

SCHOOL CHOICE MARCHES ON

[Bill Donohue](#)

Those who scream the loudest about helping minorities are almost always the same ones who are doing everything they can to keep them in their place.

Proof: It is mostly Democrats who champion minority rights, and it is mostly Democrats who want to force minorities to attend schools they wouldn't send their own children to (the Democratic Platform explicitly rejects school choice). That's because Democrats are owned by the National Education Association (NEA), the largest labor union in the nation. Almost all their funding goes to the Democrats.

In short, no advocate of the poor should be taken seriously if he is opposed to school choice. They are the enemy of the poor.

The good news is that the march for school choice cannot be stopped. In fact, there are some 80 education choice programs available in at least 30 states, and the push for more is relentless. Here are some examples.

- In 2011, Arizona was the first state to offer an ESA, education savings account. It provides a fund for students to pay for various forms of education.
- No state has pioneered school choice more than Florida. We are talking about tens of thousands more children enrolling in private or charter schools or homeschooling.
- In March, Alabama joined 10 other states in enacting universal or near universal education freedom legislation.
- In November, Colorado voters will decide whether to encode school choice in its state constitution.
- Georgia offers a variety of school choice programs,

including two private school choice ones, charter schools, magnet schools, homeschooling and inter and intra-district public school choice.

- Iowa has essentially what Georgia has.
- Indiana has four private school choice programs: ESA, school voucher, tax-credit scholarship and individual tax deduction.
- Voters in Kentucky will decide in November whether they want school choice. One school district, Pulaski County, has been accused of violating the law by using social media to tell voters to vote “no” on the ballot initiative.
- School choice advocates are lobbying lawmakers in North Carolina to clear the waitlist for families seeking scholarships under the state’s school voucher program. Roughly 55,000 are on the list.
- Texans are strongly in favor of school choice, and so is Gov. Greg Abbott, but lawmakers are mostly opposed. In the spring, Abbott succeeded in persuading voters to dump six incumbent Republican opponents of school choice.
- In March, Utah expanded its ESA program, essentially doubling the number of students who qualify.
- Also in March, Wyoming adopted its first school choice program, though Gov. Mark Gordon used his line-item veto to narrow the eligibility of the ESA initiative.

Those opposed to school choice allege that funds for these alternative schools effectively siphons money away from traditional public schools. This is inaccurate.

First, it is a fundamental right of parents to decide which school their children should attend, not school unions. Second, it is a myth that public schools suffer a financial hit when school choice programs are instituted.

A few decades ago, economist Milton Friedman surveyed this argument by discussing the situation in the District of

Columbia. At that time D.C. was spending more than \$11,000 per year per student in public schools (today the figure is more than double that). The D.C. voucher plan at that time called for a maximum of \$7,500.

Therefore, Friedman argued, "For every voucher student who leaves the public school for a private school, the system would gain more than \$3,500. Far from taking money away from public schools, vouchers increase the funds available per remaining student."

On this issue, the Democrats are on the wrong side of history. Beholden to their benefactors at the NEA, they are willing to put their heel in the face of black Americans who simply want the same right to select the school of their choice as afforded most Americans. They should not be denied.

TIM WALZ'S IDEA OF EDUCATION

[Bill Donohue](#)

Minnesota Gov. and vice presidential candidate Tim Walz has some very bizarre, even repugnant, ideas about education. He has been reluctant to talk about them, and the media have shown no interest in pressing him on this issue.

Walz has had little to say about the rigors of the curriculum, but he has addressed a variety of side issues. One of them involves equity, diversity and inclusion, code words for combating racism by promoting more of it. He is responsible for launching a center at the Minnesota Department of Education to further this cause.

The education gurus who are the key contributors to this

radical agenda include Boston University professor Ibram X. Kendi—he believes all white people are inveterate racists—and Robin DiAngelo, the disgraced author accused of plagiarizing her University of Washington 2004 Ph.D. dissertation. Both have made millions hawking their ideology.

Walz is also responsible for making Ethnic Studies a requirement for graduation.

When I taught a college course on Ethnic Studies, I had the students learn about the Irish (the European example), Puerto Ricans (the Latino example), African Americans (the African example), the Japanese (the Asian example) and Jews (the Middle Eastern example).

This is not Walz's idea of Ethnic Studies. His notion involves introducing students to lectures on oppression and "cisheteropatriarchy," which roughly means the study of successful heterosexual males, though in the courses Walz favors it means these guys are responsible for oppressing the world.

Walz is also interested in advancing the LGBTQ agenda, which has no intrinsic bearing on education. He earned the tag "Tampon Tim" when he ordered tampons be made available in every men's bathroom in the state. Men cannot menstruate, which explains why tampons have never been placed in men's bathrooms. But this doesn't matter to Walz.

His anti-science view is shared by Hillary Clinton; she commended him for his "compassionate and common-sense policy." Also, Minnesota State Rep. Sandra Feist defended Walz by saying, "Not all students who menstruate are female." She did not identify one person who has a penis, scrotum and testicles who menstruates. He doesn't exist, except in their heads.

Walz is so passionate about the LGBTQ agenda that effective in July 2025 he is going to mandate that all teachers affirm the sex of a student who falsely maintains that he is of the

opposite sex. In other words, if Johnny thinks he is Jane and wants to be called she/her, or even they/them, then the teachers must oblige.

As Joy Pullman, the executive editor of The Federalist, notes, this would effectively “ban practicing Christians, Jews, and Muslims from teaching in public schools.” They do not accept the anti-science view that one’s sex is a subjective determination.

What makes Walz so dangerous is that he refuses to promote school choice, thus ensuring that most students are indoctrinated with his left-wing ideas about race and sex.

Every poll taken in Minnesota on school choice shows that more than 70 percent favor it, and this includes a majority of Democrats. Moreover, 26 states have some form of school choice program—21 run by Republicans and 5 by Democrats—but Walz refuses to offer minorities (whom he claims to champion) the same opportunity to select the school of their choice that those who are more affluent already enjoy.

The media are delinquent in not telling the truth about Walz’s education record. It’s a disaster, and so is the cover up.

WRONG SMOKING PRIORITIES FOR TEENS

[Bill Donohue](#)

“I want to be unequivocally clear that this continued decline in e-cigarette use among our nation’s youth is a monumental public health win,” said Brian King, the director of the Food

and Drug Administration's tobacco division. He was celebrating the news that fewer than 8 percent of teenagers are using e-cigarettes, a 10-year low.

That's good news but why isn't the federal government as concerned about the *growing* use of marijuana among teens? Last year it was reported that teen marijuana use was at its highest level in 30 years.

It's easy for young people to use marijuana undetected by adults. They can smoke it in a rolled cigarette joint, pipe or bong; they can smoke liquid or wax marijuana by vaping; "edibles" are available; drinking beverages with marijuana products is another option; and oils and tinctures can be applied to the skin.

According to the CDC, the negative effects of marijuana are: difficulty thinking and problem-solving; memory and learning issues: reduced coordination; and difficulty maintaining attention. The increase in traffic accidents since the widespread use of marijuana is another serious problem; unlike alcohol, the police have no way of determining marijuana use.

Both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are in favor of legalizing marijuana. She took that position in 2018 and Trump endorsed legalization this past week. Both should be asked how they can justify their position given what we know about the psychological and physical problems associated with marijuana use, especially among young people. It is much more harmful than previously thought.

Harris and Trump should also be asked why the black market in marijuana and other more lethal drugs has *spiked* since weed was legalized in many cities and states. What did they think would happen when Uncle Sam got into the act? Street drug dealers never go away: they don't charge tax and they can be depended on to sell an unlimited quantity of unregulated drugs.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Mr. Science, has said next to nothing about marijuana use. He is in a position to start a national conversation about this issue, but he appears not to have any interest in doing so. Perhaps he should ask those who work in ER facilities about this.

Only 1.6 percent of teens are smoking traditional cigarettes. The percent who experiment each year with marijuana ranges from 32 to 37 percent.

There is something terribly screwed up about our priorities. Why is Marlboro unacceptable but marijuana is? And aren't we having serious respiratory issues since Covid? The disconnect is startling.

NASHVILLE MANIFESTO PROVES REVEALING

[Bill Donohue](#)

On March 27, 2023, Audrey Elizabeth Hale, murdered three adults and three 9-year-old children at Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. A transgender person, who mistakenly thought she was a boy, Hale had been treated at the time for "emotional disorder." She kept a log of her problems, detailing how she was planning a mass shooting. Thanks to a lawsuit brought by the *Tennessee Star*, her manifesto has been made public.

[The quotes are as written by Hale. No corrections were made.]

Hale, who sometimes referred to herself as Aiden, was a terribly despondent person who saw little reason to live.

"Nothing on Earth can save me," she wrote in her diary. Other times she would say things like, "Everything Hurts" and "I hurt bad enough & long enough that I Need to DIE." She confessed, "Everything makes me sad. I'm sad about everything." "Being Me Sucks."

If there was one person she said she loved, it was Paige Patton, whom she referred to as P.A.P., or the "brown girl." She was a radio host. They played basketball together in the eighth grade and remained in occasional contact thereafter. Hale referenced Paige in her diary, saying, "If I cry all day, it's cause I need your love."

She was also fond of Nikki Tidwell, whom she met at the Nossi College of Art. On January 16, 2023, just over two months before Hale went on her shooting spree, she let her know of her plans. "I'm so sorry, Nikki. I didn't plan my massacre on the 17th, I'm going to be in terrible s*** for leaving you. How bad my heart hurts. Tomorrow is my last day on Earth. I love you, I am so sorry. Audrey (Aiden)."

Then she had second thoughts: "(P.S. Not leaving yet. I couldn't do it. I don't want to ruin your day. I'll wait as planned. Audrey." It was even more bizarre to learn that literally two days before the shooting began, Hale showed up at a birthday party for Nikki.

If there was one factor that accounted for Hale's profound unhappiness it was her adamant rejection of her nature. She hated the fact that she was not a male. "Why does my brain not work right?? Cause I was Born Wrong!!!" She opined, "A terrible feeling to know I am nothing of the gender I was born of. I am the most unhappy boy alive. I wish to be dead."

She took out her internal problems on society. "Everything hurts. And I hate society b/c society ignores to see me. I'm a queer; I am meant to die." She even wrote a statement titled, My Imaginary Penis wherein she said, "My penis exists in my

head. I swear to god I'm a male."

Hale was angry that she somehow let girls down. "Major blow to girls; I am a boy that has no penis." She was also angry at God. "If God won't give me a boy body in heaven, then Jesus is a faggot."

She hated her father. In a post titled, "Dad problems," she wrote, "He never once loved me for years, maybe like ever." She declared, "You're a loser. I hate you...I don't care if you die. I want to kill you." She even condemned him on the day of the mass murder.

Days before she went on her rampage, Hale spoke of her darkness. "Soon I will leave this world...I will regret nothing...No regrets by the gun!!!" She was mentally ready. "For 5 years I planned to die. Now I am finally ready to go."

Then, in a clear reference to Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the high school seniors who killed 12 students and one teacher in the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, she wrote, "I want my massacre to end in a way that Eric & Dylan would be proud of."

On the day of the killing, Hale boasted, "Nature needs enigmas...I am one, Thank God." More ominously, she scribbled, "DEATH. Today is the day. The day has finally come!"

She gave a shout-out to Paige, saying she was ready to roll. "Please don't be mad..." She added, "P.S. I think God will enter me in heaven. If I do go there, I'll be waiting for you. All our pain will leave us."

She really did believe in God. Much earlier she had written, "God is love, so are you." But on that fateful day, she begged forgiveness. "Forgive me God, This act will be inglorious."

Hale gave Paige a heads up just before she pulled the trigger. She contacted her and said, "I'm planning to die today. This

is not a joke. You will probably hear about me on the news after I die.” Thirteen minutes later the shooting began.

Transgender persons are not normal and it is cruel to pretend otherwise. They need help. That does not mean affirming their sick status—it means getting to the source of their troubles. If that means anything, it means not treating conditions like Hale’s as if they were merely an “emotional disorder.” What she suffered from was much more serious.

THE MYTH OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST VIOLENCE

Part II

[Bill Donohue](#)

[Part I](#) of this installment exposing the myth of Christian nationalist violence focused on six purported incidents of this phenomenon as described by Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) and lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism.

She has testified on two occasions before congressional panels on this issue. The research I did examining her sources forms the basis of my analysis. Most of her claims are just that—assertions. They are not evidentiary. Her central claim maintains that “The greatest threat to religious liberty in the United States today...is Christian nationalism.”

Part II addresses the seventh, and last, incident—the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot. She calls it “an insurrection.”

“Christian Nationalism and the January 6, 2021 Insurrection” is a [report](#) sponsored by BJC and the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), a notorious anti-Christian atheist organization. It was published in 2022.

There are seven chapters in the Report, all supposedly chock full of evidence that the riot was a Christian nationalist event. Yet the first three chapters are merely a commentary on Christian nationalism, and don’t even attempt to tie the violence at the Capitol to it. Of the other four chapters, two were written by Andrew Seidel, an attorney who works for FFRF.

Katherine Stewart is an author and investigative journalist. Here is the first sentence in her chapter: “By now, most Americans understand that Christian nationalism played a role in last year’s violent attack on the Capitol.” She cites not a single source. It is simply an unsupported assertion. This is the extent of her “evidence.”

Seidel wrote chapters five and six. Chapter five covers events leading up to January 6, and chapter 6 claims to provide evidence that the riot was of Christian nationalist origin.

Chapter five says there were two violent Christian nationalist episodes leading up to January 6: one occurred on November 14, 2020; the other occurred on December 12, 2020.

Seidel argues that after supporters of President Trump rallied on November 14, “violence erupted in D.C.” It did. But the source he cites from the *Washington Post* simply says that Trump supporters clashed with counterdemonstrators. So what? The news story says not a word about Christian anything.

The December 12 incident saw another nighttime clash between the two factions. The source he cites notes that the Proud Boys, a right-wing group that supports Trump, was involved. They were. What Seidel doesn’t mention is that four of them were stabbed.

Chapter six begins by saying that Paula White, one of Trump's spiritual advisors, delivered "an explicitly Christian nationalist and openly militant prayer." What was it? "Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord" (Psalm 33:12). That was it.

Other "evidence" that the riot was a Christian nationalist event include statements by Katrina Pierson, a Trump campaign spokesperson. She said, Trump "loves the United States of America. He loves God." Ergo, this is an invitation to Christian nationalist violence.

Seidel also says that some people carried a cross and a Christian flag, and some were even spotted singing "God Bless America." More evidence that this was a Christian nationalist event was the sighting of men blowing shofars. A shofar is a Jewish musical instrument—not exactly a prop used by violent Christian nationalists.

Tyler wraps up the Report with similar "evidence." Signs such as "In God We Trust" are considered proof that Christian nationalists were on a tear. She says that as the violence took place, something curious happened: Christian leaders who condemned it "for the most part did not name Christian nationalism as a contributing or driving factor." I wonder why.

No doubt there are crazies who fit the label "Christian nationalist." But if those who make a living off of selling the idea that Christian nationalists are a violent-ridden threat to America, and they can't provide convincing evidence, then they are frauds. Worse, accusing Christians of bomb threats and arson—absent any proof—makes *them* a bona fide threat to America.

THE MYTH OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST VIOLENCE

Part I

[Bill Donohue](#)

As a sociologist and a Catholic advocate, I am quite interested in the left-wing accusation that Christian nationalists are a violent-ridden threat to America. Those who make this charge are mostly academics and activists. I was skeptical about their claim, so I decided to fact check their work.

I am no longer skeptical: I am convinced these people are not only frauds—their goal is to demonize conservative Christian activists.

Christian nationalists are defined by their critics as those who seek to integrate Christianity and American civic life.

Perhaps the most prominent person floating this charge is Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) and lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism. A while ago I read the testimony she gave in October, 2023 before the U.S. House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs.

This prompted me to [email](#) Christians Against Christian Nationalism, asking them to provide me with the evidence that Christian nationalism “inspires acts of violence and intimidation.”

They wrote back referencing Tyler's October 25, 2023 testimony and her written testimony on December 13, 2022 before the House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee and Civil Rights and

Civil Liberties. The following analysis is based on the two testimonials.

[In Tyler's testimony in 2023](#), she says, "The greatest threat to religious liberty in the United States today...is Christian nationalism." Such a sweeping statement would ordinarily be peppered with one example after another. She provides none. She simply makes an assertion, providing no evidence.

[Her testimony in 2022](#) offers some examples to support her thesis about the violence of Christian nationalists.

The first example she mentions occurred in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. Dylann Storm Roof shot and killed 9 people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. By all accounts, he was a seriously disturbed neo-Nazi who wanted to start a race war. But there is no evidence that he was a Christian nationalist.

Roof came from a troubled home. When he was born, his divorced parents got back together for a while, but it didn't last. His father remarried and allegedly beat his new wife, before getting divorced once again.

Roof dropped out of school, spending most of his time taking drugs, getting drunk and playing video games. He was busted twice for narcotics. He was also known for burning the American flag.

No one doubts he was a racist. But no one ever accused him of being a Christian nationalist.

The second example cited by Tyler was the tragic Tree of Life Synagogue mass shooting in Pittsburgh in 2018. Robert Gregory Bowers killed 11 people and wounded six. It was the deadliest attack on any Jewish community in the nation's history.

His parents divorced when he was a year old. His father committed suicide while awaiting trial on a rape charge. Like

Roof, Bowers was a disturbed racist and a right-wing nut. But no one who knew him ever said he was a Christian nationalist.

The third and fourth incidents mentioned by Tyler took place at Christchurch mosque in New Zealand on March 15, 2019. Brenton Harrison Tarrant was charged with 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder, and one count of committing a terrorist act.

His parents separated when he was a young boy and his home was destroyed by a fire. When his mother remarried, he went to live with her and her husband. The new husband beat her (Brenton's mom), Brenton, and his sister.

Brenton left home and went to live with his father. That didn't work out: Brandon found his father dead by suicide. Those who knew him, which were only a few, said he was disturbed but none ever described him as a Christian nationalist.

The fifth example cited was a shooting that took place in 2019 at Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, California. John Timothy Earnest shot and killed one woman and injured three other persons. In an open letter that he wrote prior to the shooting, he said Jews were plotting to kill the European race.

Earnest was an evangelical. Church members were split on whether his religious beliefs had anything to do with his shooting rampage. There is no evidence that he identified as a Christian nationalist, nor is there evidence that he was branded as such by those who knew him.

The sixth killing spree took place at Tops Supermarket in Buffalo, New York in 2022; it is located in a predominantly black neighborhood. Payton S. Gendron shot and killed 10 black people.

He was a classic loner. His father was an alcoholic and a drug

addict for 40 years, resulting in the demise of two marriages. Gendron had no friends and was known to wear a hazmet suit in the classroom.

He was fascinated by violence, even to the point of bragging how he stabbed his own cat and then smashed the animal's head on concrete. He finished the cat with a hatchet.

Not only was he not a Christian nationalist, he wasn't even a Christian. Tyler concedes this point but nonetheless lists him as a Christian nationalist.

Part II will cover the January 6 riot of 2021.