

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

## Criminal Justice Reform (CJR)

Our criminal justice system should prioritize rehabilitation over punishment and provide second chances to those who deserve them. Once someone pays their debt to society, we should help them reenter society and restore opportunities that are currently denied to people with criminal records. As states across the country have proven in recent years, such a system keeps communities safe and is smart on crime and soft on taxpayers. AFP-TN will be working on variety of issues toward that end, including: **Bail Bond Reforms, Alternative Sentencing, Ending Overcriminalization, Expanded Access to Vocational and Education programs, and improve the Driver's License and Voting Rights Restoration process.**

## Educational Freedom

Every student should have access to educational opportunities that foster their unique potential—whether it be public or private, charter or home school, or anything else. We will work to increase educational freedom through policies that ensure all students have access to a quality education that helps them discover, develop

and apply their unique talents to find fulfillment and success in life. One of many ways to help do so is by expanding access to **Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)** that provide students and parents with more opportunity to choose the education that is best for them.

## Government Transparency

We support leveling the playing field for Tennessee entrepreneurs and businesses and eliminating all special favors that benefit some at the expense of others. Unfortunately, in today's environment, taxpayer-funded favors to private companies are often kept secret through a series of exemptions—538 of them to be exact. We support the **Fairness, Accountability & Clarity in Tax Subsidies (FACTS) Act** to lift the veil on these special favors and provide much needed accountability and transparency in government.

## Health Care Innovation

We seek to expand access to health care for every Tennessean—a top issue for many families across the state. To that end, we support legislation to eliminate **Certificates of Need**—an onerous process that restricts where and how licensed

medical professionals can offer services to patients. This reform has been proven to lower costs, expand access, and improve the quality of health care.

## Economic Freedom and Opportunity

Tennesseans deserve an economic system that provides the same chance for everyone to get ahead, making it easier for the least fortunate to grab hold of the economic ladder and rise. AFP-TN will continue working to remove the barriers standing in the way of people realizing their potential. We will oppose bills that increase the tax and regulatory burdens on Tennesseans and businesses, which stunt entrepreneurship and innovation. We'll fight the cronyism that benefits a select few at the expense of everyone else and pits groups of people against one another. And we'll work to repeal costly barriers like **the Amusement Tax** (additional tax on gyms under 15K square ft) and **the Professional Privilege Tax** (\$400 tax on certain occupations), among others.