

John D. Ragan

Tennessee

Representative, HD-033 (R)

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Score

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TN Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote

Vote

1. **SB1325 Concealed Carry in Schools** (passed 68 to 28 on 4/24/2024). Authorizes a faculty or staff member of a school to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds.

YES



2. **SB2269 Fast-Tracking Food Stamps** (passed 57 to 27 on 4/24/2024). Requires the Department of Human Services to identify any federal regulations or state law or rules that inhibit its ability to deliver benefits for the food assistance program.

NONE



3. **HB2452 Repeal of Child Vaccine Mandates** (passed 73 to 25 on 4/15/2024). Would remove the provision of state law that declares "it is the responsibility" of each parent to ensure that their child receive the vaccines "recommended" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

YES



4. **SB2219 Ban on Central Bank Digital Currency** (passed 77 to 14 on 4/1/2024). Amends the state's definition of "money" to exclude a Central Bank Digital Currency.

YES



5. **HJR849 U.S. Withdrawal from the United Nations** (passed 66 to 25 on 4/1/2024). Urges "Congress and the President to withdraw the United States from the United Nations."

YES



6. **SB1738 Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Parent Protection Act** (passed 73 to 20 on 4/1/2024). Prevents the Department of Children's Services from denying a parent's ability to foster or adopt based upon the parent's religious or moral beliefs regarding "sexual orientation or gender identity."

YES



Scorecard Votes: 100%



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\$289,867

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of May 21, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Concealed Carry in Schools

SB1325 authorizes a faculty or staff member of a school to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds.

This bill eases blatantly unconstitutional gun control restrictions on teachers and staff members. “Gun-free zones” in schools are demonstrably unsafe. Every person has a natural and individual right to self-defense, irrespective of their location, which is why the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

2. Fast-Tracking Food Stamps

SB2269 requires the Department of Human Services to identify any federal regulations or state law or rules that inhibit its ability to deliver benefits for the food assistance program.

Providing “food assistance,” especially to “able-bodied adults without dependents,” is not the role of government. There exists no “right to food” apart from a person working and earning it themselves or having received it privately and voluntarily from someone else. Taxation in the name of “social welfare” is neither just nor charitable. “Public assistance benefits” rely on the unconstitutional and discriminatory use of federal and state taxpayer money on behalf of some citizens (particularly those who have little or no tax liability) at the expense of others, resulting in more debt, dependency, and poverty. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is not authorized under Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

3. Repeal of Child Vaccine Mandates

HB2452 would remove the provision of state law that declares “it is the responsibility” of each parent to ensure that their child receive the vaccines “recommended” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Parents—not the government—ought to decide whether their child should be vaccinated. Child immunization requirements must be opposed, as a parent’s non-injurious healthcare decisions are private family matters not under federal, state, or local jurisdiction in the United States. Forcing every child to be vaccinated under the guise of ‘preventive medical treatment’ violates the fundamental rights of parents protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

4. Ban on Central Bank Digital Currency

SB2219 amends the state’s definition of “money” to exclude a Central Bank Digital Currency.

A Central Bank Digital Currency would be an unconstitutional and intolerable expansion of tyranny under the Federal Reserve—presenting a significant danger to Americans’ civil liberties by decimating personal privacy and allowing for a full-fledged surveillance state. According to Article 1, Section 10, of the U.S. Constitution, “No State shall...make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts.” The States can and must act now to avow their adherence to constitutionally sound money.

5. U.S. Withdrawal from the United Nations

HJR849 urges “Congress and the President to withdraw the United States from the United Nations.”

The United States should fully withdraw from the entire United Nations system, including its funds and programs, specialized agencies, and other related bodies and organizations. The UN poses one of the greatest threats to U.S. national sovereignty and the God-given rights of the American people. Since 1945, the UN Charter, which is completely antithetical to the U.S. Constitution, has established an international framework for expanding global governance, with the ultimate goal of building a one-world state. Americans must reject the “zeitgeist” of globalism and call on Congress and the President to pursue a sound, just, and traditional foreign policy of non-interventionism, based on U.S. interests and the original intent of the Founding Fathers. It’s time to *Get US Out!* of the UN.

6. Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Parent Protection Act

SB1738 prevents the denial of a parent’s ability to foster or adopt based upon the parent’s religious or moral beliefs regarding “sexual orientation or gender identity.”

This bill defends the religious liberty of parents. No parent should ever be compelled to “affirm” LGBTQ+ ideology under threat of the full force and sanctioning of the government. Christians and others who wish to adopt children, but reject fictional “gender identity” constructs, should be honored, not persecuted. Article 1, Section 3, of the Tennessee Constitution asserts that all have a “natural” right to “worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience” and that “no human authority can ... interfere with the rights of conscience.” There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that can be used to support homosexuality or “gender affirming” behavior, which should be illegal. Grossly illicit acts of sexual perversion violate the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,” making them destructive of self-government and the family—the very foundations of a free society.