WE WERE MADE FOR TIMES LIKE THIS
We were made for times like this.

The global coronavirus pandemic has affected our health, shuttered schools, left millions of Americans unemployed, and wreaked havoc on our economy. For our country to fully recuperate, our policymakers need solutions, and Americans need the freedom to recover.

That’s where the Goldwater Institute comes in. We were made for times like these. For over 30 years, we have stood in defense of liberty, as our namesake Senator Barry Goldwater did. Now, as we confront COVID-19, we are already helping our country get back on track.

Long before the virus hit our shores, the Goldwater Institute tore down red tape that stands in the way of better healthcare. Thanks to our Right to Try law, terminal patients can now access potentially lifesaving treatments. People are living now who had no chance of living. Today, Right to Try has opened the door to treat those suffering from the most severe COVID-19 cases.

With schools shuttered due to coronavirus, students and educators had to adapt to new ways of learning. Thanks to the Goldwater Institute’s work, many families already have tools to give their children an education that works for them, and we’re working to bring these tools to every state, so more kids can get the education they deserve.

And before we faced the economic turmoil this outbreak laid at America’s doorstep, the Goldwater Institute showed how states can help Americans get to work. Our Breaking Down Barriers to Work law gives Americans greater ability to continue working in their chosen profession when they move across state lines. Since its passage in Arizona last year, the law has benefited more than 1,600 people, and now, ten more states have passed legislation to help lower these barriers for new residents.

The Goldwater Institute is working to give America and its people the best chance to get back on our feet—to give us the freedom to bounce back and remain strong.

A message from Victor Riches, Goldwater Institute President and CEO:

AMERICA IS BEING TESTED UNLIKE EVER BEFORE

With schools shuttered due to coronavirus, students and educators had to adapt to new ways of learning. Thanks to the Goldwater Institute’s work, many families already have tools to give their children an education that works for them, and we’re working to bring these tools to every state, so more kids can get the education they deserve.

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SPARKING an American COMEBACK

GOLDWATER’S PLAN FOR REVITALIZING AMERICA AND RECOVERING FROM THE PANDEMIC
Finding a treatment and hopefully a cure for COVID-19—and whatever diseases may come next—are of paramount importance in protecting the ones we love and revitalizing America. The Goldwater Institute's policies are already helping to open the door for new treatments, and we are working to change America's healthcare system so that patients receive the very best treatment when they need it most.
Jordan McLinn & Matt Bellina have been national advocates for the Right to Try.

**Healthcare**

Americans are desperately awaiting a treatment for COVID-19, yet the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) bureaucratic drug approval process stands between patients and potentially lifesaving vaccines and treatments. The Goldwater Institute’s Right to Try law is already saving lives, has been a critical first step in speeding up the FDA’s process, and has opened the door for innovative treatments that Americans need in today’s crisis.

Right to Try protects the right of patients facing terminal or life-threatening illness to obtain and use cutting-edge medicines without asking first for government permission. The Goldwater Institute developed this law, which was adopted in 41 states and became federal law in 2018. Now, Right to Try works in tandem with the current FDA approval process to meet the immediate needs of patients facing life-threatening illness.

"Right to Try has been a tremendous success. People are living now who had no chance of living."

—President Donald Trump

President Trump signs Right to Try into law, surrounded by advocates and their families.
Matt Bellina of Holland, Pennsylvania, is a former U.S. Navy pilot whose service to the country was cut short in 2014 when he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease). Before long, he was out of treatment options. But there was another way—the Right to Try.

Right to Try gave Bellina and his family hope—and Bellina was one of the patients beside President Trump when he signed Right to Try into federal law in May 2018.

It’s fitting that as one of the patients most strongly advocating for Right to Try, he was one of the first beneficiaries of the federal law. In January 2019, Bellina began receiving an investigational treatment under the law, and within weeks, he was able to breathe more easily and even pull himself to standing from his wheelchair.

The Goldwater Institute was honored to welcome Bellina to Scottsdale last November for our Annual Dinner, where he received the Institute’s Freedom Award for his leadership in raising awareness for Right to Try and helping to make it the law of the land.

"RIGHT TO TRY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE IDEA OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. THE PATH TO GRACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THROUGH RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM. THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING FOR IT."
-MATT BELLINA, RIGHT TO TRY ADVOCATE
FIGHTING FOR TRUTH IN MEDICINE

Do you know that the federal government is preventing your doctor from getting the best information possible about treatments or cures, even in the COVID-19 crisis? Goldwater’s Truth in Medicine Act helps solve the problem.

About one in five prescriptions is “off-label,” meaning the medicine is FDA-approved, but it is prescribed for a different use or dosage. Though it’s legal for doctors to prescribe off-label, federal law makes it illegal for pharmaceutical companies to tell doctors about possible off-label uses. As a result, doctors and patients may be unaware of alternative treatment options lawfully available to them, and even if they are aware, the information may be dated.

As the U.S. looks to possible effective options to treat the coronavirus, it is important that medical professionals know and understand the arsenal of options at their disposal. The Goldwater Institute’s Truth in Medicine Act protects the dissemination of truthful, scientific information about off-label uses of FDA-approved drugs and will help improve healthcare for all Americans.
Giving Children the Education they Deserve

The coronavirus pandemic upended daily life for all Americans, but the effects have been especially challenging for children as schools across the country closed their doors. The Goldwater Institute knows that greater educational freedom can provide the options kids and families need to get through this crisis and to give them the education that best fits their needs after this outbreak. The Goldwater Institute is working to help ensure children receive the education they deserve.
EMPOWERING PARENTS WITH SCHOOL CHOICE

Education savings accounts—or ESAs—are one option that’s helping thousands of families have choice in education. An idea pioneered at the Goldwater Institute, ESAs take a portion of what a state would spend covering the cost of a student’s education in a K-12 public school and instead deposits that money into a personalized account—money that can be used to pay for tuition, tutoring, or teaching tools.

Six states currently offer ESAs to selected students, and the Goldwater Institute is leading the charge to expand ESAs across the country. In 2019, Tennessee followed Goldwater’s lead when it expanded ESAs for low-income students in struggling Memphis and Nashville-area schools.

Earlier this year, we helped to pass a law in Arizona that gives families of the Navajo Nation the unequivocal right to continue their children’s education at the school of their choice through the state’s ESA program. And in Utah, the state adopted an ESA-style scholarship for children with special needs, just like successful programs in Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

“We are so blessed to have the ESA program. My family was saved on ESA.”

-Chauncey Hallford, an ESA mom
EDUCATION

GOLDWATER FIGHTS FOR PARENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

ESAs have been a boon to children’s education—that is, until government has gotten in the way. Just ask Kayla Svedin. Arizona’s ESA program made it possible for her special needs daughter to attend a school where she got the individualized attention she deserves. Yet across the country, ESA programs face strident opposition from anti-school choice activists. The Goldwater Institute is standing strong on behalf of families and in defense of school choice.

In 2019, we stopped the Arizona Department of Education from undermining a family’s school choice options. Goldwater attorneys represented the Walton family, whose special-needs son benefitted from ESAs and who were wrongfully asked to “repay” thousands of dollars that they spent on a language-skills computer program for their son. Thanks to our work, the Department dropped its demands. This January, we filed a lawsuit on behalf of several other Arizona ESA families who are also embroiled in struggles with the state.

"THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING," SAID KAYLA SVEDIN, A MOM WHO HAS SEEN THE POWER OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.
EDUCATION

DEFENDING FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS
ALABAMA Follows Goldwater’s Lead

Violent protests have shut down speakers on campuses across the country, and administrators are not standing up to protect speakers’ and students’ First Amendment rights.

The Goldwater Institute developed campus free speech legislation that ensures free expression at public universities and establishes consequences for those individuals who forcibly inhibit the free speech rights of others. Several states passed the Goldwater Institute’s law, and it is already working. Take the case of Second Amendment supporter and conservative author Katie Pavlich. Protesters initially wanted to shout down Pavlich when she spoke at University of Wisconsin-Madison, but they decided against it because our free speech policy had been adopted in the state.

In 2019, Alabama became the latest state to follow the Goldwater Institute’s lead and passed a campus speech law requiring public institutions to consider sanctions for anyone in the campus community who violates someone else’s expressive activity; abolish so-called “free speech zones” that limit speech to isolated areas of campus; and require university trustees to report annually on free-speech incidents.

Alabama’s law follows the sound design of similar protections adopted in North Carolina, Arizona, Georgia, and by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents—all of which are based on the Goldwater Institute’s campus free speech model legislation, allowing individuals to protest on campus as long as they do not interfere with the expressive rights of others.
America’s economic shutdown has wrought havoc on businesses and their employees, and a once-surging economy is now stopped in its tracks. The Goldwater Institute is helping Americans get back to work so they can live their own American Dream.
GOLDWATER LEADS NATION IN BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO WORK

Today, about a third of Americans are required to get a government permission slip before they may work in the field of their choice. This isn’t just a significant burden on their right to earn a living, but it also prevents them from earning a paycheck when they move from one state to another, because they are typically forced to go through the government permitting process all over again—a costly, time-consuming, and irrational barrier to work.

In 2019, Arizona became the first state to adopt the Goldwater Institute’s Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act—a groundbreaking law that reduces red tape and helps experienced, licensed professionals get to work faster. This Act universally recognizes out-of-state occupational licenses based on the training or testing requirements that a person has already completed. This allows professionals who already hold a license in good standing in one state to be approved to work quickly in their new home state.

In the months following the passage of Arizona’s law, nearly a dozen state legislatures passed the Goldwater Institute’s law. As America reopens and legislatures reconvene, the Goldwater Institute will lead the charge in breaking down barriers to work across the country.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signs law recognizing out-of-state occupational licenses in 2019.
In Arizona alone, more than 1,600 people have been able to continue their careers without having to tangle with costly and time-consuming red tape in the year since the Goldwater Institute’s Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act was signed into law.

In one case, a San Diego-based construction and commercial electrical contractor with 25 years in the building trades was looking to grow his California business into Arizona. Bureaucracy stood in his way, but thanks to Goldwater, he’s able to practice his profession. In another case, an architect with 30 years of experience who designed billion-dollar hospitals was not permitted to work in Arizona. But thanks to Goldwater, getting his license “was a snap.”

And then there’s the case of Carol Gandolfo, a respected psychologist with 20 years of experience in California. Carol applied for an Arizona license—and qualified under the law—but was rejected because a state board suspected her of practicing psychology in Arizona without a license. “It hurt more than anything,” Gandolfo said. “All I want to do is help people.” The Goldwater Institute took up Carol’s case, the board backed down, and she was granted her license.
The Goldwater Institute continues to successfully defend Americans’ rights in courtrooms from coast to coast.

**COMBATTING UNIONS**

In 2018, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* opened the door to greater protection of workers’ free speech rights by protecting public sector workers from having to pay for speech they don’t support. At the Goldwater Institute, we’re keeping that fight alive, so that no worker will be forced into funding speech they don’t support.

In Jersey City, New Jersey, for example, we’ve been challenging a collective bargaining agreement that paid the salaries of two full-time teachers who did not spend their days educating children, but rather performing full-time work for their union. That’s a violation of New Jersey’s Constitution, which includes a “gift clause” that bans the state and local governments from giving money or property to any association. In August 2019, the New Jersey Court of Appeals agreed. The state Supreme Court will consider the case soon, and the Goldwater Institute will keep up the fight.

**FIGHTING IN COURTROOMS**

**FIGHTING FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS**

In Miami Beach, homeowners were threatened with up to $100,000 in fines per day just for using their property rights peacefully under the city’s ban on home-sharing. The Goldwater Institute stepped in and challenged the ban as excessive and in violation of state law. The trial court agreed, calling the fines “illegal and unenforceable,” and the Goldwater Institute won a resounding victory for homeowners.

**DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

In another injustice, Americans are forced to pay for speech or actions with which they fervently disagree. In a majority of states, attorneys are required to join and pay dues to a bar association to be allowed to practice law. All too often, those bar associations don’t just use members’ dues to make sure lawyers are qualified and behave ethically—they use that money for political and ideological advocacy, too. The Goldwater Institute is working across the country to take a stand for attorneys’ free speech rights, with cases in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Oregon.
For five years, D'Andre Bradley stood ready to defend his country as a U.S. Marine. But today—as violent crime is raging in Chicago—he is limited in his ability to defend his Chicago Heights home and his family, all because the state of Illinois is preventing him from exercising his Second Amendment right to bear arms.

That's why earlier this year, Bradley became one of four law-abiding Chicago-area residents who teamed up with the Goldwater Institute to sue the state of Illinois to ensure that their right is protected.

Illinois requires its residents to obtain a state license—called a Firearms Owners Identification (FOID) card—before they may purchase or even possess a firearm of any kind. But for Bradley and the other plaintiffs—who diligently applied for a card and qualify under the law—owning a gun is a virtual impossibility because the state has failed to issue cards within the 30 days required under the law. In fact, the state is taking as long as 60 days, 90 days, or even longer to issue licenses. The state, however, isn't willing to do anything about this. In fact, it persistently diverts money that should fund the processing of applications to other purposes. For people who need to protect themselves from an immediate threat, the state's delays could be deadly.

The Goldwater Institute’s lawsuit is asking the courts to order the state to give the individual plaintiffs their FOID cards immediately, and to issue all qualified applicants their cards within 30 days as state law requires. Or, if the state isn't willing or able to do whatever it takes to process applications on time, then the courts should just strike down the FOID law—which is constitutionally questionable in the first place.

"This is a basic civil rights issue," Bradley wrote in an op-ed in the Chicago Tribune upon the lawsuit’s filing. “Everyone has a fundamental right to self-defense. If the state is going to require a license to exercise that right, then it should at least respect its own time limit. And if it can't or won't do that, the courts should order it to do so—or just end the FOID scheme entirely. After all, the 48 other states without a FOID law show that Illinois has other options for promoting safe gun ownership—and respecting my rights is not optional.”

At press time, Bradley was still waiting for his FOID card to arrive. In short, his Second Amendment right continues to be denied. The Goldwater Institute will continue to stand beside Bradley in his efforts to make the state adhere to its own rules, so his constitutional rights—and the rights of all Illinoisans—are respected.
Merita Kraja’s American dream was in jeopardy. After escaping communism in Albania 30 years ago, she came to the United States, became a citizen, and opened a small business—Euro Pizza Café in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Her restaurant thrived for two decades, but then local law enforcement unfairly targeted her amid the COVID-19 crisis.

But Merita’s dream is still a reality—because of the Goldwater Institute’s American Freedom Network.

Goldwater’s American Freedom Network is our cross-country network of pro bono attorneys, taking the defense of liberty to all corners of the country. Through AFN, we have assembled a team of 350 attorneys in all 50 states and the District of Columbia who volunteer their time to support Goldwater litigation that defends constitutional freedoms. In three years, our attorneys have participated in over 70 litigation cases and projects. Our track record shows we have the presence and credibility to enact policies and defend freedom for Americans from coast to coast.

Merita is one of those Americans. Following Arizona’s executive order that limited on-site dining as a measure to protect against the spread of the coronavirus, Merita did everything to comply with the order, including blocking off her restaurant’s patio and indoor seating, so customers wouldn’t eat their food onsite. But some Euro Pizza patrons stopped in public spaces outside her restaurant to eat their food—and rather than holding those individuals accountable, city officials and law enforcement officers came after Merita, charging her with a crime for not policing public spaces.

That’s when the American Freedom Network stepped in to help Merita. AFN attorneys defended her against the unfair charges. Thanks to their efforts, the charges against Merita were dropped, bringing an end to the case and, hopefully, an end to this type of abuse of power by the city.

“Attorneys in the American Freedom Network are providing critical assistance to individuals in cities all over the country whose rights have been violated by the government,” said Goldwater Institute Director of National Litigation Jon Riches. “Their work is more important than ever, right now.”
At the Goldwater Institute, we reflect on the past year with gratitude—we’re thankful for the ability to make a positive difference in Americans’ lives, and we’re thankful for your unwavering support of our work to help make that difference.

The passionate support of our donors is at the very center of the Goldwater Institute’s resolve—it is the foundation on which we are able to build our efforts to help make Americans’ lives happier and more free.

At our 2019 Annual Dinner, Goldwater Institute President and CEO Victor Riches spoke about the need for Goldwater’s work. “We’re at the forefront of every fight to defend liberty,” he said. “The work we’re doing at the Goldwater Institute is so important, and we’re winning some huge victories. Our footprint grows bigger every day. Our resolve will only strengthen. No matter the odds, we will never back down in the fight for freedom.”
Paying Tribute to America’s Heroes

Held on Veterans Day Weekend in November 2019 in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Goldwater Institute’s Annual Dinner paid tribute to America’s heroes. Joining in the celebration were special guests U.S. Representative Dan Crenshaw of Texas—a retired U.S. Navy SEAL—and former U.S. Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who both spoke about the principles that our veterans have defended. “I am so amazed by the miracle that is the United States of America,” Chaffetz said. Veterans, who sacrifice so much for our country, “epitomize the American spirit.”

Standing Strong against Socialism

Socialism remains a real threat to freedom in this country. Many of our politicians welcome and encourage an expanded role for government in our society—higher taxes, more government programs, and greater restrictions on how Americans can live their everyday lives. At the Goldwater Institute, we’ve worked to bring attention to this threat and how to fight against it. Last October, we welcomed Heritage Foundation economics expert Romina Boccia to Arizona for a special event held by the Goldwater Institute and America’s Future Foundation’s Phoenix chapter to talk about the sway socialism holds over many Americans and how the philosophy stands in the way of human flourishing.

Staying Connected in Crisis

As the coronavirus epidemic took hold across the United States, the Goldwater Institute sought new and innovative ways to stay connected to our friends across the country. When in-person events have not been an option, Goldwater experts have been discussing important policy issues of the day through frequent teleforums.

DONORS

Jason Chaffetz
Former U.S. Representative, Utah

Dan Crenshaw
U.S. Representative, Texas

Jorge Galicia escaped Venezuela and moved to the United States—and today, he’s a vocal advocate and activist for freedom. He spoke about the ravages of socialism at a recent Goldwater Institute teleforum.
Goldwater Institute Launches Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy

In a time when the U.S. Constitution seems under attack at every turn, the Goldwater Institute now has a new way to fight back and defend our founding principles: the Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy.

One of the Van Sittert Center’s first efforts will be to combat the anti-American propaganda that is being served up to students in thousands of schools across all 50 states—and the concerted effort by the left to erase our country’s history. Through Goldwater’s academic transparency project, we are working to make sure parents know what is being taught in the classroom so they can judge the caliber and character of instruction awaiting their children. The Center also hosted its first event with Jorge Galicia, a 24-year-old native of Venezuela who spoke about how socialism devastated his home country. Galicia warned that the U.S. may be following down Venezuela’s tragic path, and he made a clarion call for defending our freedoms.

In what is the largest gift in the Goldwater Institute’s history, Barbara and Logan Van Sittert have generously funded this permanent center—only the second of its kind at the Institute. Thanks to the Van Sitterts’ vision, the Goldwater Institute will be able to greatly expand its work in defending constitutional liberties and promoting an understanding, appreciation, and support for America’s founding ideals.

For Barbara Van Sittert, her commitment to this important cause was born during her childhood. “I was born and brought up on a 200-acre Iowa farm during the Great Depression. We had no money, but plenty to eat,” Barbara recalled. “When my dad graduated from college in 1931, the job waiting for him was gone, so he returned to farming to support our family, while my mom planted a garden and canned our food. They made a good life through hard work and initiative in a country where they were free to succeed on the sweat of their brow. Those are the principles I want to uphold well into the future, and I can think of no better place than the Goldwater Institute to do it.”

Goldwater Institute President and CEO Victor Riches said that the Van Sitterts’ gift will have a tremendous impact in Arizona and across the country for generations to come. “Barbara and Logan’s dedication to preserving the constitutional principles that have made our country great are second to none,” Riches said. “The Goldwater Institute is proud to be home to the Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy, and we are eager to begin the hard work of realizing Barbara and Logan’s vision for a strong and prosperous America.”
FINANCIALS

EXPENSES: $5,866,315
1: Program Services $4,800,561
2: Fundraising $614,076
3: Management & General $451,678

REVENUE: $6,998,174
1: Individuals $4,043,717
2: Foundations $1,507,380
3: Other $1,447,077

SUMMARY
Cash & Equivalents $3,219,956
Net Fixed Assets $1,541,033
Other Assets $4,557,195
Liabilities $2,224,208

NET ASSETS: $7,093,976

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SPREADING GOLDWATER’S MESSAGE

The Goldwater Institute harnesses the power of traditional and social media to talk about our legislative and litigation work—and how it can change Americans’ lives for the better.


Our experts were also a regular presence on local and nationally syndicated radio shows, helping to circulate Goldwater’s work to an even wider audience. All told, since the start of 2019, our work has been mentioned more than 10,000 times in traditional and social media. That’s a testament to the influence our efforts are having not just on legislation and litigation, but in the public consciousness, too.

Now two years old, the Goldwater Institute's In Defense of Liberty blog continues to grow into a go-to source for smart analysis, with frequent contributions from Goldwater experts providing insight into policy and litigation across the country. In 2019 and 2020 so far, 200,000 visitors turned to In Defense of Liberty nearly 300,000 times for our analysts’ and attorneys’ views on everything from improving the state of healthcare to making education work for all students.
There will always be challenges that lay ahead for America—challenges that threaten to take away our rights, challenges that put life as we know it in jeopardy, challenges that require us to find new and innovative solutions. That’s why the Goldwater Institute is keeping up the fight for freedom on multiple fronts.