

Setting the Record Straight: Dark Money Distorting Senator McConnell's Pro-Life Record
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In recent days, multiple mailers have been sent out to the Louisville and Northern Kentucky regions purporting to be from, or representative of, Kentucky Right to Life. These mailers are filled with false information claiming Senator Mitch McConnell is pro-abortion and that the true conservative and pro-life candidate in the state of Kentucky is the Libertarian Party Candidate: Brad Barron. Nothing could be further from the truth. Kentucky Right to Life and National Right to Life issued a joint press release stating that these mailers were not sent out by our organizations or affiliates. However, as more information regarding these mailings has come to light and conscientious pro-life voters continue to reach out with questions, the need to release more information regarding this farce has become more apparent.

The fact is these mailers appear to stem not from Kentucky Right to Life, and not from Brad Barron's campaign, but from Democratic Super Political Action Committees (PACs) associated with Amy McGrath. Amy McGrath, who is a proponent of abortion until the point of birth, has embraced a radical view on abortion which has placed her at odds with the morals of many Kentucky voters.¹ Conversely, Senator McConnell "has received a 100 percent pro-life rating from National Right to Life and was endorsed by both National right to Life and Kentucky Right to Life."² This has helped to place McGrath at a notable disadvantage in the polling compared to Senator McConnell.

Under Senator McConnell's legislative leadership, President Trump has appointed, and the U.S. Senate has confirmed, 220 judges, including three Supreme Court Justices who will stand for the Constitutional rights of all Americans, including the unborn.³ The pro-abortion Democrats are desperate to remove Senator McConnell from office to stem this flow of judicial confirmations. Enter this campaign of misinformation.

The pro-choice Democrats this election cycle have embraced a new tactic: secretive "pop-up" super PACs which are not designed to promote the Democrat candidates themselves, but instead are intended to draw pro-life voters away from pro-life candidates by painting Republican candidates in a false light while painting third-party candidates as champions of life. The mailers sent to Louisville/Jefferson County and Northern Kentucky (at least the mailers which provide their legally mandated funding disclosures) stem from two such PACs: the Save America Fund, and the True Kentucky Patriots PAC.

¹ Wrong Path McGrath, (last viewed 10/30/2020), <https://wrongpathmcgrath.com/listen-for-yourself-amy-mcgrath-on-abortion/> ("Larry Grover: You don't think there should be any limitations on abortion? Amy McGrath: I don't think the government should be involved in making decisions on a woman's body.").

² Press Release: National Right to Life and Kentucky Right to Life Decry Smear Campaign Against Senator Mitch McConnell, National Right to Life Committee, Inc. Oct. 29, 2020.

³ List of Federal Judges Appointed by Donald Trump, Wikipedia (last viewed 10/30/2020) ("As of October 26, 2020, the United States Senate has confirmed 220 Article III judges nominated by Trump, including three associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, 53 judges for the United States court of appeals, 162 judges for the United States district courts, and two judges for the United States Court of International Trade.").

The Save America Fund PAC is a single-candidate Super PAC in support of one candidate: Amy McGrath. The Save America Fund has raised \$3.9 million for McGrath during the 2020 election.⁴ The True Kentucky Patriots PAC shares its treasurer with Ditch Fund, another pro-McGrath PAC and “one of the Senate race’s largest independent spenders.”⁵ True Kentucky Patriots was launched October 14th, but has already spent over \$780,000 in this short time backing Barron but is not required to disclose the sources of these donations.⁶ Meanwhile, Ditch Fund has received over \$21 million in donations this election cycle, which many of these donations coming from out-of-state supporters of pro-abortion leftists including Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.⁷

These Super PACs sent out these mailers during the final days of the 2020 election in order to peel well intentioned, Pro-Life voters away from Senator McConnell and towards Brad Barron, who is portrayed as Pro-Life in the mailers. Neither abortion nor being Pro-Life are mentioned during a year and a half of posting on Barron’s campaign social media pages until late September of 2020, and the address of the “Pro Life Libertarian Caucus,” located once again out of state, touted on his social media page, features an out-of-state address that is located, according to Google street view, in an actual trailer park. One of the mailers promoting the lies about McConnell and the narrative about Barron is designed to look like a Kentucky Right to Life mailer features prominently the name “Pro-Life Kentucky,” an organization which does not officially exist in Kentucky. This mailer was distributed widely around Louisville and Jefferson County. What appears to be a fake Facebook page for “Pro-Life Kentucky” was only established this year and only features one unique picture with a link to this “endorsement” by this Libertarian trailer park caucus in Indiana. When considering this in light of the Kentucky Libertarian Party’s official position as pro-choice, Barron’s Pro-Life qualifications are sketchy at best and not endorsed by Kentucky Right to Life.

These mailers and the endorsements contained within them are in no way associated with Kentucky Right to Life and seem to be nothing more than a vast disinformation campaign promoted by pro-choice leftist activists with the intent of removing the Pro-Life Senate Majority Leader at all costs. Each of these fliers appear to be supported by national dark money and fake organizations. We urge all who read this to inform their friends and family of the truth regarding these mailers and to remain skeptical of the information contained within, especially as y’all go to vote this Tuesday.

⁴ Save America Fund, OpenSecrets.org,

<https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C00732172&cycle=2020>.

⁵Lachian Markay, Mitch McConnell’s Conservative Challenger Gets a Boost ... From Dems, The Daily Beast, Oct. 26, 2020, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/mitch-mcconnells-conservative-challenger-gets-a-boost-from-dems> (“The group is clearly designed to peel off conservative votes from McConnell, who faces a challenge from Democrat McGrath.”).

⁶ True Kentucky Patriots, OpenSecrets.org.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/detail.php?cmte=C00761106&cycle=2020>.

⁷ Ditch Fund, OpenSecrets.org. <https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C00688739&cycle=2020>.