



LIBERTAS
INSTITUTE

2017

DIVERSE PROBLEMS REQUIRE A BROAD FOCUS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No other organization is positioned for widespread impact and success like Libertas Institute.

When I founded this organization in 2011 I had a staggering number of decisions to make—among them, what our priority and focus would be. Looking to other groups for examples both in the state and elsewhere, I found one after another that had a narrow set of issues they worked on. There were tax groups, pro-family groups, and others focusing on the environment, guns, education, and more.

But the government does not confine itself to a narrow set of issues. I considered it then—as I still do now—extremely unlikely that we would ever see thousands of narrowly-focused groups fully funded

and sufficiently effective in order to push back against the diversity of issues in which government inserts itself. I quickly ruled out the option of going narrow; why impact one or a few issues when we can do more?

Indeed—we *need* to do more. I can't count the number of times people have approached us for help with nowhere to go—no money, no connections, no organizational support. The homeschool mother targeted by truancy court? Check. The food truck owner on the verge of shutting down his business because of burdensome regulations? Yep. Then there are the property owners facing eminent domain takings, the folks whose prop-

erty is taken through civil asset forfeiture, the parents whose children are wrongfully taken by DCFS, and the Utahns in chronic pain fearful of dying from opioids but placing themselves in legal jeopardy to try cannabis.

Our few years of operation have validated that decision I made—our work, connections, strategies, and limited resources can be extended broadly to help many people in need. Without us, many would be worse off.

But that's not quite right. It's better said this way: without *you*—our supporters and donors—many Utahns would be worse off.



Connor speaks to reporters about medical cannabis reform and the dire need of patients in Utah.

I must confess that despite our several policy successes I often feel overwhelmed by the needs that must be addressed—and that will not be resolved if we don't do something.

We need more funding. We need more staff. We need more resources and allies. Looking back, I am impressed and grateful we've grown to where we are today. But looking

forward to the future, we must resolve to do more. Too many Utahns are counting on us to. So to you who are our supporters and allies—thank you! We couldn't do it without you.

I am extremely excited for 2018. There are many policies and programs we'll be working on that are significant and I can't wait to tell you about them!

In the meantime, please enjoy this brief review of some of our efforts during the preceding year. On behalf of our team—and more importantly, on behalf of the people whose lives our work has benefitted—I thank you for your interest and support.

THOUGHT PRECEDES CHANGE

NEW POLICY BRIEFS IN 2017

Libertas Institute engages on dozens of policies each year. For a special few, we invest the time to research, analyze, and deeply understand what's at stake to propose appropriate and attainable improvements to the status quo.

Here are the policies earning special attention during 2017, for which we produced our concise and persuasive policy briefs.



THE RIGHT TO WORK: TAMING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

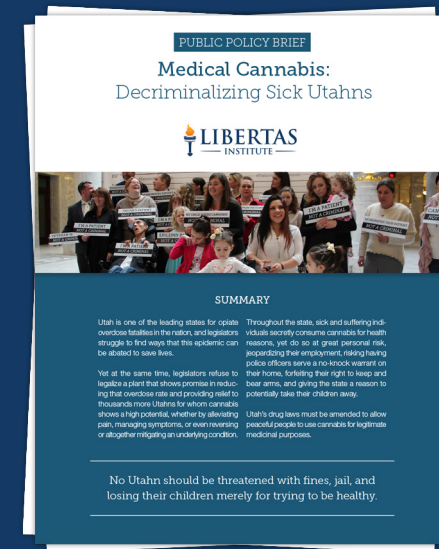
A century ago, the U.S Supreme Court noted that “the right to work for a living” is “the essence of personal freedom and opportunity.” But according to research by the Institute for Justice, Utah has the 13th most burdensome occupational licensure laws compared to other states.

While reasonable regulations can protect public health and safety, these laws often exceed this limited scope, creating unnecessary and unfair barriers to entry. We propose a constitutional amendment to protect one's right to work, which will require the government's regulation of that right to be evidence-based and narrowly tailored.

FLEXIBLE EDUCATION SPENDING ACCOUNTS: CHOICE MEETS INNOVATION

Monopolies in the education system have stifled innovation and limited a parent's options to customize their child's learning. A Flexible Education Spending Account (FSA) offers an opportunity for parents to have a say in how their child is educated.

An FSA goes beyond merely providing school choice by engaging parents directly in shaping how funding is used in their child's education.



MEDICAL CANNABIS: DECRIMINALIZING SICK UTAHNS

Utah is one of the leading states for opiate overdose fatalities, yet legislators refuse to legalize a plant that can reduce that overdose rate and provide relief to thousands more Utahns for whom cannabis shows a high potential, whether by alleviating pain, managing symptoms, or even reversing or altogether mitigating an underlying condition.

Utah's drug laws must be amended to allow peaceful people to use cannabis for legitimate medicinal purposes.



LEMONADE STANDS LEGALIZED IN UTAH

Young entrepreneurs protected from bureaucratic overreach and police shutdowns.

Throughout the country, children have seen their budding businesses shut down by the state for not having obtained a permit and paying a fee. After four years of effort, Libertas Institute persuaded the legislature to prohibit cities and counties from requiring minors to obtain a permit, license, or pay a fee in order to operate an infrequent business such as selling lemonade, babysitting, mowing lawns, etc.



FREER MARKETS FOR FOOD TRUCKS

Redundant, burdensome, and unconstitutional regulations have been eliminated

As food trucks grew in popularity they faced duplicative licenses, redundant inspections, unconstitutional distance restrictions, and thousands of dollars in fees. We proposed legislation to streamline inspections and licensure while repealing the unconstitutional restrictions. The bill passed nearly unanimously, freeing up the market for these entrepreneurs to better grow their business.

VEHICLE SAFETY IN- SPECTIONS REPEALED

Data persuaded legislators that mandatory inspections do not decrease driving fatalities

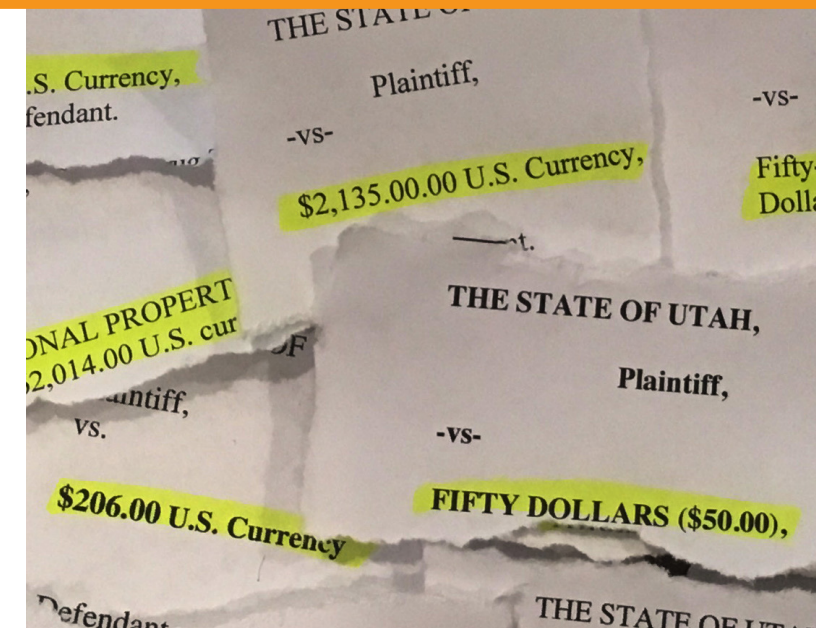
Utah was one of only 16 states that required mandatory inspections of vehicles as of this year. Yet several studies show that there is no increase in fatalities due to mechanical failures in states that repealed the requirement. Against significant opposition from industry members financially benefitting from the inspection program, we were able to persuade legislators to repeal this onerous mandate.



CLAMPING DOWN ON CIVIL FORFEITURE

New successes in our multi-year effort to restrict this problematic government practice

The government's ability to permanently take property from people without charging them with a crime is one that has required several years of legislative revisions. This year, we combated against prosecutors combining to undermine reform efforts and ultimately compromised on a bill that makes it more difficult for the government to take property using this controversial law.





FREE MARKET FUN FOR CHILDREN

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Following our successful effort to prohibit police and bureaucrats from shutting down small businesses operated by children who don't have a permit and license, we launched the Children's Entrepreneur Market—a summer program enabling young children to gain firsthand experience operating a business.

Think of it like a farmer's market but run entirely by children—hundreds of them! These micro-entrepreneurs sold food, crafts, toys, art, clothing, books, games, and, of course, fidget spinners! We held six events throughout the valley this year and hope to expand further in the years to come.

Learning how the free market works is best done through direct application, which is why we have enjoyed supplementing our policy work with hands-on activities such as the Children's Entrepreneur Market. The rave reviews from the children and their parents have convinced us to continue this important program.



1,300
ENTREPRENEURS



3,000+
CUSTOMERS



TONS
OF SMILES

CHILDREN'S 
ENTREPRENEUR
market

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Item	Tax
12 chairs	\$37
8 laptops	\$253
4 printers	\$77
10 desks	\$229
4 tables	\$61
3 TVs	\$82
1 copier	\$55
Total taxes due...	\$794

PICKING A TAX FIGHT

Utah law forces business owners to pay annual taxes on items they already own—equipment, furniture, computers, and more. Seven other states have eliminated this tax. We think Utah should do the same.

We sent a mailer to 18,000 business owners to alert them to our effort and have heard back from many who are frustrated with this duplicative, unfair tax. Now we're working with legislators and partners to reduce and ultimately repeal the tax.

Learn more about our effort at BusinessTaxFight.com.



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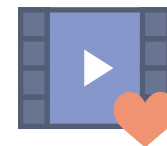
ATTENTION: UTAH BUSINESS OWNERS

Is the government taxing you on machinery and office supplies you *already* paid for...

EVERY YEAR?



A YEAR OF VIDEO



67 VIDEOS
PRODUCED



831,767
VIDEO VIEWS



*I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences
attending too much liberty than to those attending
too small a degree of it.*

—THOMAS JEFFERSON





The Association for Teaching Kids Economics

With over 100,000 Tuttle Twins books sold, Libertas Institute shifted its attention in late 2016 to begin placing copies directly in school classrooms around the country. This organic project quickly took on a life of its own, as demand from teachers eager to teach their young students about economics was quite strong.

93% of teachers participating in this pilot program indicated that they wanted more training on basic economic ideas to benefit their students.

Because the potential for this project exceeds Libertas Institute's mission and scope—focused only on the state of Utah—Connor launched a new nonprofit through which these activities will continue: The Association for Teaching Kids Economics.

“If economics is such an integral part of people’s lives and an understanding of economics is critical in helping people comprehend the modern world and make decisions that shape the future, then why isn’t economics taught in the schools beginning in the elementary grades?”

—Bonnie Meszaros, Director of the Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, University of Delaware

For the first half of 2017, Libertas raised funds to provide thousands of copies of our “Miraculous Pencil” book to K-8 students, and we developed a lesson plan teachers could use to introduce the basic ideas. As author of the book, Connor visited several classrooms to talk about the free market ideas in the book and engage students more directly.

ATKE will focus on introducing economic lessons and materials in K-8 classrooms, first around the country and later throughout the world. The organization will primarily utilize the Tuttle Twins books as a vehicle to help children understand economic ideas in a fun, meaningful, and relevant way. We are very excited to have “birthed” a new organization such as this, and look forward to helping ATKE succeed in the future.



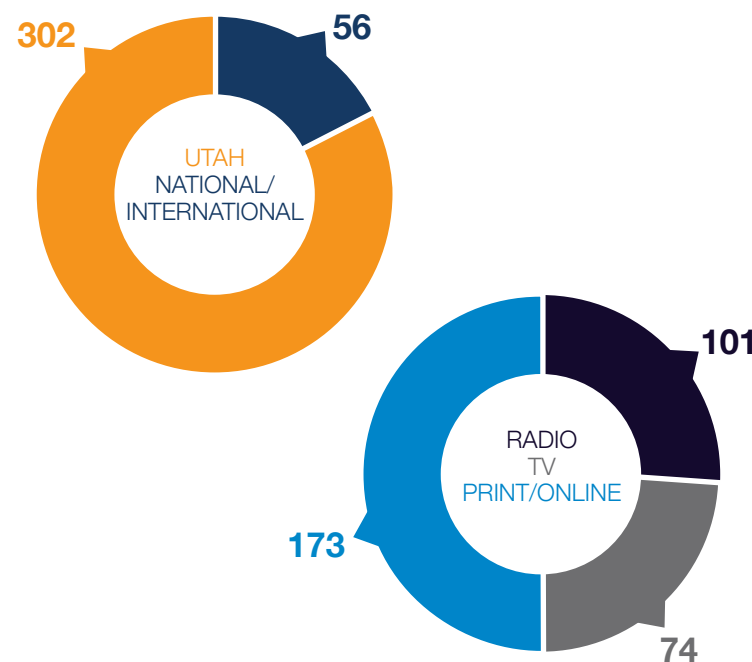
WHO REPORTED ON OUR WORK IN 2017?



MEDIA MENTIONS

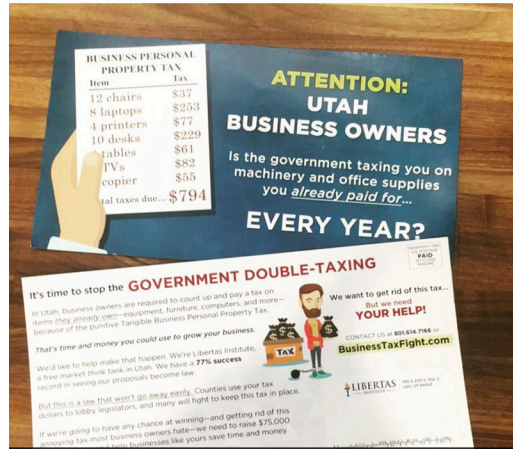
Compared to last year, Libertas Institute's work received 11% more earned media coverage and we placed 76% more op-eds.

While much of our work is behind the scenes or on issues that are unlikely to attract media attention, we take advantage of strategic opportunities to influence public opinion and shape the debate on important topics.



A SAMPLE OF OUR OP-EDS:

- Tax increase would offer little change, only more confusion (*Deseret News*)
- Utah needs a constitutional amendment to protect electronic data (*Salt Lake Tribune*)
- Can the free market help solve homelessness in Utah? (*Salt Lake Tribune*)
- Sheriffs' Misguided Policy on Medical Cannabis (*Standard Examiner*)
- Government intervention erodes community (*Deseret News*)
- What are your rights on government property that you helped pay for? (*Daily Herald*)



We mailed over 18,000 business owners about a punitive tax we are aiming to repeal.



Dr. Talbott, a chronic pain physician, shared his support for medical cannabis in our video.



Some of the Libertas staff together for a conference in Texas to share best practices.



Hundreds of Utah children participated in our Children's Entrepreneur Markets this year.



Bryan and Connor record an episode for our Society and the State podcast.



Our team visits dozens of events around the state to educate the public about our work.



Connor speaks with Matthew, a young boy suffering from severe epileptic seizures.



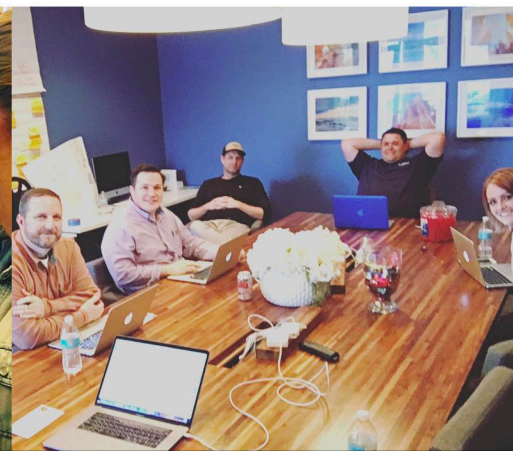
This year we persuaded legislators to repeal mandatory vehicle safety inspections.



Failed attempts to legalize medical cannabis led to a new ballot initiative attempt this year.



Our work has been featured in a record number of media impressions during 2017.



Staff at the office to brainstorm some of our policy priorities for the year.



Over 100,000 Tuttle Twins books have been purchased by people all over the world!

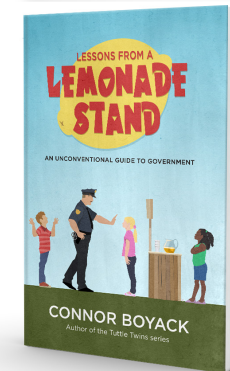
LIBERTAS INSTITUTE'S LATEST BOOKS

REACHING NEW AUDIENCES WITH OUR MESSAGE

Our 6th and 7th books in the “Tuttle Twins” children’s series were published this year—and as of October 2017 we’ve now sold over 100,000 copies! Each day we receive messages from parents who are so pleased to have found this material.

For too long, the rising generation has been ignored; organizations and activists tend to only reach out to adults and, in rare instances, high school students. By then it is often too late to combat the heavy bias, misinformation, or propaganda.

We are convinced that more educational material for children is needed so parents and teachers can help children understand important principles. Continuing our work in this area, we list on the following page the new books we have published in 2017!



The Tuttle Twins and the Golden Rule

Ethan and Emily Tuttle embark on their first summer camp adventure where they learn the universal principle—the “Golden Rule.” Competing teams turn into fighting rivals, but Chief Ron and his camp counselors help the twins and their teammates learn the dangers of aggression, revenge, and blowback—and why peace and friendship are important!

The Tuttle Twins and the Search for Atlas

In a world filled with consumers, what happens if the producers give up and leave? And how can people better practice personal responsibility and not have a sense of entitlement about the things they think they deserve? Ethan and Emily Tuttle tackle these questions in their latest adventure, this time as clowns in the visiting circus.

Lessons from a Lemonade Stand: An Unconventional Guide to Government

Are all laws legitimate? What if the government outlaws something you need to do? Is it okay to break the law if doing what’s right has been classified as wrong? These questions are explored in *Lessons from a Lemonade Stand*—an introductory explanation about government and law intended for teens and young adults.



The New York Times

Door-Busting Drug Raids Leave a Trail of Blood

Using SWAT officers to storm into homes to execute search warrants has led time and again to avoidable deaths, gruesome injuries and costly legal settlements.

March 18, 2017

Dr. Tom Nolan is a criminologist and SWAT veteran of the Boston Police Department. In a *New York Times* article he noted how high-risk “forcible entry” warrants are not reported on; it’s not at all transparent.

“This is kind of a secret world within a secret world,” he said. “They don’t open up.” As the *Times* reporter noted in his investigation:

“Utah is currently the only exception.”

That’s due to work by Libertas Institute which led to a transparency law that provides the public with an understanding of how police are using force in their communities. See the latest report: LibertasUtah.org/SWAT.

DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY AWARD

The following legislators achieved a Libertas Index ranking of 85% or higher during the 2017 session.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Brian Greene | Marc Roberts | John Knotwell
Dan McCay | Craig Hall | Jefferson Moss

SENATORS:

No senators received this year’s award.

AVERAGE 2017 LIBERTAS INDEX RANKINGS

HOUSE

56%

SENATE

47%

Higher is better. Score is out of 100%.



“There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.”

—Henry David Thoreau

OUR HOLISTIC APPROACH

ACCOUNTABILITY

The average voter has no effective way to hold elected officials accountable. We have developed several tools to change this, and are already making some incumbents squirm as their informed constituents can better scrutinize their voting record.

LEGISLATION

Each year, Libertas Institute offers, and advocates for, dozens of proposals for model legislation across a wide range of issues: parental rights, education reform, civil liberties, government transparency, taxes, etc. Our results speak for themselves: 77% of our proposals have been signed into law.

LITIGATION

Asking permission to exercise our rights can only go so far—sometimes it is important to assert them. We engage in strategic public interest litigation to protect the constitutional rights of all Utahns, using the judicial branch to help hold government accountable.

EDUCATION

Through public events, media commentary, original research, and our various publications, we are effectively persuading Utahns to better understand—and defend—our cherished freedoms. We also educate and work with youth of all ages in order to lay a solid foundation for the future of freedom.



Hundreds participate in our annual legislative bootcamp to learn how to influence the political process.

2017 LIBERTAS INVITATIONAL

Our annual golf fundraiser was a huge hit this year. We continued our tradition of creatively educating participants about some of our work—as in the case of vehicle safety inspections where we had each person (like our board chairman, John Pestana, fea-

tured in this photo) dress up in unneeded safety gear as they played. Our supporters appreciate the networking opportunity and the chance to have fun and compete for some big prizes while supporting our work. We're already looking forward to next year!



"Food trucks like mine are very difficult to operate successfully in our state; there used to be a number of regulations and fees that made it difficult for us to do what we do best: sell great food to our customers. Libertas has been a fantastic ally to us by helping free up the market so we can operate and compete without unnecessary and burdensome regulations."

—Sean Hintze, Sean's Smokehouse BBQ and Grill



"Helping Libertas Institute advocate for free markets—specifically, removing licensure requirements on home-based businesses—has empowered my children, who testified in committee, with the knowledge that they can make a difference. They learned that their involvement in the process brought freedom to all children throughout the state of Utah."

—Elaine Augustine, mother and home-based business owner

FREQUENT
RECURRENCE

TO

FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES IS
ESSENTIAL

TO

THE SECURITY

OF

INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS

UTAH CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SEC 27