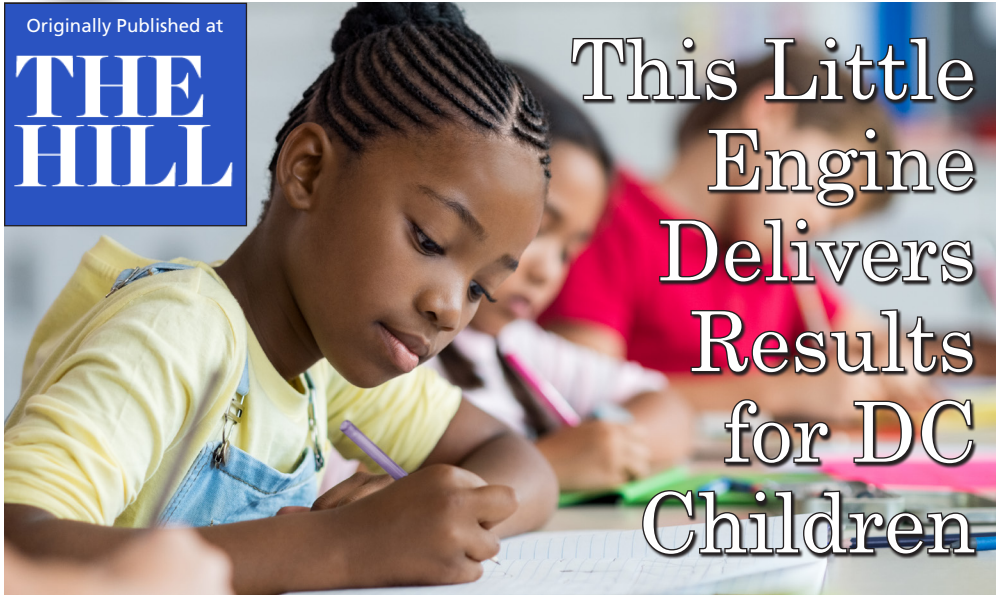
**Christina Herrin**  
Campaign Manager  
Free to Choose Medicine



## CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Originally Published at

# THE HILL



# This Little Engine Delivers Results for DC Children

**By Robert Holland**

Over the past 15 years, the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) has become the Little Engine That Could among school choice programs in the United States.

Like the train in the popular children's tale, OSP has overcome daunting obstacles. It has enabled thousands of underprivileged students in Washington, DC to transfer to safe schools where they have experienced academic and personal successes.

As the nation's first federally funded school voucher program, and the product of a fragile bipartisan accord between the George W. Bush administration and congressional Democrats in 2004, OSP was bound to command an unusually high degree of scrutiny. Objective evaluation is a good thing. However, schemes to crush this lifeline for needy kids are petty and perverse.

During President Obama's eight years in office, his administration tried mightily

and persistently to freeze enrollments and ultimately snuff out OSP. Of course, this came at the behest of teacher unions, which cannot tolerate the smallest degree of parental choice competing with their public school monopoly.

The optics of trying to kill education choice for DC kids from low-income neighborhoods were grotesque given that the Obamas chose to send their own children to an elite private school in DC. During his tenure as Speaker of the House, John Boehner (R-OH) helped stave off Obama's folly by using his clout to preserve OSP.

Another threat to OSP has come from educationist scholars who are trying to inflate any speck of negative findings from federal evaluations into a full-bore attack on OSP.

For instance, an education professor slammed OSP for having a negative impact on math achievement by students two years into their chosen schools, while neglecting the finding that voucher students completely overcame that math deficit in their third year.

Furthermore, the professor ignored third-year findings of OSP's positive effect on safety, absenteeism, and level of satisfaction. Previous studies showed voucher students'



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## THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

**“Even modest gains are impressive, given that OSP is achieving them for just one-third what District of Columbia public schools spend per pupil.”**

graduation rates at least 20 percentage points higher than for peers who sought but did not receive a scholarship.

Even modest gains are impressive, given that OSP is achieving them for just one-third of what District of Columbia public schools spend per pupil (approximately \$28,000 per year, as opposed to an average \$9,600 voucher for an OSP student).

“That means,” observed Reason Foundation analyst Corey DeAngelis, “a K-12 education costs around \$364,000 for each child in D.C. public schools, but only about \$125,000 for each voucher student.”

Unfortunately, the Little Engine That Could has to propel itself against an ever-increasing burden of congressional regulations regarding testing, accreditation, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, and sundry other matters. Heritage Foundation education expert Lindsey Burke recently explained in detail how regulatory creep is hurting OSP by making participation less attractive to private schools.

If more people of good will could understand what a difference 10,700 scholarships have made in America’s capital city—and what a great success story this is about empowering individuals—then OSP could achieve much more in the next 15 years.

Perhaps a motion picture could bring the story to life. *Miss Virginia* might well do just that after its expected release later this year.

*Miss Virginia* is based on the courageous battle of Virginia Fowler Walden Ford, who advanced the cause of educational opportunity for all children. Emmy Award-winning actress Uzo Aduba will play the lead role.

► Published one issue of *School Reform News*.

► Published five *Research & Commentaries* and two *Policy Tip Sheets* on education issues.

► Logged 643 personal and 20,831 group contacts for a total of 21,474 contacts with legislators on education issues.

► Generated at least two broadcast, 43 online, and 14 print media hits reaching more than 11 million people on education issues.

► Produced two new podcasts, attracting 93,319 listeners to our education podcasts, and posted 16 new articles on *Freedom Pub* on education issues.

Ms. Ford’s first challenge came in the mid-1960s, a time of great racial tension in the South, when she and her twin sister Harrietta were among the first 130 students to brave ugly taunts and jeers to desegregate Little Rock schools. As a struggling single mom rearing three children in DC in the 1990s, she led grassroots organizing of parents to petition Washington’s local and federal authorities for better alternatives to dangerous, failing schools.

How that effort culminated in the Opportunity Scholarship Program is an inspiring story with application not just to the federal city but to communities across the country that could benefit from their own engines of educational liberation.

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# THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

As we round out the third quarter of 2019, Heartland's Government Relations team is looking forward to 2020 and is developing strategies to build on 2019's many opportunities and successes on the state of education reform, budgets and taxes, health care reform, and climate and energy.

Cameron Sholty



Wisconsin State Capitol Building



## *What's New:*

Cameron Sholty joined us this summer as the new director of Government Relations. He brought with him more than 15 years of experience in politics, public policy, and communications. In every role of his career, he has worked to advance free-market ideas and the cause of individual liberty.

He is the former communications director for the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, Wisconsin's largest litigation and public policy research organization. As communications director, he helped craft public messaging for groundbreaking litigation wins, such as Marquette University professor John McAdams' free-speech case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He also developed communication strategies to preserve and expand Wisconsin's historic school choice programs and to advance other state-based solutions to public policy challenges.

A veteran of the Wisconsin State Legislature, he served as chief of staff to the former Wisconsin Assembly majority leader. In that role, he guided messaging, outreach, and legislative strategies for the entire Republican caucus. He has worked on some of the most substantial legislative initiatives that Wisconsin has seen in generations, including Wisconsin's historic collective bargaining reforms.

# IMPACT

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Heartland Institute continues to be the go-to resource for state policymakers.

In August, Heartland's Government Relations team was approached by West Virginia lawmakers seeking ways to make their state more economically competitive and requested that we examine the effects of wholesale elimination of their gas tax. Led by Senior Policy Analyst Matt Glans, the research team determined that, indeed, an abolition of the state's gas tax would lead to immediate direct and indirect benefits for West Virginia's taxpayers.

West Virginia would realize increased cross-border sales of gasoline and would similarly see increased economic activity for goods and services. Additionally, the research further cemented the narrative Heartland has been telling for years: that gasoline taxes are regressive and are unable to meet the state's infrastructure spending needs.

In September, Colorado's GOP lawmakers in both the House and Senate invited Director of Government Relations Cameron Sholty to brief them on actionable health care policies as they develop their legislative agenda for 2020.

Sholty traveled to Sedalia, Colorado and presented on the benefits of telehealth, expanded rural broadband, and right to try. Understanding the political dynamics of Colorado, it was also stressed that to expand consumer freedom and free markets, legislators should oppose proposals to reinstate certificate of need laws, insidious guises to expand Medicaid, and price controls on prescription medications.

Similarly, Heartland's Government Relations team was asked by Missouri lawmakers to present to them ideas to expand school choice and education opportunities in the Show Me State. Lennie Jarratt, director of Heartland's Center for Transforming Education, met with lawmakers to review the latest research on the issue and began working with them on real, concrete proposals that could help provide new opportunities for Missouri's children.

Perhaps most exciting among all the highlights of the past three months is our successful Emerging Issues Forum! In early August, more than 80 legislators from 30 states descended on Austin, Texas to listen to panels of experts discuss some of the hottest issues facing state policymakers.

From climate and energy to criminal justice reform, from education choice to e-cigarettes, Heartland brought together leading experts from EdChoice, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and the Pacific Research Institute. Topping the successful program was George P. Bush, the Texas commissioner of public lands, who gave the lunch keynote address.

Building on the success of the August Emerging Issues Forum, Heartland is planning a winter EIF in New Orleans in December that will feature workshops that review the state of cannabis laws across the country, review best practices in legislative advocacy for education opportunities for students and families, and the ever-evolving debate on energy issues and policies facing policymakers.

### WANT TO SEE MORE?

Go to [Heartland.org](http://Heartland.org) or contact Director of Government Relations Cameron Sholty at [csholty@Heartland.org](mailto:csholty@Heartland.org).

# Climate Challenge: Bright Lights, Big City ... *Bigger Debate*

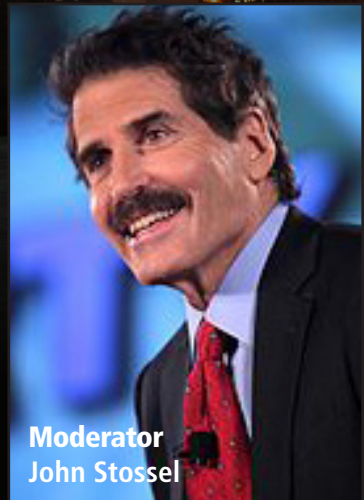
**O**n September 23 in the Big Apple—on the same day and in the same city the United Nations convened its Climate Summit before its General Assembly session—The Heartland Institute hosted a debate on what is happening to our climate and what we can do about it. That’s a debate long-delayed, but never more important than now.

We cordially invited some of the country’s most prominent advocates for taking immediate action on climate change. They blame human activity for global warming, insist it will be catastrophic to life on Earth, and demand big changes to the way Americans live, work, eat, travel, and build.

If those claims are correct, then it’s time to make the case to the American people—who are skeptical of the scope of the problem.

The Heartland Institute brought a team of scientists and policy experts to represent the “climate realist” side of the debate. Doesn’t the wholesale reordering of our society demand at least a little bit of public debate?

**Watch the entire event at  
[Youtube.com/Heartlandtube](https://www.youtube.com/Heartlandtube)**



**Moderator  
John Stossel**

# STOPPING SOCIALISM

The Heartland Institute is dedicated to exposing the true nature of Socialism—an economically disastrous and morally bankrupt social system.

This mission becomes even more important considering how self-described socialists Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) have become two of the most powerful Democrats in America. They and other presidential candidates routinely propose radical legislation that was considered unimaginable just a few years ago. The Green New Deal is just the tip of the iceberg.

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 third quarter of 2019 alone, Heartland had 30 TV and radio hits on the topic of socialism, including *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, *Varney & Co.*, and *The Glenn Beck Program*.

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