

AFTYN BEHN (TN-07) TOP HITS MATRIX

AFTYN BEHN (TN-07) TOP HITS MATRIX.....	1
BIOGRAPHY.....	2
TIMELINE.....	3
FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM TENNESSEE HOUSE	4
VEHEMENT OPPOSITION TO ICE	5
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CRIME IN NASHVILLE	10
SUPPORTS SEX CHANGE DRUGS FOR KIDS.....	14
KEY VOTES & LEGISLATION	19
BUSINESS TAX CUT	19
SIDED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKERS	19
ABORTION TRAFFICKING	20
OPPOSED INFORMING PARENTS ABOUT THEIR TRANS KIDS	20
BAIL REFORM FOR VIOLENT CRIMINALS.....	21
2025 BUDGET	21
FRIENDS WITH DRAG QUEENS.....	23
FAR-LEFT ENDORSEMENTS & ASSOCIATIONS	27
ORGANIZER FOR INDIVISIBLE	27
PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA.....	37
OUR REVOLUTION	38
COMMENTS ON RIOTING.....	40
CALLED TENNESSEE A RACIST STATE.....	41
ON ZOHRAN MAMDANI.....	41
OPPOSES TRUMP-ERA POLICIES	42
HR 1: ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT	42
TRUMP TAX CUTS.....	49
STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION.....	50
PRIVATE SCHOOL KID	52

BIOGRAPHY

Name:	Aftyn Alyssa Behn
Birthday:	November 24, 1989
Residence:	1215 Forest Ave, Nashville, TN 37206
Education:	Graduate Degree In Disability Studies And Public Policy, University of Texas Austin (2016) (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, Legistorm , Accessed 10/14/25) Bachelor's Degree, University of Texas Austin (2008) (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, Legistorm , Accessed 10/14/25)
Professional Career:	Community Organizer, Rural Vote (Statement of Disclosure of Interests, Tennessee Ethics Commission , 4/2/25) Statewide Organizer, Indivisible Tennessee ("What's Happening," The Leaf Chronicle , 8/13/18) Position with the Tennessee Justice Center (Vivian Jones and Melissa Brown, "Candidates Seek District 51 House Vacancy," The Leaf Chronicle , 6/18/23)
Committees:	Agriculture and Natural Resources (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, Legistorm , Accessed 10/14/25) Naming and Designating (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, Legistorm , Accessed 10/14/25) Transportation (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, Legistorm , Accessed 10/14/25)
Social Media:	X Instagram (Campaign) Instagram (Personal) Facebook (Campaign) Facebook (Personal)
Website:	Campaign Website

TIMELINE

November 24, 1989 – Born Aftyn Alyssa Behn. (Nexis, Accessed 10/14/25)

Approx. 2009 – Graduated From Webb School Of Knoxville. (“2008 Girl Scouts Of Tanasi Council Gold Awards,” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 3/30/08)

Approx. 2013 – Graduated With A Bachelor’s Degree From The University Of Texas At Austin. (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, [Legistorm](#), Accessed 10/14/25)

2016 – Graduated From The University Of Texas At Austin With A Graduate Degree In Disability Studies. (Tennessee State Rep. Aftyn Behn, [Legistorm](#), Accessed 10/14/25)

Approx. 2018 – Worked As A Community Organizer In East Tennessee For Indivisible. (Georgiana Vines, “Indivisible Tennessee Organizer Is Knoxvillean,” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 7/23/18)

May 2019 – Was Forcibly Removed From The Tennessee House Chamber Balcony For Screaming At The Speaker. (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [NewsChannel5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)

June 2023 – Announced Her Intent To Run For The East Nashville Based Tennessee State House District 51. (Stephen Elliot, “Aftyn Behn, Anthony Davis Prep Bids For Vacant House Seat,” [Nashville Scene](#), 6/15/23)

August 3, 2023 – Won The Special Election Primary For Tennessee House District 51. (J. Holly McCall, “Tennessee’s Special Legislative Elections Features An Upset In Nashville,” [Tennessee Lookout](#), 8/4/25)

November 5, 2024 – Re-Elected To Tennessee House District 51. (D. Patrick Rodgers and Hannah Herner, “Winners and Losers In State House and Senate Races,” [Nashville Scene](#), 11/5/24)

October 7, 2025 – Won The Democratic Primary For The Special Election For Tennessee’s 7th Congressional District (Alex Brodeur and Jane Nguyen, “Republican Matt Van Epps And Democrat Aftyn Behn Win Primary Elections In Tennessee’s Seventh Congressional District,” [The Vanderbilt Hustler](#), 10/12/25)

FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM TENNESSEE HOUSE

News Channel 5 Nashville Headline: “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker” (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [News Channel 5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)

In May 2019, Behn Was One Of Four Protestors Who Was Removed From The Tennessee House Chambers For An Outburst Directed At The Speaker. “One of the four protesters who camped outside Governor Bill Lee’s office demanding Rep. David Byrd’s removal was forcibly removed from the house chambers after a long outburst at speaker Glen Casada during session. Aftyn Behn is a member of TN Enough is Enough, a group calling for Rep. David Byrd to step down after sexual assault allegations were made against the lawmaker last year.” (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [News Channel 5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)

- **NOTE: Behn Was A Member Of The Group TN Enough Is Enough, Which Called For Rep. David Byrd To Step Down After Sexual Assault Allegations Were Made Against The Lawmaker.** “Aftyn Behn is a member of TN Enough is Enough, a group calling for Rep. David Byrd to step down after sexual assault allegations were made against the lawmaker last year.” (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [News Channel 5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)

During The Final Moments Of The 111th General Assembly Meeting In The State House, Behn Started Shouting At The Speaker From The Wing Of The House Chambers. “During the final moments of the 111th General Assembly Meeting in the state house Thursday, Behn started shouting at Speaker Casada from the wing of the house chambers. Troopers quickly made their way up the stairs and removed Behn from the chambers. A video from TN Enough is Enough shows Behn taken downstairs by troopers and eventually lead into a staircase where other Enough is Enough supporters could not follow. Behn was cited and released from police custody Thursday evening.” (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [News Channel 5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)

“Troopers Quickly Made Their Way Up The Stairs And Removed Behn From The Chambers.” “Troopers quickly made their way up the stairs and removed Behn from the chambers. A video from TN Enough is Enough shows Behn taken downstairs by troopers and eventually lead into a staircase where other Enough is Enough supporters could not follow.” (Kyle Horan, “Woman Removed From House Chamber For Outburst At Speaker,” [News Channel 5 Nashville](#), 5/2/19)



(Stephen Elliot, “Aftyn Behn, Anthony Davis Prep Bids For Vacant House Seat,” [Nashville Scene](#), 6/15/23)

NOTE: A video of the outburst can be found [here](#).

VEHEMENT OPPOSITION TO ICE

In May 2025, Behn Penned A Substack Article Recalling The Time She Found Herself Noticing An Unmarked ICE Vehicle In The Middle Of The Night, Describing The Vehicle As “In The Background Like Ghosts—No Explanation, No Reason To Be There. Just Shadowy Enforcers Of State Power Under The Guise Of ‘Help’”

The Behn Factor via Substack Headline: “It’s 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN”

(Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

The Behn Factor

REFLECTIONS

It's 2:23 AM on ICE Watch in Nashville, TN

Whatever your politics, you should be highly concerned about the flagrant abuse of power and state-sanctioned violence. It's only a matter of time before they come for you.



REP. AFTYN BEHN
MAY 11, 2025

(Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

On May 11, 2025, Behn Posted Substack Article Describing The Time She Found Herself In A CVS Parking Lot In The Middle Of The Night And Noticed An Unmarked ICE Vehicle, Among Other Law Enforcement Vehicles. “It was a little after two in the morning when I pulled into the CVS parking lot in Madison. The fluorescent lights buzzed, casting an eerie glow over a Metro Nashville Police Department cruiser, an unmarked ICE vehicle, and a state trooper’s car. All three had their lights on, a surreal parade of flashing red and blue against the dark, empty lot. I parked and watched. Reports later confirmed it was a ‘citizen needs assistance’ call. The MNPd officer stepped out and spoke to the trooper, who claimed an elderly man in a beat-up sedan had flagged him down. The old man was frantic as I observed. The officer followed him to his home to assist, but the ICE agents lingered. Just stood there in the background like ghosts—no explanation, no reason to be there. Just shadowy enforcers of state power under the guise of ‘help.’” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

- **Behn: “All Three Had Their Lights On, A Surreal Parade Of Flashing Red And Blue Against The Dark, Empty Lot. I Parked And Watched. Reports Later Confirmed It Was A ‘Citizen Needs Assistance’ Call.”** (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)
- **According To Behn, Law Enforcement Assisted An Elderly Man Who Was Frantic And Needed Help, “But The ICE Agents Lingered. Just Stood There In The Background Like Ghosts—No Explanation, No Reason To Be There. Just Shadowy Enforcers Of State Power Under The Guise Of ‘Help.’”** “The MNPd officer stepped out and spoke to the trooper, who claimed an elderly man in a beat-up sedan had flagged him down. The old man was frantic as I observed. The officer followed him to his home to assist, but the ICE agents lingered. Just stood there in the background like ghosts—no explanation, no reason to be there. Just shadowy enforcers of state power under the guise of ‘help.’” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

In The Substack, Behn Wrote That ICE Was “Not About Public Safety. It’s About Unchecked Power” And That Its Creation Was “A Political Project Wrapped In The Rhetoric Of ‘Safety’ And ‘Protection’ ...”

Behn Claimed That ICE Was Created From “A Political Project Wrapped In The Rhetoric Of ‘Safety’ And ‘Protection,’ But In Reality, It’s Always Been About Something Else. Detain, Deport, Disappear.” “ICE hasn’t been around forever. It was born out of the ashes of 9/11, part of the sprawling security state apparatus that ballooned under George W. Bush’s Homeland Security Act in 2002. It was a political project wrapped in the rhetoric of ‘safety’ and

‘protection,’ but in reality, it’s always been about something else. Detain, deport, disappear. The tools of authoritarianism were baked in from the start. ICE is not about public safety. It’s about unchecked power.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn: “The Tools Of Authoritarianism Were Baked In From The Start. ICE Is Not About Public Safety. It’s About Unchecked Power.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

ICE hasn’t been around forever. It was born out of the ashes of 9/11, part of the sprawling security state apparatus that ballooned under George W. Bush’s Homeland Security Act in 2002. It was a political project wrapped in the rhetoric of ‘safety’ and ‘protection,’ but in reality, it’s always been about something else. Detain, deport, disappear. The tools of authoritarianism were baked in from the start. ICE is not about public safety. It’s about unchecked power.

(Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn Criticized ICE Under The Trump Administration For Taking “The Gloves Off, And The Violence Became More Visceral. People Ripped Out Of Cars For Old Misdemeanors. Families Torn Apart Over Paperwork. They Don’t Need A Reason; They Just Need A Target.” “Since its inception, ICE’s budget has nearly doubled, its reach extended, and its tactics hardened. Under this administration, they took the gloves off, and the violence became more visceral. People ripped out of cars for old misdemeanors. Families torn apart over paperwork. They don’t need a reason; they just need a target. If they can weaponize one federal agency against our immigrant neighbors, they can weaponize any agency against any of us. Today, it’s ICE targeting undocumented residents. Tomorrow, it could be the FBI targeting protesters. The next day, the National Guard targeting striking workers. Once we normalize state power being used to surveil, detain, and terrorize certain groups, it’s only a matter of time before those same tactics are turned on the rest of us. Because authoritarianism never stops at the border. It metastasizes.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn: “Authoritarianism Never Stops At The Border. It Metastasizes.” “Once we normalize state power being used to surveil, detain, and terrorize certain groups, it’s only a matter of time before those same tactics are turned on the rest of us. Because authoritarianism never stops at the border. It metastasizes.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Since its inception, ICE’s budget has nearly doubled, its reach extended, and its tactics hardened. Under this administration, they took the gloves off, and the violence became more visceral. People ripped out of cars for old misdemeanors. Families torn apart over paperwork. They don’t need a reason; they just need a target. If they can weaponize one federal agency against our immigrant neighbors, they can weaponize any agency against any of us. Today, it’s ICE targeting undocumented residents. Tomorrow, it could be the FBI targeting protesters. The next day, the National Guard targeting striking workers. Once we normalize state power being used to surveil, detain, and terrorize certain groups, it’s only a matter of time before those same tactics are turned on the rest of us. **Because authoritarianism never stops at the border. It metastasizes.**

(Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Later In The Substack, Behn Described Tailing An ICE Vehicle And Following Them To A Planet Fitness, Where Other Law Enforcement Vehicles Approached Her And Started Asking Questions

Later In The Substack, Behn Described Tailing An ICE Vehicle Until It Stopped To Pull Over A Man In A Sedan. Behn Also Stopped Her Car To Record The Incident. “Later that night, we tailed an ICE vehicle as it sped down Gallatin Pike. It veered into the left lane, cut across traffic, and lit up its sirens to pull over a man in a small, rusted-out sedan. We pulled over too, trying to record. The ICE agents noticed us immediately and flipped on their high beams, blinding our cameras, trying to keep us from seeing what they were doing. We could still make out their outline as they ripped the man out of his car, cuffed him, and threw him in the back of their SUV. Moments

later, they sped off with his car, leaving nothing but our lingering shock at the audacity of it all.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

- **VIDEO: In A May 10, 2025 Instagram Video, Behn Said She Was Trailing ICE Vehicles And Declared, “Unfortunately Someone’s Getting Arrested.”** BEHN: “And, unfortunately someone’s getting arrested. But once again, we have been trailing these ICE vehicles that are in mostly like silver-silver type-esque, like Nissans and Hondas, and then they flicker on their lights, but they’re unmarked, silver cars, FYI.” (Rep. Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 5/10/25) Minute 2:20-2:39
- **Behn: “The ICE Agents Noticed Us Immediately And Flipped On Their High Beams, Blinding Our Cameras, Trying To Keep Us From Seeing What They Were Doing.”** (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)
- **Behn: “Moments Later, They Sped Off With His Car, Leaving Nothing But Our Lingering Shock At The Audacity Of It All.”** “We could still make out their outline as they ripped the man out of his car, cuffed him, and threw him in the back of their SUV. Moments later, they sped off with his car, leaving nothing but our lingering shock at the audacity of it all.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn Then Followed The Vehicles To A Planet Fitness, Describing, “Two ICE Vehicles, A State Trooper, And Now They Were Pissed. They Boxed Us In ...” “We decided to follow them to Planet Fitness. Two ICE vehicles, a state trooper, and now they were pissed. They boxed us in, lights flashing, their faces hard and impassive behind jet-black tinted windows. Two more ICE vehicles slinked in behind them, joining their vampiric cavalry but keeping their distance—because we were out of their jurisdiction. ICE agents stayed in their cars, watching, waiting, biding their time. The state trooper, however, made a beeline for my window, demanding our IDs, barking about how we allegedly ran a red light and didn’t have the correct registration on file. We were two white women without the proper paperwork. But instead of ripping us out of the car and hauling us away, the trooper kept peppering us with questions and eventually made his way back to his vehicle to ensure we had no outstanding warrants. We stalled them as long as we could—fumbled with the registration, acted like we didn’t know how to sign the forms, asked erraneous [sic] questions to distract...anything to buy time. You can watch the video here. And the whole time, we knew why we were still sitting in that car and had the privilege of stalling them because we were white. Because ICE was more interested in terrorizing immigrants than punishing us for not having the correct paperwork. That’s how this system works—it doesn’t matter what the law says. It matters who they decide to enforce it against.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

- **VIDEO: In A May 10, 2025 Instagram Video, Behn Described Being Sandwiched Between Two ICE Vehicles, Saying, “This Is Our New Reality That We Are Going To Have To Do In Nashville, Is Be On ICE Watch And Protect Our Neighbors.”** BEHN: “Once again, this is our new reality that we are going to have to do in Nashville, is be on ICE watch and protect our neighbors. I didn’t feel comfortable engaging with the ICE agent because we were sandwiched in between two ICE cars, but the next one we will see what happens. Once again this was in Madison. Please report to love me girl watch, and I can drop that in the chat, but Nicki and I will be out for the next few hours. Please send in your updates, it does look like NMPD is running around, not sure what they’re doing but we’re going to be following them and continuing to report back.” (Rep. Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 5/10/25) Minute 7:12-7:54

Behn Recalled The State Trooper Peppering Her With Questions, “And The Whole Time, We Knew Why We Were Still Sitting In That Car And Had The Privilege Of Stalling Them Because We Were White. Because ICE Was More Interested In Terrorizing Immigrants Than Punishing Us For Not Having The Correct Paperwork.” “But instead of ripping us out of the car and hauling us away, the trooper kept peppering us with questions and eventually made his way back to his vehicle to ensure we had no outstanding warrants. We stalled them as long as we could—fumbled with the registration, acted like we didn’t know how to

sign the forms, asked erraneous [sic] questions to distract...anything to buy time. You can watch the video here. And the whole time, we knew why we were still sitting in that car and had the privilege of stalling them because we were white. Because ICE was more interested in terrorizing immigrants than punishing us for not having the correct paperwork. That's how this system works—it doesn't matter what the law says. It matters who they decide to enforce it against.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn Called The Incident An Illustration Of “State-Sanctioned Terror” And Expressed Her Dismay With ICE Working With Tennessee Highway Patrol

Behn: “This Illustrates What State-Sanctioned Terror Looks Like. This Represents What Your Tax Dollars Are Funding. ICE, A Rogue Agency With A History Of Authoritarian Overreach, Is Collaborating With The Tennessee Highway Patrol ...” “This illustrates what state-sanctioned terror looks like. This represents what your tax dollars are funding. ICE, a rogue agency with a history of authoritarian overreach, is collaborating with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, even though there is NO signed formal agreement, called 287g, permitting this partnership. (I've heard that Governor Lee's special session immigration legislation may have provided the permission structure, but this is dubious.) On May 5th, Democratic State Reps and Senators representing Nashville sent a scathing letter to the Tennessee Department of Homeland Security and the Tennessee Highway Patrol, demanding answers about the state's involvement in the Nashville ICE Action. The letter laid out 13 critical questions about the use of state resources, the role of ICE, and the violations of statutory duty by state troopers. Most of those questions remain unanswered.” (Aftyn Behn, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

This illustrates what state-sanctioned terror looks like. This represents what your tax dollars are funding. ICE, a rogue agency with a history of authoritarian overreach, is collaborating with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, even though there is NO signed formal agreement, called 287g, permitting this partnership. (I've heard that Governor Lee's special session immigration legislation may have provided the permission structure, but this is dubious.) On May 5th, Democratic State Reps and Senators representing Nashville sent a scathing letter to the Tennessee Department of Homeland Security and the Tennessee Highway Patrol, demanding answers about the state's involvement in the Nashville ICE Action. The letter laid out 13 critical questions about the use of state resources, the role of ICE, and the violations of statutory duty by state troopers. Most of those questions remain unanswered.

(Aftyn Behn, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

Behn: “Nashville Has Been Under Siege For The Last Week, And It's Been Utter Hell.” “Nashville has been under siege for the last week, and it's been utter hell. Our already tapped-out immigration groups are drowning in requests for help from terrified families—mothers separated from their children, workers picked up and disappeared in the dead of night. Businesses have closed early because entire neighborhoods are too scared to step outside. And every time we think it can't get worse, it does. We want to believe that we deserve a better world, but the end of this nightmare feels nowhere in sight.” (Aftyn Behn, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

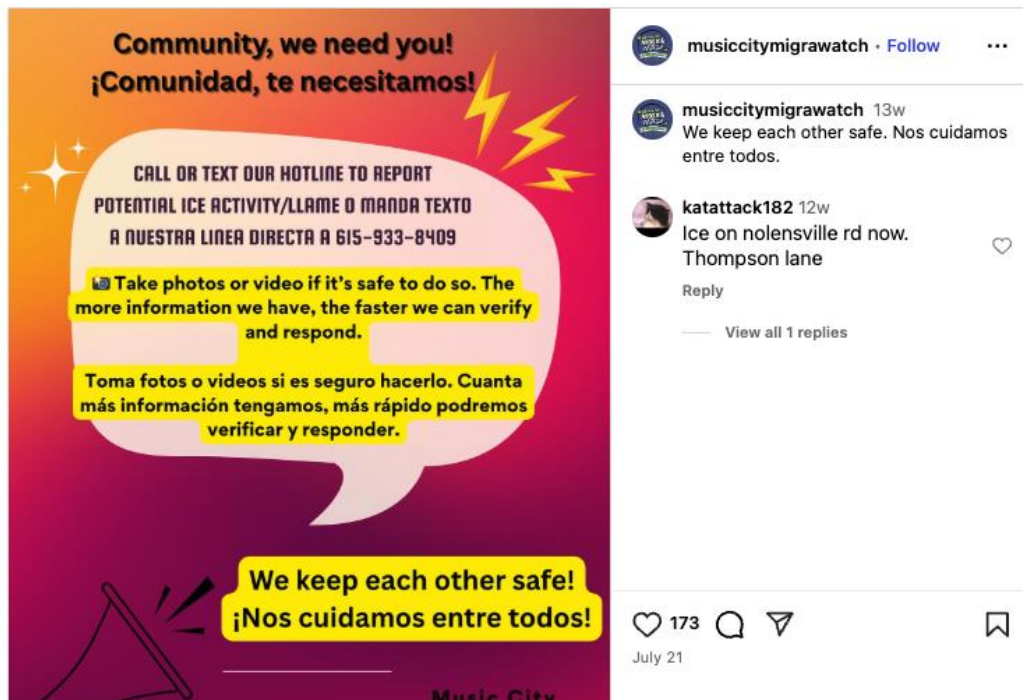
As A Call To Action, Behn Suggested Reporting ICE Activity To Music City Migra Watch And Contribute To Legal Support For Impacted Families. “What You Can Do Right Now in Nashville: ... Report ICE Activity to Music City Migra Watch: Follow them on their Instagram account. Call 615.933.8409. Get photos, videos, vehicle plates, and agent details. Share the nearest landmark. Stay and record if you feel safe doing so.” (Aftyn Behn, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

What You Can Do Right Now in Nashville:

1. Report ICE Activity to Music City Migra Watch: [Follow them on their Instagram account](#). Call 615.933.8409. Get photos, videos, vehicle plates, and agent details. Share the nearest landmark. Stay and record if you feel safe doing so.
2. Support Mutual Aid for Impacted Families: [Donate to The Remix to provide immediate financial relief to families](#). [Sign up for their ongoing programming training allies on deportation defense](#).
3. Contribute to Legal Support for Impacted Families: [Support the TIRRC's and the Community Foundation's Belonging Fund to help those detained and their families](#).
4. Get Local: Don't wait to do the right thing. [Watch this video to learn what to do if you see ICE in your neighborhood!](#) Educate yourself on community defense ([click here to read Community Defense from ICE Raids and Deportation information](#)), train your neighbors, and start a Signal chat to start organizing. We're going to need every ounce of courage we've got to get through the next few years.

(Aftyn Behn, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

- **Music City Migra Watch Has A Hotline That Collects Reports Of ICE Activity, Including Potentially Photos Or Videos.** “We keep each other safe. Nos cuidamos entre todos.” (Music City Migra Watch, [Instagram](#), 7/11/25)



(Music City Migra Watch, [Instagram](#), 7/11/25)

Behn Has Called ICE Arrests And Traffic Stops In Nashville An “Abuse Of Power” And Said In A Statement “This Is What State-Sponsored Fear And Violence Looks Like”

VIDEO: In A May 2025 Interview, Behn Called Traffic Stops By The Tennessee Highway Patrol In Coordination With ICE An “Abuse Of Power.” BEHN: “What I want individuals, I think, Nashvillians to take away, is this is an abuse of power. And, you know, a lot of conservatives or the Republicans will tout states rights over federalism. But, when-the federal-our state government is doing the fed’s dirty work, people should take issue with that. Additionally, it could be immigrants today, it could be us tomorrow. And this abuse of power, you know, there’s no transparency, there’s no trust, and for me, it’s important especially, I want to ensure that Tennessee taxpayers know where their tax dollars are going, and right now it is being used to detain and deport families.” (Aftyn Behn, [Interview On News5Nashville’s Inside Politics](#), 5/9/25) Minute 5:23-6:05

In A May 2025 Statement, Aftyn Behn Said Of ICE Action “This Is What State-Sponsored Fear And Violence Looks Like” And Said That The Operations “Do Nothing To Improve Public Safety.” “Rep. Aftyn Behn Responds to Massive ICE Operation in Nashville *‘This is what state-sponsored terror looks like.’* This weekend, a coordinated and alarming immigration enforcement operation unfolded in the heart of Nashville’s immigrant and refugee communities. Witnesses reported multiple drivers pulled over and detained, including mothers driving to work, allegedly leaving children in vehicles by themselves. Videos, photos, and firsthand accounts point to ICE working in tandem with the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) to carry out what can only be described as a dragnet. What I’ve heard anecdotally is deeply disturbing. If THP’s involvement is confirmed, it raises urgent and serious questions about THP’s role and authority in detaining Nashvillians for ICE. Dragnet operations like this do nothing to improve public safety. What they do is terrorize families, disrupt lives, and shatter trust between law enforcement and the communities they are supposed to serve. THP officers should be focused on roadway safety, not detaining parents heading to drop their kids off at daycare or pulling over residents based on their appearance, language, or neighborhood. This is not happening in a vacuum. Over the last decade, Tennessee has systematically expanded its anti-immigrant apparatus. The legislation passed by Governor Lee earlier this year took that agenda to a new level, establishing a centralized immigration enforcement division under the Department of Safety and encouraging local agencies to do ICE’s dirty work. We are now seeing the impact: neighborhoods in fear, families in crisis, and a state law enforcement agency allegedly assisting in deportation sweeps without public accountability.” (Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 5/4/25)

The image shows a side-by-side comparison of a press release and an Instagram post. On the left is a formal press release from Rep. Aftyn Behn, dated May 4, 2025, titled "Rep. Aftyn Behn Responds to Massive ICE Operation in Nashville". It contains the same text as the quote above. On the right is a screenshot of an Instagram post from the account @aftynbehn4tn, posted 24 hours after the press release. The post features a profile picture of Aftyn Behn and a blue "Follow" button. The caption of the post is identical to the press release text. The post has 889 likes and was posted on May 4.

(Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 5/4/25)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CRIME IN NASHVILLE

On May 11, 2025, Behn Posted A Substack Titled “It’s 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN” In Which She Described Tailing ICE Vehicles And Monitoring Their Activity. (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "It's 2:23 AM On ICE Watch In Nashville, TN," [The Behn Factor Via Substack](#), 5/11/25)

On May 11, 2025, The Nashville Banner Reported That ICE Was Performing Operations In Nashville. “This week, Tennessee Highway Patrol said it made close to 500 traffic stops —

coordinating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a sweeping effort to find undocumented immigrants along state roads. Troopers made 12 arrests, and 94 people were detained for reasons related to immigration. The enforcement actions created anxiety and uncertainty in Nashville's Latino communities and raised questions about what Nashville officials knew, and when." (Demitria Kalodimos and Andrea Tudhope, "Digging Into the Sweeping ICE Operation in Nashville," [Nashville Banner](#), 5/11/25)

On May 13, 2025, ICE Reported The Results Of Their "Targeted Enforcement Operation." "NASHVILLE, Tenn. — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Enforcement and Removal Operations, New Orleans Field Office announced today the results of a weeklong targeted enforcement operation, which resulted in the arrest of 196 criminal illegal aliens, some with significant criminal histories and outstanding final orders of removal." ("ICE Announces Results Of Targeted Enforcement Operation In Nashville Area," [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), 5/13/25)

ICE Arrested 196 Individuals, 95 Of Which Had Prior Criminal Convictions And Pending Criminal Charges. "Of the 196 individuals arrested, 95 had prior criminal convictions and pending criminal charges, while 31 were previously removed individuals who reentered the United States illegally, a felony offense under federal law. Those individuals who have final orders of removal, who returned to the United States illegally after being previously deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country. The remaining individuals are in ICE custody awaiting due process before an immigration judge or pending travel arrangements for removal." ("ICE Announces Results Of Targeted Enforcement Operation In Nashville Area," [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), 5/13/25)

Among Those Arrested Were Individuals Previously Convicted Of Rape, Aggravated Assault, Domestic Assault, And Sex With A Minor, Among Others. "Notable arrests include: A 37-year-old Venezuelan national Tren de Aragua affiliate gang member. A 39-year-old Mexican national with six prior removals from the U.S. and convictions for felony domestic assault and sex with a minor. A 28-year-old Mexican national with conviction for reckless aggravated assault. A 56-year-old Mexican national with a conviction for drug possession. A 60-year-old Iraqi national with a conviction for rape. A 33-year-old El Salvadorian national MS-13 affiliate gang member with drug convictions and an active Red Notice for aggravated murder. A 36-year-old Haitian national with conviction for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine." ("ICE Announces Results Of Targeted Enforcement Operation In Nashville Area," [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), 5/13/25)

Coverage Of Illegal Immigrant Crime

VIDEO: FOX17 Covered A Man From Honduras Charged With Double Homicide In Nashville. ("Undocumented LA Man Charged With Double Homicide In Connection With April Deaths In Tennessee," [FOX17](#), 7/26/25)

NOTE: Additional coverage can be found [here](#).



("Undocumented LA Man Charged With Double Homicide In Connection With April Deaths In Tennessee," [FOX17](#), 7/26/25)

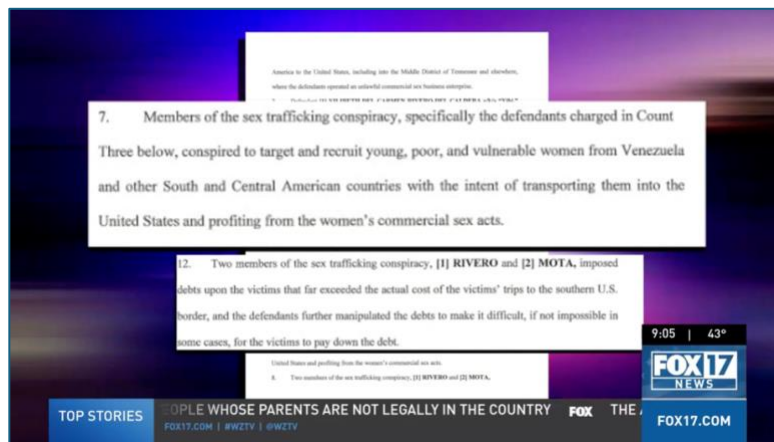
VIDEO: FOX17 Covered Indictments Of Illegal Aliens With Ties To Tren de Aragua In February 2025. (Karen Aguilar, "US Attorney, Tennessee Agencies Announce Indictments Related To Tren De Aragua," [FOX17](#), 2/11/25)



(Karen Aguilar, “US Attorney, Tennessee Agencies Announce Indictments Related To Tren De Aragua,” [FOX17](#), 2/11/25)



(Karen Aguilar, “US Attorney, Tennessee Agencies Announce Indictments Related To Tren De Aragua,” [FOX17](#), 2/11/25)



(Karen Aguilar, “US Attorney, Tennessee Agencies Announce Indictments Related To Tren De Aragua,” [FOX17](#), 2/11/25)

ICE Released Information Related To The Tren De Aragua Arrests, Including That 8 Venezuelan Illegal Aliens Were Charged With “Various Offenses Stemming From Their Involvement In A Transnational Commercial Sex Enterprise.” “A U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement investigation with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation led to a four-count indictment which was unsealed in the Middle District of Tennessee charging eight defendants, with ties to the Tren da Aragua (TdA) gang, with various offenses stemming from their involvement with a transnational commercial sex enterprise. The defendants, Yilibeth del Carmen Rivero-De Caldera, 51, Kleiver Daniel Mota-Rivero, 35, Yuribetzi Del Valle Gomez Machuca, 39, Wilmarys Del Valle Manzano Solorzano, 22, Frankyanna Del Valle Romero-Rivero, 30, Endrik Alexander Morales-Rivero, 25, Jesus Enrique Castillo Rodriguez, 24, Ariannys Beatriz Gutierrez-Carrillo, 24; all of

Venezuela, operated an illegal commercial sex and sex trafficking enterprise out of Nashville motels from July 2022 through March 2024, according to court documents.” (“8 Venezuelan Illegal Aliens With Ties To Tren Da Aragua Are Charged With Transnational Commercial Sex Enterprise Crimes,” [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), 2/14/25)

- **VIDEO: Fox News Had Reported On A Surge In Tren De Aragua Activity In Tennessee In November 2024.** (Ainsley Earhardt, [Facebook](#), 11/15/24)



(Ainsley Earhardt, [Facebook](#), 11/15/24)



(Ainsley Earhardt, [Facebook](#), 11/15/24)

VIDEO: In July 2024 FOX17 Reporting, It Was Revealed That The Man Who Allegedly Murdered A Nashville Restaurant Owner Was An Illegal Immigrant. (“Illegal Immigrant Charged With Nashville Murder Falls Through The Cracks,” [FOX17](#), 7/26/24)



(“Illegal Immigrant Charged With Nashville Murder Falls Through The Cracks,” [FOX17](#), 7/26/24)

SUPPORTS SEX CHANGE DRUGS FOR KIDS

In June 2025, Following The Supreme Court’s Ruling Upholding A Tennessee Law That Banned Gender-Affirming Care For Minors, Behn Released A Statement Calling It A “Gut Punch To Transgender Youth And Their Families.” “The Supreme Court’s decision today to uphold Tennessee’s law banning gender-affirming care for minors is a gut punch to transgender youth and their families. This 6-3 ruling only emboldens the far-right’s relentless attack on transgender rights, pushing us further into a dangerous future where politics—rather than science—dictates the lives of our most vulnerable. In Tennessee, this ruling adds fuel to the fire of the GOP’s war on trans youth. The exhaustive list of anti-trans legislation and resolutions passed by the Tennessee General Assembly isn’t about protecting kids — it’s about using fear to distract us from real issues like the fact that our budget is busted, our roads are falling apart, and our grocery prices are the highest in the country. Our unelected activist Attorney General isn’t defending children; he’s advancing a political agenda built on hate and misinformation. As Justice Sotomayor said in her dissent, this ruling abandons transgender children to political whims. It’s a betrayal. I will continue to stand with trans youth and families, and won’t back down until every transgender person, in Tennessee and across the country, has the right to live freely and safely from harm and discrimination.” (Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 6/18/25)

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House of Representatives
State of Tennessee
114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NASHVILLE, TN

MEMBER
Member, Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee
Member, Naming & Designating
Committee
Member, Transportation
Committee
Member, Transportation
Subcommittee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2025

Contact: Ken Jobe, ken.jobe@capitol.tn.gov

Rep. Behn Blasts SCOTUS Ruling Against Trans Youth
“What a devastating day for our most vulnerable kids.”

NASHVILLE — The Supreme Court’s decision today to uphold Tennessee’s law banning gender-affirming care for minors is a gut punch to transgender youth and their families. This 6-3 ruling only emboldens the far-right’s relentless attack on transgender rights, pushing us further into a dangerous future where politics—rather than science—dictates the lives of our most vulnerable.

In Tennessee, this ruling adds fuel to the fire of the GOP’s war on trans youth. The exhaustive list of anti-trans legislation and resolutions passed by the Tennessee General Assembly isn’t about protecting kids — it’s about using fear to distract us from real issues like the fact that our budget is busted, our roads are falling apart, and our grocery prices are the highest in the country.

Our unelected activist Attorney General isn’t defending children; he’s advancing a political agenda built on hate and misinformation. As Justice Sotomayor said in her dissent, this ruling abandons transgender children to political whims. It’s a betrayal.

I will continue to stand with trans youth and families, and won’t back down until every transgender person, in Tennessee and across the country, has the right to live freely and safely from harm and discrimination.

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MY STATEMENT ON THE ANTI-TRANS YOUTH SCOTUS RULING:

The Supreme Court’s decision today to uphold Tennessee’s law banning gender-affirming care for minors is a gut punch to transgender youth and their families. This 6-3 ruling only emboldens the far-right’s relentless attack on transgender rights, pushing us further into a dangerous future where politics—rather than science—dictates the lives of our most vulnerable.

In Tennessee, this ruling adds fuel to the fire of the GOP’s war on trans youth. The exhaustive list of anti-trans legislation and resolutions passed by the Tennessee General Assembly isn’t about protecting kids — it’s about using fear to distract us from real issues like the fact

165 June 18

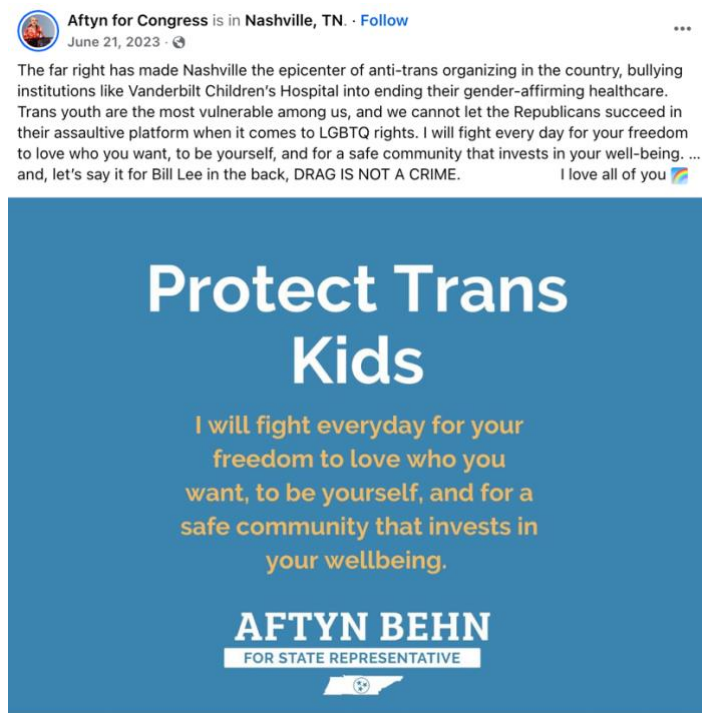
(Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 6/18/25)

- **The 6-3 Decision Was Authored By Chief Justice John Roberts, Who Found That The Tennessee Law Did Not Discriminate On The Basis Of Sex.** “In a 6-3 opinion authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, the Court in *Skrmetti* affirmed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit,[1] which held in September 2023 that (1) the Tennessee law does not discriminate on the basis of sex for purposes of equal protection, and (2) that it was subject only to rational basis review. ‘SB1 does not classify on any bases that warrant heightened review,’ the Supreme Court wrote. It concluded that the Tennessee law incorporates only two classifications: (1) age (allowing certain medical treatments for adults but not minors), and (2) medical use (allowing puberty blockers for minors for some conditions but not others). These two classifications warranted only rational basis review, the Court said.” (Eric J. Neiman, Lisa Pierce Reisz, and Marjorie T. Scher, “Supreme Court Upholds Tennessee’s Ban On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Epstein Becker Green](#), 6/18/25)

- **SB1, Banned Healthcare Providers From Administering Healthcare To A Minor With The Purpose Of Altering The Minor's Sex.** “Public Health - As enacted, prohibits a healthcare provider from performing on a minor or administering to a minor a medical procedure if the performance or administration of the procedure is for the purpose of enabling a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor's sex. - Amends TCA Title 28; Title 29; Title 33; Title 34; Title 36; Title 37; Title 39; Title 40; Title 49; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71.” (SB1, [Tennessee General Assembly](#), Enacted 7/1/23)
- **NOTE:** Behn was not in the Tennessee at the time of SB1's passing, and therefore did not vote on the bill.

Behn Criticized Vanderbilt Children's Hospital For Ending Gender-Affirming Care, Which Specifically Included Gender-Affirming Surgeries For Minors

On June 21, 2023, Behn Criticized Vanderbilt Children's Hospital For Ending Their Gender-Affirming Healthcare, Promising, “I Will Fight Every Day For Your Freedom To Love Who You Want, To Be Yourself, And For A Safe Community That Invests In Your Well-Being.” “The far right has made Nashville the epicenter of anti-trans organizing in the country, bullying institutions like Vanderbilt Children's Hospital into ending their gender-affirming healthcare. Trans youth are the most vulnerable among us, and we cannot let the Republicans succeed in their assaultive platform when it comes to LGBTQ rights. I will fight every day for your freedom to love who you want, to be yourself, and for a safe community that invests in your well-being. ... and, let's say it for Bill Lee in the back, DRAG IS NOT A CRIME. I love all of you 🌈” (Aftyn For Congress, [Facebook](#), 6/21/23)



(Aftyn For Congress, [Facebook](#), 6/21/23)

- **Vanderbilt Paused Gender Affirming Surgeries For Minors In October 2022 To Review Their Practices.** “Officials at Vanderbilt University Medical Center announced Friday that they are pausing gender-affirming surgeries for minors in order to review their practices. The news, delivered in a letter sent to a lawmaker who has demanded an end to the surgeries, was publicly released Friday afternoon. It comes amid mounting political pressure from Tennessee's Republican leaders — many of whom are running for reelection — who called for an investigation into the private nonprofit hospital after videos surfaced on social media last month of a doctor

touting that gender-affirming procedures are ‘huge money makers.’ Another video showed a staffer saying anyone with a religious objection should quit. None of the politicians could point to a specific law that the hospital had violated, and no agency to date has committed to an investigation. Republican Gov. Bill Lee's office said they had passed their concerns to the Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti, but his office has not commented on whether he is looking into the Nashville-based hospital. ‘We are pausing gender affirmation surgeries on patients under age 18 while we complete this review, which may take several months,’ wrote C. Wright Pinson, VUMC's deputy CEO and chief health system officer.” (“Vanderbilt University Medical Center To Pause Gender-Affirming Surgeries For Minors To Review Practices,” [CBS News](#), 10/10/22)

On June 1, 2025, Behn Declared, “You Come For My Trans Community, I Come For You.” “THESE COLORS DON’T BLEED. Remember, you come for my trans community, I come for you. 🙄 #happypride” (Aftyn For Congress, [Facebook](#), 6/1/25)



(Aftyn For Congress, [Facebook](#), 6/1/25)

According To The Human Rights Campaign, “Gender-Affirming Care” Describes Medical Care, Including Puberty Blockers, Top And Bottom Surgeries, And Hormone Therapy

According To The Human Rights Campaign, “Gender-Affirming Care” Includes Medical Care. “Gender-affirming care, sometimes referred to as transition-related care, is life-saving healthcare for transgender people of all ages. It is not a single category of services but instead is a range of services, including mental health care, medical care, and social services. At all ages, clear, well-established, evidence-based standards of care exist for who can access what form of gender affirming care, and when they are eligible to receive it.” (“Get The Facts On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Human Rights Campaign](#), Accessed 3/30/24)

On The Human Rights Campaign’s Resource On “Gender-Affirming Care” They List Puberty Blockers, Which Delay Puberty, As A Form Of Such Care. (“Get The Facts On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Human Rights Campaign](#), Accessed 3/30/24)

What are puberty blockers? Why are they used? Are they safe?

"Puberty blockers" (or simply "blockers") are a type of medication which can temporarily pause puberty and are fully reversible.

For transgender and non-binary youth who are aware of their gender at a young age, going through puberty can cause intense distress and dysphoria, as it leads their body to develop into a gender that is not theirs — including in ways that are irreversible, or only reversible with surgery. For example, teenage transgender boys who do not have access to blockers will have to go through a puberty that includes growing breasts and later in life will require surgery.

(“Get The Facts On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Human Rights Campaign](#), Accessed 3/30/24)

On The Human Rights Campaign’s Resource On “Gender-Affirming Care” They List Surgeries Including “Top Surgery” To Make Changes To The Chest And “Bottom Surgery” To Make Changes To The Genitals. “There is no single gender-affirming surgery — nor does a person have to have any surgery, or a specific surgery, to be transgender. Gender-affirming surgery includes a wide range of procedures such as plastic surgery to change features in the face to be more typically masculine or feminine, ‘top surgery’ to make changes to the chest or torso or ‘bottom surgery’ to make changes to genitals.” (Get The Facts On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Human Rights Campaign](#), Accessed 3/30/24)

The Human Rights Campaign Notes That Transgender And Non-Binary Individuals Do Not Typically Have “Gender-Affirming Surgery” Before 18, Though There Have Been Exceptions Made For 16 And 17 Year Old’s. “Transgender and non-binary people typically do not have gender-affirming surgeries before the age of 18. In some rare exceptions, 16 or 17 year-olds have received gender-affirming surgeries in order to reduce the impacts of significant gender dysphoria, including anxiety, depression, and suicidality. However, this is limited to those for whom the surgery is deemed clinically necessary after discussions with both their parents and doctors, and who have been consistent and persistent in their gender identity for years, have been taking gender-affirming hormones for some time, who have undergone informed consent discussions and have approvals from both their parents and doctors, and who otherwise meet standards of care criteria (such as those laid out by WPATH).” (Get The Facts On Gender-Affirming Care,” [Human Rights Campaign](#), Accessed 3/30/24)

According To The AAMC, “Gender-Affirming Care” Includes Medical Interventions. “Gender-affirming care, as defined by the World Health Organization, encompasses a range of social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions ‘designed to support and affirm an individual’s gender identity’ when it conflicts with the gender they were assigned at birth. The interventions help transgender people align various aspects of their lives — emotional, interpersonal, and biological — with their gender identity. As noted by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), that identity can run anywhere along a continuum that includes man, woman, a combination of those, neither of those, and fluid.” (Patrick Boyle, “What Is Gender-Affirming Care? Your Questions Answered,” [AAMC](#), 4/12/22)

According To The AAMC, Interventions For Children Include “Hormone Therapy,” Whereas Surgeries Are “Rarely” Provided To People Under 18. “The interventions fall along a continuum as well, from counseling to changes in social expression to medications (such as hormone therapy). For children in particular, the timing of the interventions is based on several factors, including cognitive and physical development as well as parental consent. Surgery, including to reduce a person’s Adam’s Apple, or to align their chest or genitalia with their gender identity, is rarely provided to people under 18.” (Patrick Boyle, “What Is Gender-Affirming Care? Your Questions Answered,” [AAMC](#), 4/12/22)

Ran On Protecting Trans Children

VIDEO: In January 2025, Behn Stated On A Podcast That She “Ran On Protecting Trans Children.” BEHN: “But also, I ran on protecting trans children. A lot of families that are concerned about the healthcare that their trans community members are getting. And so—” INTERVIEWER 1: “Bold move.” BEHN: “Not for my district, that’s the thing. We’re in—this district cares deeply about some of the most marginalized communities in our state. But um--” INTERVIEWER 2: “Again, I’m terrible about interrupting but if I don’t say it, [inaudible] what’s on my mind. Have you polled your district? To see on that issue whether parents really believe that we ought to be doing transgender

surgeries on children that young.” BEHN: “So the question asked, I think, the real life issue that a lot of my voters are dealing with, is that they—some of their children that have decided with their parents that they want to receive testosterone are unable to get it and are having to travel out of state to get medical care. So that’s a big concern in my district.” ([Aftyn Behn Interview On Climbing The Charts Podcast](#), 1/10/25) Minute 39:35-40:37

KEY VOTES & LEGISLATION

BUSINESS TAX CUT

In 2024, Behn Voted Against SB 2103. (SB 2103, Passed: 69-23, [Tennessee General Assembly](#), Behn Voted No, 4/25/24)

The Legislation Would Overhaul Tennessee's Franchise And Excise Tax, Resulting In A \$400 Million Tax Cut For Tennessee Businesses And Potential Refunds Of Up To \$1.5 Billion. "Last week, Governor Bill Lee engaged NFIB members on his drive to pass SB 2103, a sweeping overhaul of Tennessee's franchise and excise (F&E) tax. As a result, businesses that were using the property measure in calculating the tax will see a \$400 million tax cut going forward, along with potential eligibility for refunds (\$1.5 billion total)." ("VIDEO: Governor Lee Recaps How \$2 Billion Franchise Reform Was Passed," [National Federation Of Independent Businesses](#), 5/29/24)

SB 2103 Is The Largest Tax Cut In Tennessee History. "The largest business tax cut in Tennessee history has passed the House. This after the Tennessee lawmakers adopted Senate Bill 2103, which would tie the state's franchise and excise tax to a businesses' net worth and allow for businesses who paid into those taxes over the last year to claim them back from the state in a refund or rebate." (Erin McCullough, "TN House Passes \$400M Business Tax Cut, \$700M Rebate," [WKRN](#), 4/9/24)

NOTE: *This is the largest tax cut in Tennessee history. According to Gov. Bill Lee, the 2023 Tennessee Works Tax Act, which provided \$153 million in tax relief per year, was the largest tax cut in state history. SB 2103 provides \$400 million in tax relief per year.* ("Gov. Lee Signs The Largest Tax Cut In Tennessee History In Law," [Office Of Governor Lee](#), 5/11/23)

SIDED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

Behn Voted Against SBo392, Which Clarified The Definition Of Human Trafficking To Include Prostitution Of A Minor, And Designated Trafficking Minors Under 13 As An "Aggravated Human Trafficking Offense"

Behn Voted Against SBo392, "Criminal Offenses – As Enacted, Creates The Offense Of Human Smuggling; Makes Related Changes – Amends TCA Title 39." "AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, relative to criminal offenses. Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates the offense of human smuggling; makes related changes. - Amends TCA Title 39. SBo392 has been assigned Public Chapter Number 424 by the Secretary of State." ([SBo392](#), Tennessee General Assembly, Passed: 73-22; [Behn Voted No](#), 4/22/25)

SBo392 Clarified Human Trafficking As: "Promoting The Prostitution Of A Minor And Human Smuggling." "As of this month, it is now a crime in Tennessee to harbor or aid in hiding a person who entered the country illegally. SB 0392/HB 0322, which was introduced by Rep. Chris Todd (R-Madison County) and Sen. Brent Taylor (R-Memphis) during the last legislative session, moved through both chambers and was passed on to Governor Bill Lee, who signed it into law on May 9. The new law allows the attorney general to prosecute a person or organization who harbors or hides, or aids in harboring or hiding, an illegal immigrant in Tennessee. The law clarifies 'human trafficking' as: The commission of any act that constitutes the criminal offense of involuntary labor servitude, trafficking persons for forced labor or services, trafficking for commercial sex act, patronizing prostitution, or promoting prostitution. Promoting the prostitution of a minor and human smuggling." (Tony Garcia, "TN Law Prohibits Harboring Anyone Who Enters The US Illegally," [WSMV](#), 5/13/25)

The Law Describes "Human Smuggling" As An Offense Where A Person "Knowingly Transports An Individual With Intent To Conceal The Individual From A Law Enforcement Officer Or A Federal Immigration Officer, While Knowing The Individual Has Illegally Entered Or Remained In The United States ..." "The law further describes 'human smuggling' as an offense where a person either: Knowingly transports an individual with intent to conceal the individual from a law enforcement officer or a federal immigration officer, while

knowing the individual has illegally entered or remained in the United States, as determined by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security; or Intentionally conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or intentionally encourages or induces another to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection, an individual that the person knows has illegally entered or remained in the United States, as determined by the bureau of immigration and customs enforcement of the United States department of homeland security.” (Tony Garcia, “TN Law Prohibits Harboring Anyone Who Enters The US Illegally,” [WSMV](#), 5/13/25)

SB0392 Stipulates That “If Any Of The ‘Trafficking’ Offenses Were Committed Involving Victims Under 13 Years Old, It Would Be Considered An Aggravated Human Trafficking Offense.” “Additionally, if any of the ‘trafficking’ offenses were committed involving victims under 13 years old, it would be considered an aggravated human trafficking offense.” (Tony Garcia, “TN Law Prohibits Harboring Anyone Who Enters The US Illegally,” [WSMV](#), 5/13/25)

ABORTION TRAFFICKING

In 2024, Behn Voted Against HB 1895. (HB 1895, Passed: 74-24, [Tennessee General Assembly](#), Behn Voted No, 4/23/24)

HB 1895 Criminalizes People Who Help Pregnant Minors Find Abortion Care Outside Of Tennessee, Known As “Abortion Trafficking.” “A bill that criminalizes people who help pregnant minors find abortion care outside of Tennessee passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday. It previously passed the Senate and is expected to land on Governor Bill Lee's desk soon. The bill, HB 1895, makes it a Class-A misdemeanor if people commit ‘abortion trafficking.’ It's described as the act of helping take minors outside of Tennessee for abortion care. Adults could also face prosecution or civil lawsuits for helping minors get abortion care drugs, or hide abortion care from a child's parents or guardians.” (Chris Salvemini, “Bill Criminalizing People Who Help Pregnant Minors Find Abortion Care Outside Tennessee Heads To Governor's Desk,” [WBIR](#), 4/23/24)

OPPOSED INFORMING PARENTS ABOUT THEIR TRANS KIDS

Behn Opposed Legislation That Would Require Schools To Inform Parents When Their Children Were Changing Pronouns

“Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor” (Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, “Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/15/24)

In April 2024, Tennessee Was On The Cusp Of Joining Other States Where Public School Employees Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Their Parents Via A Bill In The Legislature. “Tennessee would join the ranks of states where public school employees have to out transgender students to their parents under a bill advancing in the Republican-supremacy Legislature. GOP House lawmakers gave near-final passage to the bill on Monday, putting Tennessee just a few hurdles away from joining states such as Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana and North Carolina with similar laws. Virginia has such guidance for school boards, as well. The bill goes back for another vote in the Senate, which had already passed a version of it, before it can go to Gov. Bill Lee's desk for his signature. The bill's progression comes as Tennessee Republican lawmakers have established the state as one of the most eager to pass policies aimed at the LGBTQ+ community as Republicans pursue legislation nationwide.” (Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, “Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/15/24)

- **According To The Bill, School Employees Would Be Required Tell A Parent In A Situation Such As “A Student Asking For Action To Affirm Their Gender Identity, Such As Using A Different Name Or Pronoun.** “According to the legislation that passed Monday, school employees would be required to pass on information about a student to an administrator, who would have to tell the parent. That includes a student asking for action to affirm their gender identity, such as using a different name or pronoun. However, the bill also would allow parents or the state's attorney general to sue if they felt the school district was not

following this new law.” (Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, “Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/15/24)

- **The Bill’s Sponsor Spoke In Favor Of Parents’ Rights To Know What’s Happening In School With Their Children, And “Argued That The Legislation Was Needed So Parents Could Know If Their Student Would Need Therapy”** “Audible gasps could be heard from the public galleries when the bill’s sponsor, Republican Rep. Mary Littleton, argued that the legislation was needed so parents could know if their student would need therapy. I feel like the parents, they have the right to know what’s happening in the school with their children,’ Littleton said. ‘And I also think that possibly they could get that child some therapy that could help them solve their problems and make their way through school.’ Littleton also confirmed she did not speak to any transgender students before introducing the proposal but said some teachers had told her that they did not want the responsibility of having such information.” (Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, “Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/15/24)
- **Behn, Among Other Democrats, Alleged That Their Republican Colleagues Were Constantly Finding New Ways To Bully LGBTQ+ Kids, Saying, “We Are Weaponizing Their Identities Instead Of Actually Passing Bills That Help Tennesseans.”** “During Monday’s limited but heated House floor hearing, Democrats took turns alleging that their Republican colleagues were constantly finding new ways to bully LGBTQ+ kids. ‘These are the most vulnerable kids in our state who are just trying to make it out of middle school alive,’ said Democratic Rep. Aftyn Behn. ‘And we are weaponizing their identities instead of actually passing bills that help Tennesseans.’” (Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, “Tennessee Schools Would Have To Out Transgender Students To Parents Under Bill Heading To Governor,” [The Associated Press](#), 4/15/24)

BAIL REFORM FOR VIOLENT CRIMINALS

In 2025, Behn Voted Against SJR 25. (SJR 25, Passed: 84-10-1, [Tennessee General Assembly](#), Behn Voted No, 4/21/25)

The Resolution Would Take Away The Right Of People Accused Of Terrorism, Second-Degree Murder, Aggravated Rape Of A Child, Aggravated Rape, Grave Torture Or Some Other Crimes To Access Bail And Allow Judges Decide Whether The Suspect Should Be Given Bail Or Remain In Jail. “The Tennessee Senate adopted a proposal Monday that could give fewer people the right to bail as their cases go through the judicial process. If the resolution passes, it would begin the next step of amending the state constitution — putting the question on the ballot for voters. ... The resolution, SJR 0025, would take away the right of people accused of terrorism, second-degree murder, aggravated rape of a child, aggravated rape, grave torture or some other crimes to access bail. It would let judges decide whether suspects should be given a chance at bail as their cases go through the judicial process, which could take years in some cases.” (Chris Salvemini, “TN Senate Adopts Proposal To Change State Constitution And Restrict Bail For Some Offenses,” [WBIR](#), 3/17/25)

2025 BUDGET

In 2025, Behn Voted Against HB 1409, The FY25-26 Budget. (HB 1409, Passed: 79-16, [Tennessee General Assembly](#), Behn Voted No, 4/16/25)

- “Tennessee lawmakers approved a \$59.8 billion state budget for the year, reallocating \$180 million from Gov. Bill Lee’s priorities to their own initiatives. The House passed the budget 79 to 16, with one member voting present. The Senate voted 30 to 2.” (Vivian Jones and Melissa Brown, “House, Senate Approve \$59B Tennessee Budget, Removing Some Lee Priorities. What’s In It?,” [The Tennessean](#), 4/17/25)

The Budget Added \$35.6 Million To The State’s Rainy Day Fund, Which Is Now The Largest In State History. “Meanwhile, the budget also includes a \$35.6 million infusion to the state’s rainy day fund, which now sits at nearly \$2.2 billion, the largest in state history.” (Vivian Jones and Melissa Brown, “House, Senate Approve \$59B Tennessee Budget, Removing Some Lee Priorities. What’s In It?,” [The Tennessean](#), 4/17/25)

The Budget Also Included \$20 Million For Volunteer Fire Departments, \$5 Million For Emergency Medical Services And Rescue Squads, \$5 Million For Senior Centers, \$5 Million Of Local Museums And \$2 Million For Courthouse Restoration. “Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, R-Hixson, noted lawmakers developed a community services grant fund, which was likely funded by freed up dollars cut from the governor's priorities. Watson urged his colleagues to support the budget and the community fund, even if they didn't agree with everything in it. The grants will fund \$20 million for volunteer fire departments, \$5 million for emergency medical services and rescue squads, \$5 million for senior centers, \$5 million of local museums and \$2 million for courthouse restoration.” (Vivian Jones and Melissa Brown, “House, Senate Approve \$59B Tennessee Budget, Removing Some Lee Priorities. What's In It?,” [The Tennessean](#), 4/17/25)

The Budget Also Included \$198.4 Million For Teacher Bonuses In Recognition Of Their Hard Work And Dedication. “Major investments secured:

- In addition to the adjustments made to fund legislative priorities, the budget maintains investments proposed by Gov. Lee including: \$1 billion into the road fund to address the state's transportation infrastructure needs
- \$62.7 million for K-12 infrastructure and facilities funding
- \$244 million to strengthen education through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) formula growth, including teacher pay raises
- \$198.4 million for teacher bonuses in recognition of their hard work and dedication and for leading the nation in student achievement and growth” (Caleb Wethington, “TN Legislature Passes New Nearly \$60 Billion Budget,” [WSMV](#), 4/16/25)

The Budget Included \$100 Million In Grants To The Memphis Area And Will Support The Ongoing Memphis Safe Task Force And \$75 Million For The Violent Crime Intervention Fund. “Today, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced that applications are now open for two grant funds, totaling \$175 million, to strengthen downtown public safety and support local law enforcement's work to reduce violent crime in communities. On October 2, local jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies may begin applying for the \$75 million Violent Crime Intervention Fund and the new \$100 million Downtown Public Safety Grant Fund. Both grant funds were included in the Governor's FY26 budget proposal and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly. Based on criteria for the grant programs, \$100 million of available funds will be allocated to the Memphis area and will support the ongoing Memphis Safe Task Force, established by President Donald J. Trump to create strong coordination and shared resources between law enforcement agencies at all levels of government to fight crime in Memphis.” (“Gov. Lee Announces \$175 Million In Grant Funds To Strengthen Public Safety Across Tennessee,” [Office Of Governor Bill Lee](#), 10/2/25)

The Budget Also Included \$20 Million In One-Time, School Safety Grant Funds To Strengthen School Security, Including Funding For Bullying Prevention And Emergency Preparedness. “During the 2025 Legislative Session, Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly included a one-time, non-recurring investment of \$20 million in school safety grant funds in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Budget Amendment Overview. This funding is an additional allocation to the Public School Security Grant that was provided in the budget during the 2023-24 Fiscal Year. This investment is part of Governor Lee's continued commitment to investing in school safety as a priority to ensure Tennessee students have a safe school environment to learn, grow, and thrive.” (“Grants & Safe Schools Act,” [Office Of Governor Bill Lee](#), Accessed 10/25/25)

- “The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) is investing \$20 million in one-time, reimbursement-based funding through the FY 2026 School Security Grant to strengthen school safety across the state. Applications are due September 30, 2025, via the ePlan portal. District allocations are based on Average Daily Membership (ADM), with no local match required. Funding requests must align with vulnerabilities listed in each district's School Security

Assessment, and acting quickly is essential for Tennessee schools to secure their share. ... According to TDOE guidance, approved uses of grant funds include:

- Communications and surveillance technologies to improve visibility and emergency coordination
- Panic alert devices for rapid incident response
- Violence prevention programs including bullying prevention and school culture initiatives
- Staff training focused on emergency preparedness and safety protocols” (“How Tennessee Schools Can Tap \$20M In Safety Funding From TDOE,” [Lightspeed Systems](#), 8/26/25)

FRIENDS WITH DRAG QUEENS

Behn Has Been Called “A Dear Friend” By Vivica Steele, A Drag Queen Who Has Encouraged Bringing Children To Drag Brunches

On September 9, 2025, Behn Thanked Vivica Steele For Having Her On The Show The Queen’s Table. “Thank you to Vivica Steele and the Queen's Table for having me, and for sharing the audio from my interview. Listen to the whole interview:

<https://mixcloud.com/AcmeRadioLive/vivica-steele-36-the-queens-table-aftyn-behn/>

#AftynForCongress #TN07 #CourageToFight 3/3” (Aftyn Behn For Congress, [Twitter](#), 9/9/25)



(Aftyn Behn For Congress, [Twitter](#), 9/9/25)

On A Post About TN-07 Campaign, Steele Posted A Photo And Referred To Behn As “A Dear Friend.” “I am excited to stand behind my dear friend and District 7 candidate in her campaign for US Congress. It has been a privilege to accompany her during the legislative session and observe her outstanding leadership and bipartisan spirit, which genuinely gives me hope for Tennessee. Change requires a united effort and together, we can achieve it. Aftyn Alyssa Behn, YOU HAVE MY VOTE!!! Please take a moment to sign up today to make a meaningful impact in your community and help Team Aftyn go the distance! Want to join me for this Aftyn for Congress event?” (Vivica Steele, [Instagram](#), 7/15/25)



(Vivica Steele, [Instagram](#), 7/15/25)



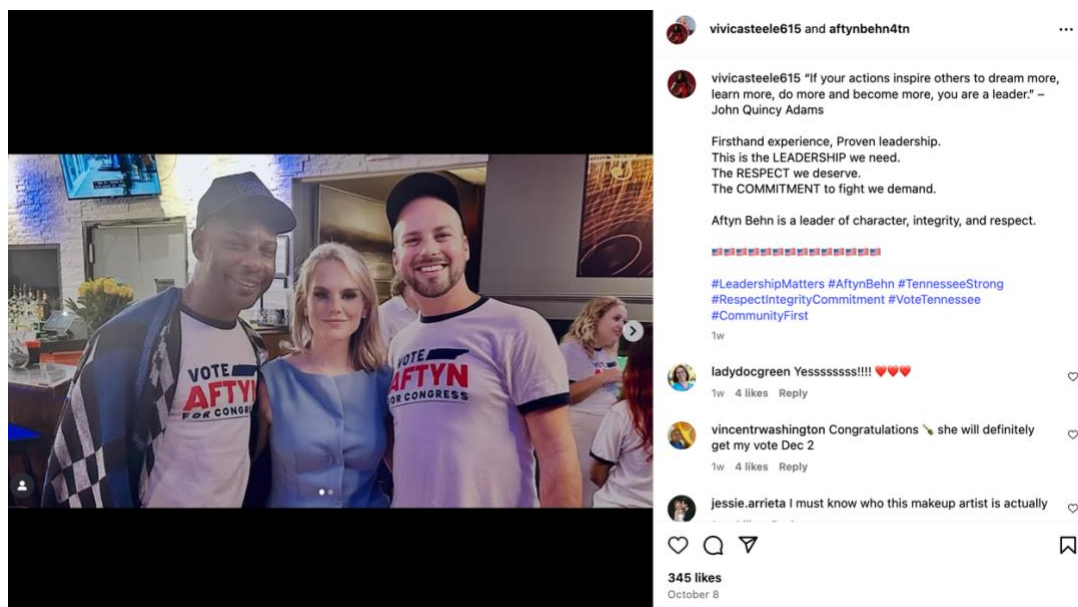
(Vivica Steele, [Instagram](#), 7/15/25)

On August 23, 2022, Steele Encouraged Followers To Attend A September 4, 2022 Drag Brunch And Noted “Bring Ya Kids!!!!” “September 4th it’s going down!!! The Queens are back, with special guest @cyainhale!! @housequakenash will be on the beats and we always have a good time!! Come join us on the second floor as we do lots of Gay stuff!!! Showtime:1pm 🌈🌈🌈🌈❤️❤️❤️❤️💜💜💜💜🍰🍰🍰🍰 bring ya kids!!!!” (Vivica Steele ‘Viv,’ [Facebook](#), 8/23/22)

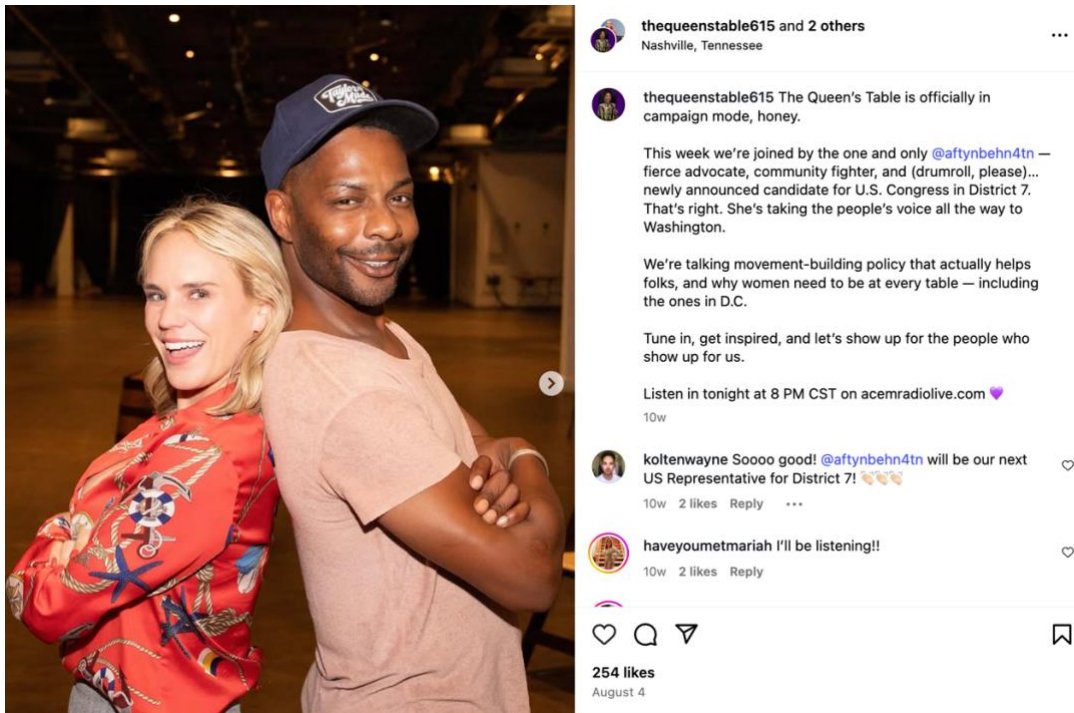


(Vivica Steele 'Viv,' [Facebook](#), 8/23/22)

Vivica Steele And Behn In Photos Together On Instagram:



(Vivica Steele & Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 10/8/25)



(Vivica Steele & Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 8/4/25)



(Vivica Steele, [Instagram](#), 5/16/25)

FAR-LEFT ENDORSEMENTS & ASSOCIATIONS

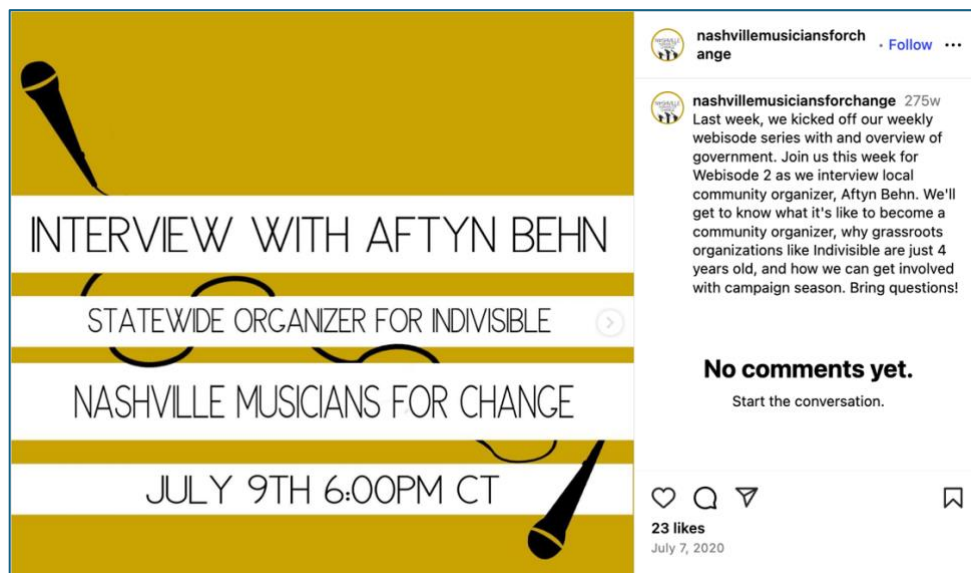
ORGANIZER FOR INDIVISIBLE

Behn Worked As The Statewide Organizer For Indivisible, Which Has Advocated For Radical Progressive Policies Including Ending Cash Bail, Abolishing The Electoral College, Defunding The Police, And Others

Behn “Decided To Return To Tennessee And Get Involved In Politics ... When Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery Joined Other Republican Officials In Trying To Force The Trump Administration To End The Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA).” “She decided to return to Tennessee and get involved in politics, she said, when Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery joined other Republican officials in trying to force the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). Slatery later changed his mind. The Obama-era program that has shielded from deportation 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children remains active under an order of a federal judge. Behn, who says she ‘loves’ political theatre, said the Indivisible movement plans to remain active after this year’s election and is building toward 2020 when there’s a presidential election as well as congressional elections.” (Georgiana Vines, “Indivisible Tennessee Organizer Is Knoxville,” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 7/23/18)

NOTE: *Slatery and other state attorneys general announced opposition to DACA in a lawsuit in 2017.*

Behn Was The Statewide Organizer For Indivisible As Recently As July 2020. “Last week, we kicked off our weekly webisode series with and overview of government. Join us this week for Webisode 2 as we interview local community organizer, Aftyn Behn. We'll get to know what it's like to become a community organizer, why grassroots organizations like Indivisible are just 4 years old, and how we can get involved with campaign season. Bring questions!” (Nashville Musicians For Change, [Instagram](#), 7/7/20)



(Nashville Musicians For Change, [Instagram](#), 7/7/20)

In A 2018 Bio Highlighting Her Work With Indivisible, A Reporter Noted Behn “Says She ‘Loves’ Political Theatre ...” “She decided to return to Tennessee and get involved in politics, she said, when Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery joined other Republican officials in trying to force the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). Slatery later changed his mind. The Obama-era program that has shielded from deportation 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children remains active under an

order of a federal judge. Behn, who says she ‘loves’ political theatre, said the Indivisible movement plans to remain active after this year’s election and is building toward 2020 when there’s a presidential election as well as congressional elections.” (Georgiana Vines, “Indivisible Tennessee Organizer Is Knoxville,” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 7/23/18)

Indivisible Was Founded In Response To Trump’s Election And Takes Actions To “Resist The GOPs Agenda” And Fight For Progressive Policies

Indivisible Is A Movement Of Thousands Of Group Leaders That Take Actions To “Resist The GOPs Agenda” And Fight For Progressive Policies. “Brought together by a practical guide to resist the Trump agenda, Indivisible is a movement of thousands of group leaders and more than a million members taking regular, iterative, and increasingly complex actions to resist the GOPs agenda, elect local champions, and fight for progressive policies.” (“About,” [Indivisible](#), Accessed 4/4/24)

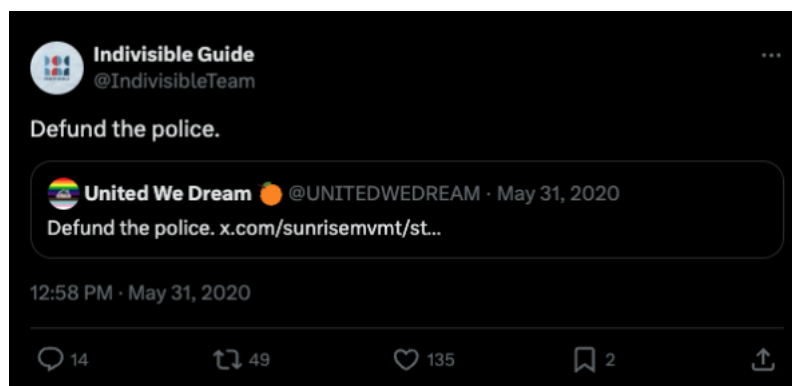
Indivisible Was Founded In Response To Trump’s Election. “Indivisible was founded in response to Trump’s election - but we know that Trump is a symptom of a sick democracy, not its cause. We face two fundamental problems: first, our democracy was rigged from the start in favor of the white and wealthy. Second, in the last few decades, an alliance of white nationalists and the ultra-rich have been actively working to further undermine democracy and cement their hold on power permanently. That’s how we ended up with Trump.” (“About,” [Indivisible](#), Accessed 4/4/24)

Indivisible Supports Defunding The Police And Ending Cash Bail

Indivisible Supports Soft-On-Crime Policies, Including Defunding The Police, Eliminating Cash Bail, And Abolishing The Death Penalty

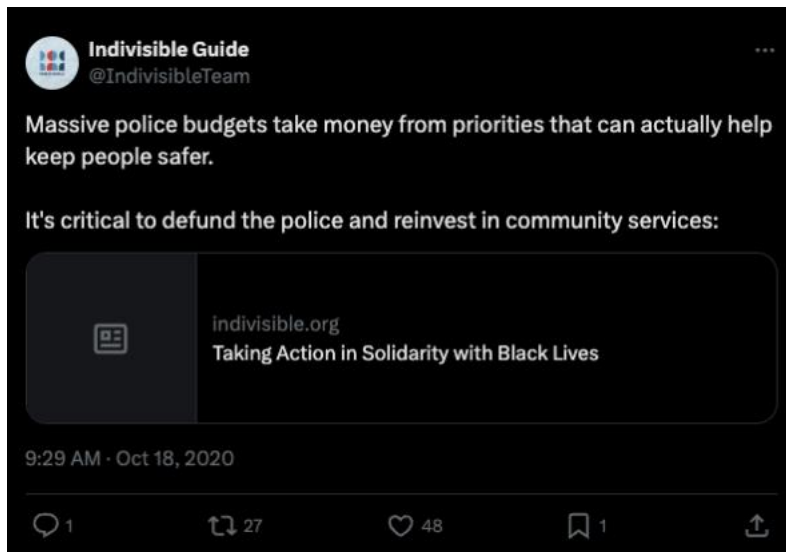
Indivisible Supports Defunding The Police. “One of the key ways to limit police violence in the future is by decreasing funding for police forces and carceral institutions, and investing that money in programs, especially in Black communities, that support people’s well-being—things like schools, nutrition assistance, addiction treatment, social workers, and more. We must follow the lead of the Movement for Black Lives by calling to defund police forces and invest in communities; you can make a call to your local officials using our script here.” (“Taking Action In Solidarity With Black Lives,” [Indivisible](#), Archived 6/15/20)

In May 2020, Indivisible Tweeted Out Support For Defunding The Police. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 5/31/20)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 5/31/20)

In October 2020, Indivisible Tweeted In Support Of Defunding The Police And Reinvesting In Communities. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/18/20)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/18/20)

Indivisible Supported Ending Cash Bail. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/7/20)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/7/20)

Indivisible Supported Abolishing The Death Penalty. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 7/14/20)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 7/14/20)

Indivisible Supported Abolishing The Death Penalty In The United States. (Invisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 12/10/20)



(Invisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 12/10/20)

Indivisible Supports Abolishing ICE

Indivisible Supports Abolishing Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE), The Federal Agency Responsible For Stopping Illegal Immigration, Human Trafficking, And Drug Smuggling At Our Borders

Indivisible Supports Abolishing ICE. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/2/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/2/19)

Indivisible Supported Defunding ICE And Claimed That They Were “Terrorizing Communities.” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 6/26/18)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 6/26/18)

Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE) Is A Federal Agency That Enforces Border Control, Customs Trade, And Immigration. “U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) is a federal agency that enforces border control, customs trade and immigration.” (Meredith Deliso, “Federal Judge Rules ICE Can No Longer Operate In And Around New York Courthouses,” [ABC News](#), 6/10/20)

ICE’s Mission Is To Protect America Through It’s Criminal Investigations And Enforcing Laws To Insure Public Safety And National Security. “Mission: Protect America through criminal investigations and enforcing immigration laws to preserve national security and public safety.” (“Mission,” [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), Accessed 10/27/22)

ICE Is A Leader In The Fight Against Human Trafficking. “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a leader in the global fight against human trafficking, proactively identifying, disrupting and dismantling cross-border human trafficking organizations and minimizing the risk they pose to national security and public safety. Through Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), a victim-centered approach is used placing equal value on the identification and stabilization of victims and on the deterrence, investigation and prosecution of traffickers.” (“Human Trafficking,” [U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement](#), Accessed 10/27/22)

ICE Is Involved In Disrupting Narcotics Smuggling. “As part of an international effort to disrupt narcotics trafficking on the darknet, special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and members of the Los Angeles Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement (JCODE) Task Force announced charges Tuesday against a key member of a Southern California drug trafficking organization who allegedly distributed methamphetamine and other illicit narcotics to thousands of customers in at least 35 states and numerous countries around the world.” (U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement, “ICE Participates In International Crackdown Targeting Darknet Dealers,” [Press Release](#), 9/22/20)

Indivisible Has Called The Border Wall “Hateful”

Indivisible Opposed A Wall On The Southern Border, Claiming It Was “Hateful” And “Racist”

In February 2019, Indivisible Opposed Trump’s Border Wall, Claiming It Was “Hateful.” “Trump’s racist fearmongering and continued demands for a hateful border wall show that he hasn’t come to terms with a simple fact: elections have consequences. @Leahgreenb’s statement on the #SOTU:” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/5/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/5/19)

In February 2019, Indivisible Claimed That Trump’s Border Wall Was “Racist.” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/1/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 2/1/19)

In January 2019, Indivisible Opposed Funding For Trump’s “Racist Border Wall.” “Our resource has call scripts, a complete rundown of the state of play, and everything else you need in order to keep up the pressure on our MoCs to prevent another #TrumpShutdown and make sure Trump doesn’t get \$1 more to build his racist border wall:” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 1/30/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 1/30/19)

In October 2023, Indivisible Opposed The Biden Administration’s Decision To Fast-Track Border Wall Construction And Called On Them To Reverse The Decision And Stop Any Further Wall Construction

In October 2023, Indivisible Called On The Biden Administration To Stop Any Further Construction On Border Walls. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/6/23)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/6/23)

In October 2023, Indivisible Opposed The Biden Administration’s Decision To Fast-Track Border Wall Construction, Claiming It Was A “Betrayal” Of Their Values. “The Biden Administration's DHS decision to fast-track border wall construction is a betrayal of our values.

It not only endangers vulnerable migrants seeking refuge but also ruthlessly sacrifices clean water, sacred Indigenous sites, and endangered species.” (Emily Phelps, “The Biden Administration Must Slam The Brakes On Any Further Border Wall Construction,” [Indivisible](#), 10/6/23)

Indivisible Claimed That Walls Are A Reaction Rooted In Anti-Immigrant Hate. “Walls are a reaction rooted in anti-immigrant hate. Similar border walls have left a trail of death, suffering, and irrevocable environmental devastation along our southern border.” (Emily Phelps, “The Biden Administration Must Slam The Brakes On Any Further Border Wall Construction,” [Indivisible](#), 10/6/23)

Indivisible Called On The Biden Administration To Reverse The Decision And Stop Any Further Wall Construction. “The Biden Administration must swiftly and unequivocally reverse this decision and slam the brakes on any further border wall construction. Our principles of justice, environmental preservation, and respect for Indigenous sovereignty demand nothing less than the promises he made on the campaign trail: no bans, no walls.” (Emily Phelps, “The Biden Administration Must Slam The Brakes On Any Further Border Wall Construction,” [Indivisible](#), 10/6/23)

Indivisible Supports Ending Title 42

Indivisible Supported Ending Title 42 And Claimed That It “Nothing To Do With Public Health And Everything To Do With Trump's Racist Immigration Policies”

In April 2022, Indivisible Supported Ending Title 42. “.@POTUS is taking a step toward keeping his promise to ensure the safety and dignity of migrants by ending Title 42. It’s time to restore access to asylum, including ports of entry and along the border. #WelcomeWithDignity” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/28/22)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/28/22)

In April 2022, Indivisible Claimed Title 42 Had “Nothing To Do With Public Health And Everything To Do With Trump's Racist Immigration Policies.” “We were thrilled to see bold executive action from @POTUS last week! Title 42 has nothing to do with public health and everything to do with Trump's racist immigration policies. President Biden's decision to end it will help continue to restore our moral standing in the world. 🗳️” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/4/22)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/4/22)

In September 2021, Indivisible Called On President Biden To End Title 42 Deportations. “We’re horrified by the footage and reports coming from the southern border. @POTUS must put an end to the violence now and end Title 42 deportations.” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 9/21/21)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 9/21/21)

In March 2022, Indivisible Called On President Biden To End Title 42. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 3/27/22)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 3/27/22)

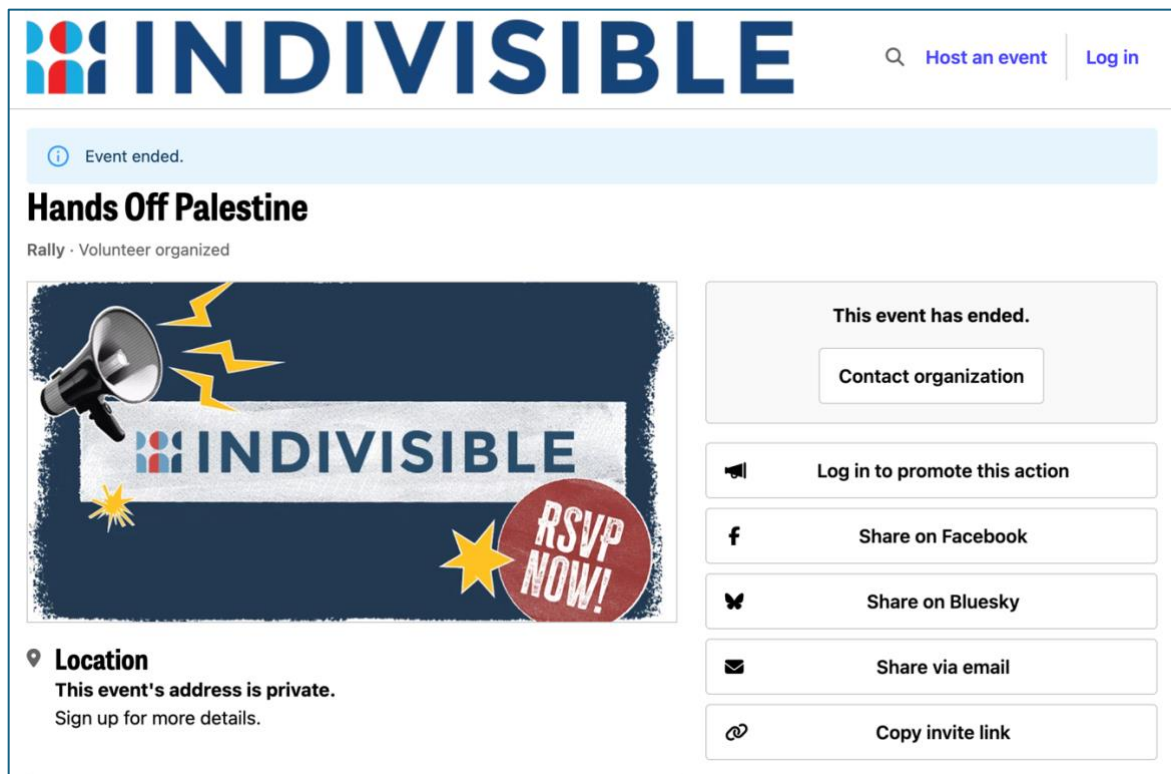
Indivisible Recognizes Palestine

On October 20, 2023, Indivisible Called For A Ceasefire Between Hamas And Israel. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/20/23)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/20/23)

Indivisible Has Hosted An Event Called “Hands Off Palestine.” (“Hands Off Palestine,” [Indivisible](#), Accessed 10/19/25)

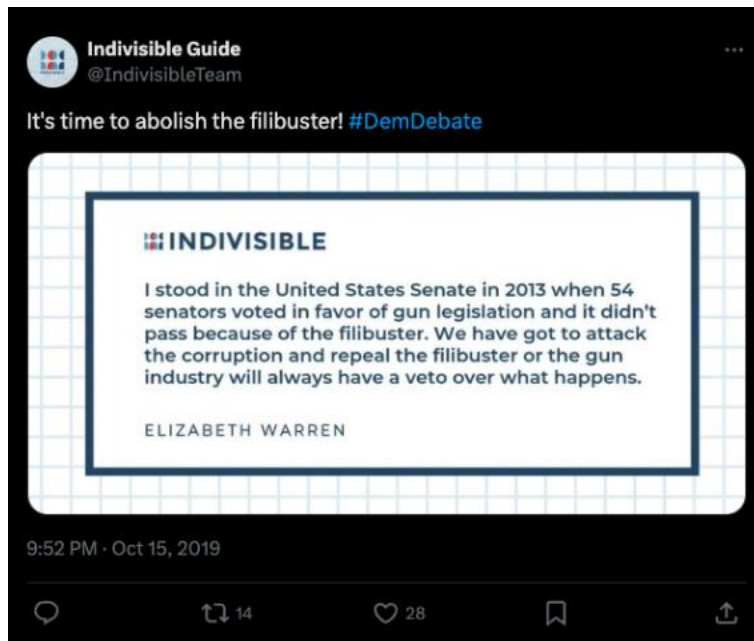


(“Hands Off Palestine,” [Indivisible](#), Accessed 10/19/25)

Indivisible Supports Eliminating The Electoral College And Expanding The Supreme Court

Indivisible Supports Abolishing The Filibuster, Eliminating The Electoral College, And Expanding The Supreme Court

Indivisible Supports Abolishing The Filibuster. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/15/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/15/19)

Indivisible Supported Abolishing The Electoral College. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/1/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/1/19)

Indivisible Supported Abolishing The Electoral College. (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/14/19)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 4/14/19)

In October 2023, Indivisible Called For Expanding The Supreme Court. “The Supreme Court returned to work this week to figure out new ways to restrict our rights. The only way we can

protect ourselves from this extreme and corrupt MAGA SCOTUS is to expand the Court before it's too late. Make sure your senators hear from you.” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/4/23)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 10/4/23)

Indivisible Supports Expanding The Supreme Court. “Democrats must address the blatant corruption of the Supreme Court justices, but they can’t stop there. We need to expand the court, too.” (Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 6/24/23)



(Indivisible Guide, [Twitter](#), 6/24/23)

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

In September 2025, Behn Was Endorsed By The Group Progressive Democrats Of America. “I’m honored to have the endorsement of Progressive Democrats of America (@PDAmerica). PDA has been transforming our politics since 2004 — fighting for healthcare for all, racial and economic justice, climate action, voting rights, and a Democratic Party that answers to the people, not corporate elites. That’s the same fight we’re waging here in Tennessee. I’m running for

Congress because Tennesseans deserve more than breadcrumbs — we deserve leaders who will put people first, take on corruption, and deliver real results for our communities. With PDA’s support, we’re one step closer to flipping this seat and building the new Democratic playbook for the South.

👉 Join us:

aftyntforcongress.com?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fedica

#AftynForCongress #TN07 #PeopleOverProfits” (Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 9/15/25)

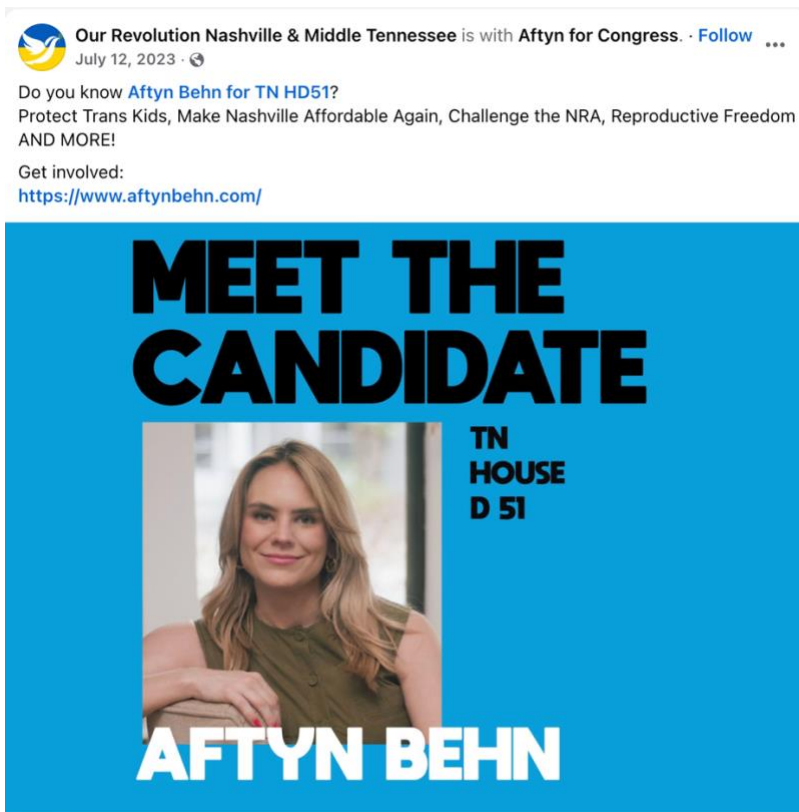


(Aftyn Behn, [Instagram](#), 9/15/25)

- **Progressive Democrats Of America Calls For “Redirecting Funding Into Social Needs And Away From Continuing Militarization Of Police Departments.”** “Real social justice in America demands an end to mass incarceration—particularly for people of color, and an end to the for-profit criminal justice system, including for-profit prisons and detention centers. We need sweeping changes to systemic race-based policing policies and practices, and support redirecting funding into social needs and away from continuing militarization of police departments. We work toward a future where all people are equal before the law and within society.” (Our Issues, [Progressive Democrats Of America](#), Accessed 10/15/25)
- **Progressive Democrats Of America Has Called For Abolishing ICE And A Stop To All Immigration Raids, Detentions, And Deportations.** “We call for a stop to all raids, detention, and deportation, and an end to the criminalization of immigrant communities. We believe that U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) should be abolished and replaced with an agency whose first mission is human rights, fairness, and family unification. We call for a government policy that provides protection and security without walls and militarization at our borders.” (Our Issues, [Progressive Democrats Of America](#), Accessed 10/15/25)

OUR REVOLUTION

In July 2023, Our Revolution Nashville & Middle Tennessee Highlighted Behn As The Candidate Who Would “Protect Trans Kids, Make Nashville Affordable Again, Challenge The NRA, Reproductive Freedom AND MORE!” “Do you know Aftyn Behn for TN HD51? Protect Trans Kids, Make Nashville Affordable Again, Challenge the NRA, Reproductive Freedom AND MORE! Get involved: <https://www.aftyntbehn.com/>” (Our Revolution Nashville & Middle Tennessee, [Facebook](#), 7/12/23)



(Our Revolution Nashville & Middle Tennessee, [Facebook](#), 7/12/23)

- **On July 9, 2020, Our Revolution Declared, “De-Militarize, De-Escalate, & Defund The Police!”** “De-militarize, de-escalate, & defund the police! #CriminalJusticeReform #OrganizeToWin” (Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 7/9/20)



(Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 7/9/20)

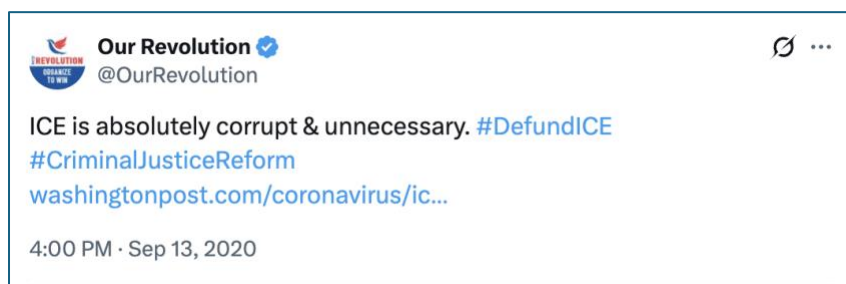
- **On June 7, 2020, Our Revolution Called On Washington, DC Mayor Bowser To Defund The Washington Police Department.** “We call on @MayorBowser to make REAL change and DEFUND THE POLICE. #CriminalJusticeReform #DefundPolice <https://npr.org/sections/live-updates-protests-for-racial-justice/2020/06/05/870833518/black-lives-matter-plaza-across-from-white-house-is-christened-by-d-c-leaders>” (Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 6/7/20)

We call on @MayorBowser to make REAL change and DEFUND THE POLICE. #CriminalJusticeReform #DefundPolice
npr.org/sections/live-...

8:00 AM · Jun 7, 2020

(Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 6/7/20)

- **On September 13, 2020, Our Revolution Declared That ICE Was “Absolutely Corrupt & Unnecessary.”** “ICE is absolutely corrupt & unnecessary. #DefundICE #CriminalJusticeReform https://washingtonpost.com/coronavirus/ice-air-farmville-protests-covid/2020/09/11/f70ebe1e-e861-11ea-bc79-834454439a44_story.html” (Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 9/13/20)



(Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 9/13/20)

- **On August 26, 2020, Our Revolution Said That ICE Was A “Stain On Our Country. #DefundPolice”** “ICE is a STAIN on our country. #DefundPolice #ImmigrantRights <https://theintercept.com/2020/08/24/ice-detention-coronavirus-solitary-confinement/>” (Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 8/26/20)



(Our Revolution, [Twitter](#), 8/26/20)

COMMENTS ON RIOTING

On A July 2020 Podcast Episode, Behn Said That “Rioting Is A Way For People To Express Themselves” In Relation To Black Lives Matter Protests. “Rioting is a way for people to express themselves in a way, when the entire system is crumbling and you have no voice and you have no power. And I want to put things into perspective for you. Billionaires became an estimated 400 billion dollars richer as a result of this pandemic. So, there are corporations and the 1% that are benefiting off a pandemic and people suffering. In contrast, white women censuring marginalized communities for looting and rioting; it is not the same, it is not the same. They are—Yes, I understand that property is being destroyed, but black lives are being killed, and that is the piece you really need to walk away with, is that, property can be replaced.” ([Aftyn Behn On The GRITS Podcast](#), 7/11/20)
Minute 15:46-16:46

CALLED TENNESSEE A RACIST STATE

In A 2019 Op-Ed, Behn Called Tennessee A “Racist State.” “Racism is in the air we breathe, permeating the Tennessee State Capitol, codified in the legislation being passed at the detriment of women, communities of color, and the working poor.” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, “Tennessee Is A Racist State, And So Is Its Legislature,” [The Tennessean](#), 3/27/19)

AFTYN BEHN OP-ED: “Tennessee Is A Racist State, And So Is Its Legislature” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, “Tennessee Is A Racist State, And So Is Its Legislature,” [The Tennessean](#), 3/27/19)

ON ZOHRAN MAMDANI

VIDEO: In An Interview, Aftyn Behn Said Zohran Mamdani’s Message “Helps” The Democratic Party. ANCHOR: “Zohran Mamdani of New York, he’s got the buzz right now. You were talking about energy. He was just on Capitol Hill, where I guess Democrats were basically kicking the tires, and here’s what they had to say after they met him.” [CUT IN] ANCHOR: “She hopes, but she raising it because there may be. Does he help or hurt?” BEHN: “I think he helps. I mean, his message is one of helping working family is across New York. My message is one of helping working families across Tennessee. We need to go back to pocketbook issues, especially in states like Tennessee, where people are living unaffordable lives and suffering as a result of Republican policies.” ANCHOR: “But I think that some of these things, some of these divisions are generational and they don’t go away. We were just talking about Israel earlier in the show and its new offensive in Syria. And when it comes to the Democratic Party, there was a Quinnipiac poll that found Democrats overwhelmingly sympathize more with Palestinians, 60% compared to 12% sympathy for Israel. And I bring this up because this even breaks down further on generational lines. Are there some issues like Israel where Mamdani becomes a problem, where just the position of young Democrats becomes a problem?” BEHN: “I think it’s a moment of reckoning for the Democratic Party, and I think they need to look at where young voters, appetites are, where their policy, and their hunger is towards the political processes. And I think that they, you know, really need to lean into it. Young voters are the future. Even if, like, as we saw in our polling independence are not loving Democrats, right? Like, the approval rating for Democrats is not good. Is it because on some of these issues, Americans feel like, you guys are just too far from where the rest of us are? Well, I think, you know, the culture wars are a distraction from the real issue, which are economic issues, and I think the economy is affecting both young people and older generations, like I see in Tennessee, and especially in this congressional race. And, so, these issues, um, you know, cheaper groceries, affording rent, these are issues that really resonate with young folks. And I think if the Democratic Party can become a party of the economy of economic populism, that then they can rein in both independence and young people.” (Aftyn Behn, [Interview On CNN This Morning](#), 7/17/25) Minute 1:42-1:53; Minute 2:19-4:14

OPPOSES TRUMP-ERA POLICIES

HR 1: ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

According To Her Campaign Website, Behn Is “Running For Congress After The So-Called ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Passed — A Giveaway To The Wealthy That Codified The Largest Transfer Of Wealth From Working People To The Rich In American History.”

“A pissed-off social worker, Aftyn has seen firsthand how broken systems fail the very people they’re meant to protect. She’s now running for Congress after the so-called ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ passed — a giveaway to the wealthy that codified the largest transfer of wealth from working people to the rich in American history.” (Home, [Aftyn For Congress](#), Accessed 10/21/25)

In 2025, Behn Criticized HR 1, Calling It The “#BigBullshitBill” And Saying It Gutted Healthcare And Gave Handouts To Billionaires.



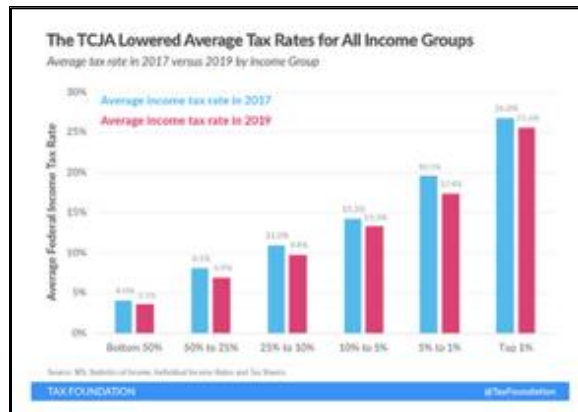
(Rep. Aftyn Behn, [BlueSky](#), 7/17/25)

Extending The 2017 Tax Cuts

Behn Opposes The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Extended The 2017 Trump Tax Cuts, Preventing The Average Person In TN-07 From A \$2,660 Tax Increase

One Big Beautiful Bill Act Made The 2017 Tax Cuts Permanent. “Republicans look to make permanent the individual income and estate tax cuts passed in Trump’s first term, in 2017, plus enact promises he made on the 2024 campaign trail to not tax tips, overtime and interest on some auto loans.” (Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro, “House Republicans Narrowly Passed Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful’ Bill. Here’s What’s In It,” [PBS](#), 5/22/25)

The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Lowered The Average Tax Rates For All Income Groups. (“Tax Cuts And Jobs Act (TCJA),” [Tax Foundation](#), Accessed: 2/26/24)

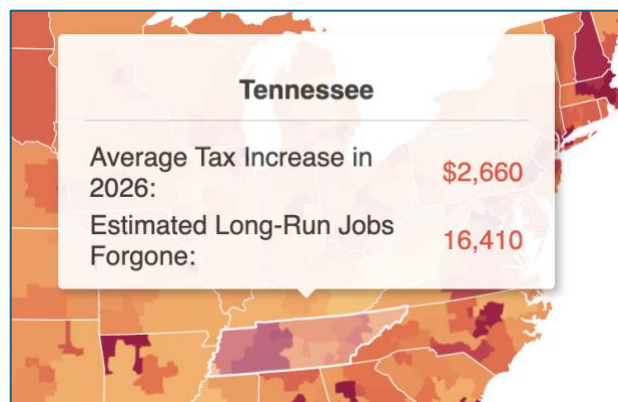


(“Tax Cuts And Jobs Act (TCJA),” [Tax Foundation](#), Accessed: 2/26/24)

In April 2019, *The New York Times* Reported That The 2017 Tax Bill Cut Taxes For A Large Majority Of Americans. “If you’re an American taxpayer, you probably got a tax cut last year. And there’s a good chance you don’t believe it. Ever since President Trump signed the Republican-sponsored tax bill in December 2017, independent analyses have consistently found that a large majority of Americans would owe less because of the law. Preliminary data based on tax filings has shown the same.” (Ben Casselman and Jim Tankersley, “Face It: You (Probably) Got A Tax Cut,” [The New York Times](#), 4/14/19)

The House Bill Provided \$4.5 Trillion To Extend The 2017 Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Provisions, Which Are Set To Expire At The End Of 2025. “As written, the House bill also provided \$4.5 trillion to extend President Donald Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions, which expire at the end of this year.” (Elizabeth Elkind, “Trump Budget Bill Extending First-Term Tax Cuts Survives House Vote,” [Fox News](#), 2/25/25)

According To The Tax Foundation, The Expiration Of The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Tax Provisions Would On Average Raise Taxes In TN-07 By \$2,660. (Garrett Watson and Erica York, “Expiring TCJA Tax Provisions In 2026 Would Produce Substantial Tax Hike Across The US,” [Tax Foundation](#), 5/7/24)



(Garrett Watson and Erica York, “Expiring TCJA Tax Provisions In 2026 Would Produce Substantial Tax Hike Across The US,” [Tax Foundation](#), 5/7/24)

No Tax On Tips

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Eliminated Income Taxes On Tipped Wages For Those Making Less Than \$160,000, Saving The Average Tipped Worker \$1,800 Annually

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Contains A Provision That Allows For A Tax Deduction For All Tips Received. “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be allowed as a deduction an amount equal to the qualified tips received during the taxable year that are included on statements furnished to the by the taxpayer on Form 4137 (or successor).” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced 5/20/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Contains A Provision That Would Eliminate Federal Income Taxes On Tips For Individuals Earning Less Than \$160,000. “It would create a new

tax deduction eliminating federal income taxes on tips for people working in jobs that have traditionally received them, as long as they make less than \$160,000 in 2025. The Trump administration would publish a list of qualifying occupations within 90 days of the bill's signing.” (Wyatte Grantham-Phillips and Jonathan J. Cooper, “What To Know About ‘No Tax On Tips,’ Trump’s Tax Pledge That’s In The GOP Budget Bill,” [PBS](#), 5/22/25)

According To The Tax Policy Center, The Removal Of Income Tax On Tips Would Give Tipped Workers An Average Tax Cut Of \$1,800. “Even among tipped workers, benefits would be limited. TPC estimated only about 60 percent of households with tipped workers would benefit if they could deduct tips from taxable income. Their average tax cut: about \$1,800.” (Howard Gleckman, “Exempting Tips From Federal Income Tax Would Benefit Very Few Workers,” [Tax Policy Center](#), 9/19/24)

Leaving Out Those Who Already Don’t Pay Federal Income Tax, Roughly 63% Of Tipped Workers Would See A Reduction In Their Tax Burden. “For many low-income Americans, payroll taxes, rather than the income tax, are the biggest taxes they pay. Roughly 37 percent of tipped workers already don’t owe any federal income tax, according to an estimate from the Budget Lab at Yale.” (Alicia Parlapiano and Andrew Durden, “An Illustrated Guide To Who Really Benefits From ‘No Tax On Tips’,” [The New York Times](#), 6/5/25)

No Tax On Overtime

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Reduces Taxes On Overtime Pay, Saving The Average Overtime Worker Between \$1,400 And \$1,750 Per Year

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) Contains A Provision That Allows For A Tax Deduction For All Qualified Overtime Pay. “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be allowed as a deduction an amount equal to the qualified overtime compensation received during the taxable year.” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced: 5/20/25)

New York Times HEADLINE: “Work Overtime? You May Soon Get a Tax Cut.” (Andrew Duehren, “Work Overtime? You May Soon Get A Tax Cut.,” [New York Times](#), 6/6/25)



(Andrew Duehren, “Work Overtime? You May Soon Get A Tax Cut.,” [New York Times](#), 6/6/25)

The Tax Break Would Be Available To Almost All American Workers Who Work Overtime And Are Paid An Hourly Wage. “Under the sprawling domestic policy bill that Republicans pushed through the House and are preparing to steer through the Senate, the tax break would be limited. It would be available only to Americans who, under federal law, must be paid at a time-and-a-half rate for working any time exceeding 40 hours in a week. That’s a broad group that includes almost all Americans who are paid an hourly wage, but many salaried workers would not be eligible.” (Andrew Duehren, “Work Overtime? You May Soon Get a Tax Cut.,” [New York Times](#), 6/6/25)

The White House Counsel Of Economic Advisers Estimates That The Average Overtime Worker Would Get Their Tax Burden Lowered By Between \$1,400 And \$1,750 Per Year. “The White House Council of Economic Advisers — who work for Trump — estimated that the average overtime worker would get a tax break of \$1,400 to \$1,750 per year until it expired in 2028.” (Ryan Teague Beckwith, “Has The Overtime Tax Exemption Passed? Here’s Where Things Stand,” [NBC News](#), 5/30/25)

The Institute On Taxation And Policy Estimates It Would Save Overtime Workers An Average Of \$330, With A Range Of \$80 To \$940. “But An Analysis From The Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy Pegged The Average Tax Savings at a much lower \$330 per year.

What's more, it found that it would benefit higher-income workers more, with the bottom 60% snagging an average of \$80 and the top 20% pocketing an average of \$940.” (Ryan Teague Beckwith, “Has The Overtime Tax Exemption Passed? Here’s Where Things Stand,” [NBC News](#), 5/30/25)

The Provision Eliminating Taxes On Overtime Was Supported By Law Enforcement, Which Claimed It Would Help With Officer Retention And Morale

Fox News HEADLINE: “Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Wins Support From Police For Overtime Tax Elimination” (Emma Colton, “Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Wins Support From Police For Overtime Tax Elimination,” [Fox News](#), 5/19/25)



(Emma Colton, “Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Wins Support From Police For Overtime Tax Elimination,” [Fox News](#), 5/19/25)

Law Enforcement Supported The Provision Eliminating Taxes On Overtime Work And Claimed It Would Have A Positive Impact On Officer Retention And Morale. “FIRST ON FOX: Police officers are rallying behind a provision in President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill’ to end taxing overtime work, which they say would have a favorable ripple effect on officer retention and morale.” (Emma Colton, “Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Wins Support From Police For Overtime Tax Elimination,” [Fox News](#), 5/19/25)

Child Savings Accounts

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Created A New Savings Account For American Children And Allow Those Born After 2024 To Receive An Initial \$1,000 To Fund Said Savings Account

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Contains A Provision For Trump Accounts, Which Are Savings Accounts For Children To Be Used For Education, Home Payments, Or Business Capital. “Under the proposal, ‘Trump Accounts’ — previously known as ‘Money Accounts for Growth and Advancement’ or ‘MAGA Accounts’ — can later be used for education expenses or credentials, the down payment on a first home or as capital to start a small business.” (Jessica Dicker, “Tax Bill Includes \$1,000 Baby Bonus In ‘Trump Accounts’ – Here’s Who Eligible,” [CNBC](#), 5/22/25)

Citizen Children Born Between December 31, 2024, And January 1, 2029, Would Be Eligible For A \$1,000 Deposit From The Federal Government Into Their Account. “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxpayer with respect to whom an eligible individual is a qualifying child, there shall be allowed a one-time credit of \$1,000 with respect to each such eligible individual who is a qualifying child of such taxpayer which shall be payable by the Secretary only to the Trump account with respect to which such eligible individual is the account beneficiary... (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term eligible individual means an individual— ‘(1) who is born after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2029,’ and ‘(2) who is a United States citizen at birth.’” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced: 5/20/25)

The Accounts Are Tax Deferred And Allow Parents To Contribute An Additional \$5,000 A Year To The Account, Which Is Distributed At Age 18. “The tax-deferred accounts, which track the overall U.S. stock market, allow additional contributions of up to \$5,000 per year. The seed money will be funded by the Treasury Department and controlled by the child’s guardians. Funds can be distributed once the beneficiary turns 18.” (Kevin Breuninger, “Trump, Ceos Promote Savings Plan For Newborns,” [CNBC](#), 6/9/25)

Assuming A 4% Rate Of Return, A Fully Funded Trump Account Would Be Worth \$130,000 By The Time A Child Turns 18. “If a lower-income family added no money to their Trump account, after 18 years that \$1,000 would have grown to around \$2,000, if we assume a

generous 4% rate of return...Assuming a family put the maximum \$5,000 per year into the account, that would add up to more than \$130,000 at age 18 and more than \$210,000 at age 30.” (Ryan Teague Beckwith, “The ‘Trump Accounts’ Have A Silly Name. But They’re A Good Idea Anyway.” [MSNBC](#), 5/27/25)

Work Requirements

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Expanded Work Requirements For Able-Bodied Adults On SNAP And Would Require Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents To Work, Study, Or Volunteer For At Least 80 Hours Per Month To Be Eligible For Medicaid Coverage

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Expand Work Requirements For SNAP. “To receive SNAP benefits, current law says adults ages 18 through 54 who are physically and mentally able and don’t have dependents need to work, volunteer or participate in training programs for at least 80 hours a month. Those who don’t do so are limited to just three months of benefits in a three-year period. The legislation that passed the House would expand work requirements to those ages 55 through 64. It also would extend work requirements to some parents without children younger than age 7. And it would limit the ability of states to waive work requirements in areas that lack sufficient jobs.” (David A. Lieb, “What Will Happen To Food Assistance Under Trump’s Tax Cut Plan? A Look At The Numbers,” [Associated Press](#), 6/11/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Implement Work Requirements For Childless Adults Without Disabilities For Medicaid Eligibility. “One of the changes are new work requirements for childless adults without disabilities. To qualify, the bill says, they would be required to work at least 80 hours per month beginning December 2026.” (Brandon Drenon, “A Look At The Key Items In Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’,” [BBC](#), 5/22/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Require Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents To Work, Study, Or Volunteer For At Least 80 Hours Per Month To Retain Medicaid Coverage. “The bill requires working-age, able-bodied adults without dependents to work, study, or volunteer for at least 80 hours per month to retain Medicaid coverage. This provision restores Medicaid’s role as a safety-net program, not a permanent welfare option for able-bodied individuals. Nearly 80% of American voters support implementing work requirements for able-bodied, working-age adults in Medicaid.” (Brian Blase, “Health Care Provisions In The One Big Beautiful Bill: Summary And Analysis,” [Paragon Health Institute](#), 5/28/25)

New York Post HEADLINE: “Medicaid Recipients Without Disabilities Spend Their Time Playing Video Games, Watching TV: Study” (Josh Christenson, “Medicaid Recipients Without Disabilities Spend Their Time Playing Video Games, Watching TV: Study,” [New York Post](#), 6/3/25)



(Josh Christenson, “Medicaid Recipients Without Disabilities Spend Their Time Playing Video Games, Watching TV: Study,” [New York Post](#), 6/3/25)

A 2025 Study From The American Enterprise Institute Found That Able-Bodied Americans On Medicaid Spend Most Of Their Waking Hours Either Playing Video Games Or Watching TV. “Non-disabled Americans on Medicaid spend most of their waking hours either playing video games or watching TV, according to a new study touted by congressional Republicans who want to reform the 60-year-old federal benefit. The American Enterprise Institute found in a survey put out last week that Medicaid recipients ages 19-64 who are capable of working and don’t have kids spend an average of 4.2 hours per day — or 126 hours every 30 days — just vegging out. That’s a little more than 1.5 times the 80 hours per month that those Americans will be asked to work, do community service or attend school starting in 2027 to keep getting their benefits, according to a provision in the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ Act that House Republicans passed

last month.” (Josh Christenson, “Medicaid Recipients Without Disabilities Spend Their Time Playing Video Games, Watching TV: Study,” [New York Post](#), 6/3/25)

ICE And CBP

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Included \$4 Billion To Hire An Additional 3,000 New Border Patrol Agents As Well As 5,000 New Customs Officers, And \$2.1 Billion For Signing And Retention Bonuses

The One Big Beautiful Bill Allocates About \$10 Billion For Personnel Expansion, Including \$8 Billion To Hire 10,000 Additional ICE Officers, Agents, And Support Staff.

“ICE Personnel. Allocates about \$10 billion for personnel expansion, including \$8 billion to hire 10,000 additional ICE officers, agents, and support staff with specific hiring targets (2,500 in fiscal year 2025, then 1,875 each year through 2029), \$858 million for retention and signing bonuses, and \$600 million for recruitment and hiring capabilities.” (“One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Immigration Provisions,” [National Immigration Forum](#), 5/29/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Allocates \$858 Million For Retention And Signing Bonuses And \$600 Million For Recruitment And Hiring Capabilities. “ICE Personnel. Allocates about \$10 billion for personnel expansion, including \$8 billion to hire 10,000 additional ICE officers, agents, and support staff with specific hiring targets (2,500 in fiscal year 2025, then 1,875 each year through 2029), \$858 million for retention and signing bonuses, and \$600 million for recruitment and hiring capabilities.” (“One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Immigration Provisions,” [National Immigration Forum](#), 5/29/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Contains A Provision Appropriating An Extra \$8.58 Million For Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE). “APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for fiscal year 2025, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$858,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2029, for the purposes described in subsections (b) and 15 (c).” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced: 5/20/25)

- **The Appropriation Would Provide Retention And Signing Bonus For ICE Agents.** “(b) RETENTION BONUSES.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement may provide retention bonuses to any U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, officer, or attorney who commits to two years of additional service with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to carry out immigration enforcement. (c) SIGNING BONUSES.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall provide a signing bonus to each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, officer, or attorney who is hired on or after the date of enactment of this Act and who commits to five years of service with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to carry out immigration enforcement.” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced: 5/20/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Included \$4 Billion To Hire An Additional 3,000 New Border Patrol Agents As Well As 5,000 New Customs Officers, And \$2.1 Billion For Signing And Retention Bonuses. “There’s \$4 billion to hire an additional 3,000 new Border Patrol agents as well as 5,000 new customs officers, and \$2.1 billion for signing and retention bonuses. There’s also funds for 10,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and investigators.” (Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro, “House Republicans Narrowly Passed Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful’ Bill. Here’s What’s In It,” [PBS](#), 5/22/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Funds For 10,000 More Immigration And Customs Enforcement Officers And Investigators. “There’s \$4 billion to hire an additional 3,000 new Border Patrol agents as well as 5,000 new customs officers, and \$2.1 billion for signing and retention bonuses. There’s also funds for 10,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and investigators.” (Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro, “House Republicans Narrowly Passed Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful’ Bill. Here’s What’s In It” [PBS](#), 5/22/25)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Provides \$4.1 Billion To Hire Border Patrol Agents And Other Personnel And More Than \$2 Billion For Signing And Retention Bonuses For

Agents. “The legislation is now in the hands of the Senate after the House narrowly approved it last month following weeks of intraparty disagreement over its components. Though the bulk of the funding allocated in the legislation goes toward tax cuts, it also includes resources aimed at bolstering border security and defense. It provides \$46.5 billion for the border wall, \$4.1 billion to hire Border Patrol agents and other personnel and more than \$2 billion for signing and retention bonuses for agents. It also imposes an additional \$1,000 fee for people who are filing for asylum in the U.S.” (Kaia Hubbard, “GOP Leaders Cite L.A. Immigration Protests To Push For Quick Passage Of Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’,” [CBS News](#), 6/9/25)

Border Security

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Included Funding To Restart Construction Of A Wall On The Southern Border, Provides Funding For More Border Patrol Agents And Customs Officers, And Would Reimburse States For Border Security Operations Carried Out During The Biden Administration

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Direct \$168 Billion To Immigration And Border Law Enforcement. “The House of Representatives recently passed its budget reconciliation spending bill, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1). The bill changes numerous aspects of tax and spending law, but its most significant spending increases are for immigration. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the bill will direct an astounding \$168 billion of the budget to immigration and border law enforcement, and there is even more for agencies that indirectly support immigration law enforcement.” (David J. Bier, “Deportations To Add Almost \$1 Trillion In Costs To The ‘Big Beautiful Bill’,” [CATO Institute](#), 6/6/25)

The One Big Beautiful Act Provides \$46.5 Billion To Restart Construction Of The Wall Along The U.S.-Mexico Border, Provides Funding For More Border Patrol Agents And Customs Officers, And Continues The Deportation Agenda. “The legislation would provide \$46.5 billion to revive construction of Trump’s wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, and more money for the deportation agenda. There’s \$4 billion to hire an additional 3,000 new Border Patrol agents as well as 5,000 new customs officers, and \$2.1 billion for signing and retention bonuses. (Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro, “House Republicans Narrowly Passed Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful’ Bill. Here’s What’s In It” [PBS](#), 5/22/25)

Included In The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Is Reimbursing States For Border Security Operations Carried Out During The Biden Administration. “After the passage of the bill in the House, Cornyn praised the chamber for including border reimbursement and said he would work to make sure the funding remains in the Senate version of the bill. ‘The State of Texas spent more than \$11 billion taxpayer dollars to protect and defend the southern border in the Biden administration’s absence, and I commend the House for passing language that serves as a good starting point in the One Big Beautiful Bill to secure billions in critical funding for Texas, which did the job of the federal government during the Biden border crisis,’ Cornyn said. ‘I will continue to spearhead the fight in the senate for border security reimbursement funding and strengthen the language to ensure that Texas will be rightfully repaid for Operation Lone Star. I thank Congressman Chip Roy and all Texas Republicans in the House of making this reimbursement funding a priority and look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to send the One Big Beautiful Bill Act with these funds included to President Trump’s desk.’” (Steven Ardary, “‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ Includes \$12B For Border Security Reimbursements For Texas, Border States,” [Fox 26](#), 5/22/25)

Taxpayer Funded Healthcare for Illegal Immigrants

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Remove 1.4 Million Illegal Immigrants From Medicaid

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Will Remove 1.4 Million Illegal Immigrants From Medicaid. “More than 1.4 million illegal immigrants – including cold-blooded criminals, like those

arrested this weekend in Los Angeles – are currently on Medicaid, stealing taxpayer-funded healthcare benefits meant for American citizens. The One Big Beautiful Bill puts a stop to that. By passing the One Big Beautiful Bill, Medicaid will be protected for generations of American citizens.” (The White House, “The One Big Beautiful Bill Will END Taxpayer-Funded Health Care For Illegals,” [Press Release](#), 6/9/25)

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill Act The 1.4 Million Illegal Immigrants Who Are Currently Receiving Medicaid Benefits Would Be Removed From The Program. “Of the 7.6 million, 1.4 million of these recipients are illegal immigrants who would be kicked out of the program and 1.2 million are those who are simply ineligible for the program.” (Isabelle Morales, “5 Myths About Medicaid Improvements in the One, Big, Beautiful, Bill,” [Americans for Tax Reform](#), 5/22/25)

According To Americans For Tax Reform The Bill Would Institute Federal Medicaid Assistance Plan Reductions For States Who Use Funds For Illegal Immigrants. “This bill would implement reasonable work requirements for able bodied adults, more frequent eligibility checks, eliminate illegal immigrants from the program (with an FMAP reduction for states whose funds to provide healthcare to illegals).” (Isabelle Morales, “5 Myths About Medicaid Improvements In The One, Big, Beautiful Bill,” [Americans For Tax Reform](#), 5/22/25)

Taxpayer Funded Gender Affirming Care

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Eliminates Taxpayer Funded Gender Affirming Care

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Outlines Provisions To End Taxpayer Funded Gender Affirming Care For Children And Removes Gender Affirming Care As An Essential Health Benefit (EHB) Under The Affordable Care Act. “In a May 11 publication of section 44125 titled ‘Prohibiting federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding for gender transition procedures for minors,’ the bill stipulates that federal financial supplementation of gender transition procedure for patients under age 18 is prohibited. However, the night before the House vote, representatives amended the bill to prohibit federal financial participation in gender affirming care for patients of any age. The bill also proposes an amendment to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that prevents ‘gender transition procedure’ from being included as an essential health benefit (EHB) for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2027. When a particular benefit loses EHB status, the ACA no longer requires insurance plans to cover that service.” (Michelle Falci, “‘Big, Beautiful,’ Bill Prohibits Federal Funding For Gender-Affirming Care,” [Clinical Advisor](#), 6/4/25)

The Bill Prohibits Medicaid And CHIP From Funding Hormone Replacement Therapy And Puberty Blockers. “The bill specifically prohibits Medicaid and CHIP funding for HRT, puberty blockers, and many types of surgery for trans people, but not cisgender people. Only care that is performed ‘for the purpose of intentionally changing the body of such [an] individual [...] to no longer correspond to the individual’s sex’ as assigned at birth would be prohibited should HR 1 pass.” (Samantha Riedel, “The GOP’s ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ Bans Gender-Affirming Care From Medicaid For All Ages,” [Them](#), 5/22/25)

TRUMP TAX CUTS

In November 2017, Behn Penned An Op-Ed Criticizing The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. “Mr. Morris’s conjecture that The Tennessean ‘screamed the Democrats’ talking points and scare tactics, while totally ignoring the benefits to the millions of middle-class, working Americans’ (mimicking President’s Trump bullying of anyone who disagrees with him), does not understand the value of reasonable discussion and debate. I can’t help but point out the other side of the scale for middle-class Americans: ... 1 Elimination of adoption deduction ... 2 elimination of student loan deduction ... 3 elimination of teacher supply deduction ... 4 elimination of child care deduction ... 5 elimination of mortgage deduction ... 6 The increase to the child tax credit that will not be refundable and thus will largely leave out lower-income families ...” (Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, “Greater Debate On Tax Plan Needed,” [The Tennessean](#), 11/14/17)

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Greater debate on tax plan needed

Re: "Alternative headlines on tax proposal," by Stephen Morris, Nov. 9.

Mr. Morris's conjecture that The Tennessean "screamed the Democrats" talking points and scare tactics, while totally ignoring the benefits to the millions of middle-class, working Americans" (mimicking President's Trump bullying of anyone who disagrees with him), does not understand the value of reasonable discussion and debate.

I can't help but point out the other side of the scale for middle-class Americans:

- 1 Elimination of adoption deduction
- 2 Elimination of student loan deduction
- 3 Elimination of teacher supply deduction
- 4 Elimination of child care deduction
- 5 Elimination of mortgage deduction
- 6 The increase to the child tax credit will not be refundable and thus will largely leave out lower income families

In turn, there are several provisions that will disproportionately help the wealthiest citizens in America at the direct expense of working families, like the Alternative Minimum tax repeal and the estate tax repeal. All of the benefits Mr. Morris names equate to a wash, if not a tax increase for many who do not think people with shady pass-through companies and multimillion-dollar estates need

Judge Roy Moore Will you



a break.

Instead of pointing fingers and contributing to a very unhealthy bias against media, let's have a conversation about what the overall point of this tax reform really is and what is motivating the administration and Congress to do this.

Hint, it starts with donors and ends with increasing their personal wealth.

Aftyn Behn, Nashville 37207

Freedom includes dissent

Re: "Greater respect for the anthem,"

(Aftyn Behn, Op-Ed, "Greater Debate On Tax Plan Needed," [The Tennessean](#), 11/14/17)

STATE MEDICAID EXPANSION

In April 2017, Behn Wrote An LTE Advocating For Expanding Medicaid In Tennessee.

"Instead of expanding TennCare or reauthorizing the state's Economic Council on Women, our Republican-majority Legislature passed legislation allowing guns on boats and fought to restrict restroom access for transgender students. I am frustrated with the trend of our politicians pushing their self-serving agenda while neglecting the interests of women across the state." (Aftyn Behn, LTE, "Tennessee Lawmakers Should Invest In Health Of State's Women," [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 4/25/17)

Letters

Tennessee lawmakers should invest in health of state's women

As the fanfare of Tennessee's 110th Legislature subsides, I reflect on our elected officials' responses (or lack thereof) to the acute needs of Tennessee women. Instead of expanding TennCare or reauthorizing the state's Economic Council on Women, our Republican-majority Legislature passed legislation allowing guns on boats and fought to restrict restroom access for transgender students.

I am frustrated with the trend of our politicians pushing their self-serving agendas while neglecting the interests of women across the state. Why aren't our politicians doing more to invest in the future of its female residents, particularly in the realm of health care? According to Kaiser Health, a snapshot of women's health in Tennessee reveals that 41 percent of women report poor mental health, 13 percent of women are uninsured, and 18 percent of women lack primary care physicians. These are women who rely on their gynecologists or clinics such as Planned Parenthood for their primary interactions with the health care system, using these providers for a range of services such as screening for mental health disorders.

Despite the pervasive need to increase access to coverage for young, uninsured women and bolster preventive care, our politicians continue to squabble over the labels on a bathroom doors and gun toting for boat owners. That being said, I would like to commend the efforts of state Sens. Jeff Yarbrow and Richard Briggs, who proposed bills that sought to expand TennCare and increase access to health care for tens of thousands of uninsured women across the state. Bipartisan collaboration and health care legislation such as these bills have the potential to reduce gender disparities by providing more access to preventive care, comprehensive medical care and reproductive health care for women across the state. Looking to the 2018 legislative session, I hope to see more legislation that reflects an investment in the future of Tennessee women.

Aftyn Behn, Knoxville

(Aftyn Behn, LTE, "Tennessee Lawmakers Should Invest In Health Of State's Women," [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 4/25/17)

PRIVATE SCHOOL KID

Behn Attended The Webb School Of Knoxville For High School. “Aftyn is the daughter of Julianne and Bruce Behn and a junior at Webb School of Knoxville.” (“2008 Girl Scouts Of Tanasi Council Gold Awards,” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 3/30/08)

The Webb School of Knoxville Is A Private School Founded In 1955. “Webb School of Knoxville was founded in 1955 by Robert Webb, the nephew of Thompson Webb. Robert Webb had been associated with the Webb School in Bell Buckle and then in Claremont before deciding to explore the possibilities of a private school in the Knoxville area. His relationship with the Webb School of California led Robert Webb to adopt its school motto, ‘Principes non Homines,’ and the Webb crest for his institution.” (About Us, [Webb School of Knoxville](#), Archived 1/12/06)

While Behn Was Attending The Webb School Of Knoxville, The School Opened A New, \$8 Million Building On Campus. “Webb School of Knoxville sophomore Sneha Thakur recently had to use a closet as a makeshift darkroom while working on an experiment about night vision and color. ‘In the new building, I wouldn’t have to worry about it,’ she said. ‘It’ll be nice to go into the lab and work by yourself.’ The ‘new building’ is an \$8 million, 35,000-square-foot structure that will be filled with natural light and include eight 1,600-square-foot classrooms, each doubling as a laboratory. It is scheduled to be completed in September and open in October.” (Lola Alapo, “Bye-Bye Closet; Hello ‘Nice Lab,’” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 3/7/07)

The Article About The New Addition To The Webb School’s Campus Noted That The One Building Cost Almost As Much As Entire Knoxville-Area Public Schools. “To put the building’s price tag in perspective, entire Knox County public schools have cost just slightly more. Recently opened Gibbs Elementary, for example, was built for about \$12 million. Webb’s building is not a typical concrete structure with classrooms and a rest room at the end of the hall, said Scott Hutchinson, president of the private school, which has 1,050 students from kindergarten through high school. The new building will have two classrooms apiece for biology, physics, chemistry and environmental sciences, each with its own lab. Floor to-ceiling windows and glass walls will let in natural light. There also will be a greenhouse, space for long-duration projects and a glass foyer that will act as an interactive museum to display students’ projects.” (Lola Alapo, “Bye-Bye Closet; Hello ‘Nice Lab,’” [The Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), 3/7/07)

NOTE: *The current tuition at Webb School of Knoxville is \$27,100 per year per student.* (Tuition & Financial Aid, [Webb School Of Knoxville](#), Accessed 10/14/25)