

## Dr. Miriam Grossman Informs and Inspires Michigan Leaders

Michigan Family Forum was pleased to host Dr. Miriam Grossman, a psychiatrist and the author of "Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals How Political Correctness Endangers Every Student," in March.

Her years of experience as a campus psychiatrist led Dr. Grossman to the conclusion that the "hook-up culture" so prevalent on college campuses today is endangering students both physically and emotionally. Research supports this conclusion, and although Dr.



Grossman initially published the book anonymously because of fear of backlash among her peers, she now speaks openly about her findings.

Guests at a special breakfast for MFF supporters in Grand Rapids heard from Dr. Grossman on March 26. During the afternoon, she delivered the keynote address at the first Annual Conference of the Michigan Association for Sexual Health (MASH). MASH is a statewide network of abstinence educators launched by MFF and other groups committed

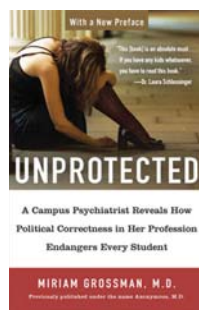
to promoting abstinence until marriage as the best choice for teen sexual health.

"There is substantial research indicating that many adolescents who initiate early sexual activity often experience depression, suicidal ideation, and relationship violence," said MFF Executive Director Brad Snavely. "Some in our society may not want to acknowledge this because it's not politically correct, but MFF is committed to the truth, especially when the well-being of children is at stake."

For more information about Dr. Grossman's research and resources, visit her website, [www.miriamgrossmanmd.com](http://www.miriamgrossmanmd.com).

### Unprotected Offered Through MFF

MFF is pleased to offer the book, Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals how Political Correctness in her Profession Endangers Every Student by Dr. Miriam Grossman. Unprotected is about Dr. Grossman's experiences as a psychiatrist at UCLA where she witnessed the emotional impact of the "hook-up" culture in the lives of many of today's college students.



Originally published under the name "Anonymous", Dr. Grossman now speaks regularly on campuses throughout the nation about the dangers of casual sexual relationships.

Unprotected is available through MFF's office for a suggested donation of \$25. See the enclosed response card for information.

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### 2009 Initiatives

- Parental Rights Legislation
- Healthy Marriage Initiative
- Reducing Out-of-Wedlock Births
- Project Open Arms Adoption Initiative
- Michigan Association for Sexual Health

*"No amount of Prozac or Zoloft is going to solve this problem. These young women must, for their physical and emotional well-being, change their lifestyle. And the therapists, doctors, and nurses they consult have a responsibility to encourage them to eliminate their emotionally destructive behaviors, much as they would instruct an obese or nicotine-addicted patient to diet, exercise, and stop smoking."*

*-Dr. Miriam Grossman in  
Unprotected*

## House Moves Bill to Promote Adoption

State Representative Andy Neumann (D-Alpena), introduced House Bill 4470 to help working families adopt infant children. The legislation, supported by Michigan Family Forum, allows families who adopt an infant to receive the same family medical leave benefits as families who are expecting the birth of a biological child.

If an employer does not offer medical leave time for the birth of a child, they are not obligated to offer the benefit to adopting parents.



The legislation passed the Families and Children's Services Committee unanimously and quickly passed in the full House. Last year, similar legislation passed in the House of Representatives, but stalled in the Senate when representatives amended the bill to expand the benefits beyond infant adoptions.

## Churches Offer Marriage Retreats as Outreach to Community



New Beginnings Cathedral in Detroit is planning to host marriage retreats as a way to reach out to their surrounding community. These retreats are designed to give individuals a strong foundation for building

healthy relationships. According to Dan Jarvis, MHMC coordinator, "these free retreats

are a great opportunity for churches to help strengthen marriages in their communities."

Michigan Family Forum is working with the Michigan Healthy Marriage Coalition to help other churches in Wayne, Jackson and Lenawee counties conduct similar retreats for couples and singles. If you attend a church in one of those counties and would like to host a retreat at your church, contact Dan Jarvis at (517) 374-1171.

## THE FORUM

THE FORUM is published by Michigan Family Forum. MFF is a private, non-profit research and education organization dedicated to strengthening families in Michigan through sound public policies.

If you would like more information about Michigan Family Forum, or if you know of other people who would like a free subscription to THE FORUM, please call our office or visit our website.

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## Richard Cohen Speaks to Ministry Leaders in Brighton

Richard Cohen, a noted psychotherapist and author, spoke to a group of pastors and lay leaders in April regarding ministering to homosexuals. Cohen lived a homosexual lifestyle for years until he was healed of same-sex attraction. His experience led him to help individuals and families impacted by same-sex attraction. Three years ago he transitioned from working with individual clients to helping clergy, lay leaders and families learn how to facilitate healing.



Richard Cohen

Cohen's ministry begins with three assumptions: There is no "gay gene" that people are born with; No one chooses to be homosexual, and; There is hope for anyone who wants to change from a homosexual to heterosexual orientation. Cohen provides compelling sto-

ries and evidence to substantiate his assumptions and he outlines 10 elements that cause individuals to develop same-sex attractions.

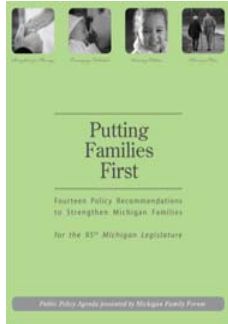
"Working on public policy issues involving same-sex attraction is especially challenging," said Dan Jarvis, research and policy director at MFF. "However, I can imagine issues such as same-sex marriage and gay adoption becoming less contentious if programs like Mr. Cohen's continue to offer understanding, hope and healing."

MFF worked with several churches in the Brighton area to sponsor the event and is considering other opportunities to bring Richard to mid-Michigan later this year.

## MFF Welcomes New Lawmakers – Releases Legislative Agenda

Michigan Family Forum hosted a legislative reception on February 26. Lawmakers and staff were on hand to discuss MFF's "Putting Families First" legislative agenda for the new session.

The fourteen recommendations cover a broad spectrum of legislative possibilities within MFF's four key areas of focus - Strengthening Marriage and Family, Promoting Fatherhood, Protecting Children, and Honoring Elders.



"Michigan Family Forum releases these recommendations every two years when a new legislative session convenes," said Public Policy Director Dan Jarvis. "We look forward to working with both chambers and the Governor to see these recommendations become law."

Visit MFF's website to download a copy of the "Putting Families First" agenda or request a copy on the enclosed response card.

## Legislative Update – Bills to Watch in 2009

Michigan Family Forum remains actively involved in the legislative process. In March, MFF worked with lawmakers to prohibit public schools from making abortion referrals or providing contraceptives to students (see related article below). While these activities have been prohibited in the past, Governor Granholm attempted to legalize them. We are also working to stop legislation that will permit unmarried adults to jointly adopt a child (House Bill 4131) and to oppose legislation (House Bill 4192) that will create sexual orientation as a protected class in Michigan's civil rights act.

On a more positive note, MFF is currently working with lawmakers and other groups to promote adoption and strengthen marriages. In the case of adoption, one piece of legisla-

tion (House Bill 4470) is already working its way through the legislative process with our active support.

MFF is especially excited about one new legislative proposal we are championing. While early in the process, we are crafting language, with the assistance of Senator Mark Jansen, to allow families to claim prenatal children as a tax deduction. The proposal will reduce a family's tax burden, encourage prenatal care and recognize unborn children as individuals in our tax code.



Sen. Mark Jansen

## House and Senate Take Stand for Parental Rights



Rep. Terry Brown

Representative Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) restored language to the School Aid Act that prohibits schools from distributing contraceptives or making abortion referrals for students. The language, which has been in the School Aid Act for

twenty years, was removed by Governor Granholm when she submitted her budget for Michigan's schools.

"Representative Brown restored that language at the earliest opportunity," said Dan Jarvis, Research and Public Policy Director at Michigan Family Forum. "He clearly did not think removing the language was in the best interest of students or parents and we were glad to work with him on this issue."

## Stay Informed!

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**FORUM ONLINE**

The FORUM ONLINE weekly email gives you a brief update on family-related issues.

SPONSORED BY MICHIGAN FAMILY FORUM  
**FORUM FLASH**

The FORUM FLASH special alerts keep you informed on the latest legislative issues and gives you a quick and easy way to contact your local leaders.

To participate in these informative services, register in the Action Center on our website. Your information is confidential and will not be sold or distributed to outside parties.

[www.michiganfamily.org](http://www.michiganfamily.org)

## An American Family Survival Plan

Will America go the way of Europe? A prominent columnist recently proclaimed that marriage will soon be redefined in America. If he's right, the society we leave our children and grandchildren will look more like some European countries than the one that we inherited.

A recent Iowa court decision and legislative action in Vermont are cited by some as evidence that a national redefinition of marriage will happen - it's only a matter of time. There are other ominous signs for the family - rising out-of-wedlock birth rates, cohabitation rates and an ever increasing erosion of parental rights - that are rapidly changing the way Americans view the family. In Europe, each of these trends has preceded or coincided with the legal redefinition of marriage.

What lessons can we learn from these European countries? First, redefining marriage will undermine efforts to

strengthen the family and will likely result in an acceleration of the current path toward the decline of the family unit. Second, a weakened family structure will eventually require a growth of government programs, higher taxes and less economic freedom for future generations.

In the battle to strengthen and preserve the family in America, the stakes are high. But there is hope - unlike many European countries, America was founded, shaped and preserved by people of strong faith and Christian character. As French author Alexis DeTocqueville is attributed with saying, "America is great because she is good. When America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

Today, some 175 years after DeTocqueville's famous visit, the character of our state and nation is being tested. The

good news is that you and your church can be a catalyst for change - for calling

America back to the values that have made her great. If we will commit to pray for our country (I Chronicles 7:14) and our leaders (I Timothy 2:1-2) while working to strengthen the family, we can still

be a "shining city on a hill" for future generations.

Will you join me in active prayer for our state and nation? We also need your help to take a principled stand for marriage, the family and parental rights. By praying and supporting MFF you are helping us preserve the family and rebuild the foundations of our society. Thank you!



*Brad Snavelly*

*Brad Snavelly  
Executive Director*

### MFF needs your support

Michigan Family Forum is a 501c3 organization funded by tax-deductible donations from involved, caring people like you. If you can help financially support MFF's efforts to strengthen families in Michigan, please return the enclosed donation card with your contribution or give us a call at (800) 644-9111.

MFF also offers an on-line giving option. Visit [www.michiganfamily.org](http://www.michiganfamily.org) and click on the Mastercard/Visa logo.

### Love Won Out Comes to Grand Rapids



Focus on the Family will host a Love Won Out Conference on June 13 in Grand Rapids. This conference is designed to help pastors, parents, and individuals dealing with same-sex attraction. It also presents resources designed to help communicate

hope and a Biblical view of homosexuality. Speakers include staff from Focus on the Family and Exodus International, many of whom have overcome the homosexual lifestyle. For more information or to register, call Focus on the Family toll-free at (800) 232-6459, or visit [www.lovewonout.com](http://www.lovewonout.com).

### Welcome, Peter!

MFF welcomes Peter Borchgrevink as an intern this summer. Peter is a sophomore at MSU and an Eagle Scout.

He will be assisting MFF on multiple projects. Welcome to MFF, Peter!

