
The Agenda: Passage of the Equality Act expected this week

2 messages

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THE AGENDA

May 13, 2019

Good morning from Capitol Hill. Here is what conservatives need to know this week. The House is expected to vote on and pass the Equality Act. Heritage experts break down why this bill is so dangerous. Also, Heritage has released a new video that explains why everyone benefits from religious freedom. Plus, the latest rounds of trade talks with the U.S. and China ended without a deal, but Heritage experts say there is still time. Take notes, we have your conservative policy solutions right here.—Michelle Cordero

Passage of the Equality Act expected this week.

The House is expected to vote on and pass the Equality Act tomorrow. This federal sexual orientation and gender identity bill would empower the government to interfere in how regular Americans think, speak, and act at home, at school, at work, and at play. Recently Heritage highlighted the ways in which the Equality Act would politicize the education of at least 50 million public school students. It would force “school districts to follow curricula that introduce students to the concept of sexual preferences and transgender theory, starting as early as pre-K,” [writes](#) Emilie Kao, director of Heritage's DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society. [Read](#) Kao's commentary and [Heritage's explainer on the Equality Act](#).



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Video: Everyone benefits from religious freedom.

Heritage has released a new video as part of its “America’s Biggest Issues” series. This week, Genevieve Wood, Heritage’s senior adviser and spokesperson, is exploring some of the concerns surrounding the debate on religious freedom in America and explaining the conservative perspective. “Religious freedom is more than the ‘freedom to worship’ at a synagogue, church, or mosque. It means people shouldn’t have to go against their core values and beliefs in order to conform to culture or government,” says Wood. [Watch the video](#) and explore more in the series.

There is still time to make a trade deal with China.

The latest rounds of trade talks with the U.S. and China ended last week without a deal. For almost a year now, tariffs (or a taxes) have been placed on certain imports Americans buy from China. A total of \$50 billion worth of imports were taxed at 25%, [according to Riley Walters](#), a policy analyst in Heritage's Asian Studies Center. Walters says there is still time for a deal “good or bad” to get done before the G-20 summit in late June. “The fact that Vice Premier Liu He came to Washington means negotiations are still ongoing and a potential deal before the G-20 summit in June is still on the table. No one knows for sure what's in the proposed deal, and what's not, so there's lots of wiggle room for both sides to complain about the negotiating process.” [Read Heritage’s report on 11 common questions about U.S. trade with China.](#)

HAPPENING AT HERITAGE

Rachel Greszler, a research fellow in Heritage’s Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget, testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on what works best when it comes to paid family and medical leave. [Read her testimony.](#)

Joel Griffith, a research fellow in Heritage’s Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies testified before the House subcommittee on housing, community development, and insurance on the barriers to minority homeownership. [Read or watch his testimony.](#)



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This week on the “**Heritage Explains**” podcast, **Rachel Greszler**, a research fellow in Heritage’s Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget, explains what social securities shortfalls mean for you and what Congress can do to fix them. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

This week, in a bonus episode of the “**SCOTUS 101**” podcast, former Solicitor General **Paul Clement** discusses how each new justice changes the Supreme Court. He also shares his tips for getting the court to overturn its past cases. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Heritage will host an event to discuss defending freedom in Hong Kong. Featured speakers include **Martin Lee**, founding chairman of the Democratic Party of Hong; **Nathan Law**, founding chairman of Demosisto; and **Mak Yin Ting**, a journalist and former chair of the Hong Kong Journalists Association. [Watch the event live.](#)

Thursday at 1 p.m., **Christopher Ford**, assistant secretary at the Department of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, will keynote a discussion debunking the false critiques surrounding the Non-Proliferation Treaty disarmament narrative. [Watch the event live.](#)

Friday at noon, **Rep. Michael McCaul**, R-Texas, will lead an hourlong fireside chat discussing the challenges confronting the world today and share his solutions for a better tomorrow. [Watch the event live.](#)

HERITAGE IN THE NEWS

Tori Whiting, the Jay Van Andel trade economist at Heritage’s Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, joined **Fox Business’ “Mornings with Maria”** to explain why the Trump administration’s new tariffs are counterproductive. Watch the interview.

Dakota Wood, senior research fellow in Heritage’s Center for National Defense, joined **Newsy** to discuss the likelihood of an imminent war between the U.S. and Iran. [Watch the interview.](#)



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Kelsey Bolar, senior writer and producer at The Daily Signal and The Heritage Foundation, appeared on **Fox News' "America's Election HQ"** to talk about if the controversy around the Mueller report is political theatre and **Fox News' "Fox News @ Night with Shannon Bream"** to discuss former President Bill Clinton's remarks about Brett Kavanaugh.

Adam Michel, a policy analyst in Heritage's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, appeared on **Fox Business' "The Evening Edit"** to break down the booming Trump economy. [Watch the Interview.](#)

Dean Cheng, a senior research fellow in Heritage's Asian Studies Center, discussed the latest news in the U.S.-China trade talks on **Yahoo Finance's "The Ticker"** and **Fox Business' Channel.**

Nile Gardiner, director of Heritage's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom and Bernard and Barbara Lomas fellow, joined **Fox Business' "Bulls and Bears"** to talk about the U.S. warning to Iran. [Watch the interview.](#)

Peter Brookes, a senior research fellow in Heritage's Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, joined **Fox Business' "After the Bell"** to explain the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran. [Watch the interview.](#)

Ana Quintana, a senior policy analyst in Heritage's Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, joined **Fox News' "America's News HQ,"** to give an update on what happened last week in Venezuela and the victories Juan Guaido secured. [Watch the interview.](#)

Hans von Spakovsky, manager of Heritage's Election Law Reform Initiative and senior legal fellow at the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, joined **Fox News' "America's News HQ,"** to talk about what major questions the FBI must answer on its investigation into the Trump campaign. [Watch the interview.](#)



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