



I was watching the first half of last night's Monday Night Football game – the LA Rams vs. the Buffalo Bills – when the ESPN announcers aired a brief commercial for a new Disney animated film coming out the day before Thanksgiving.

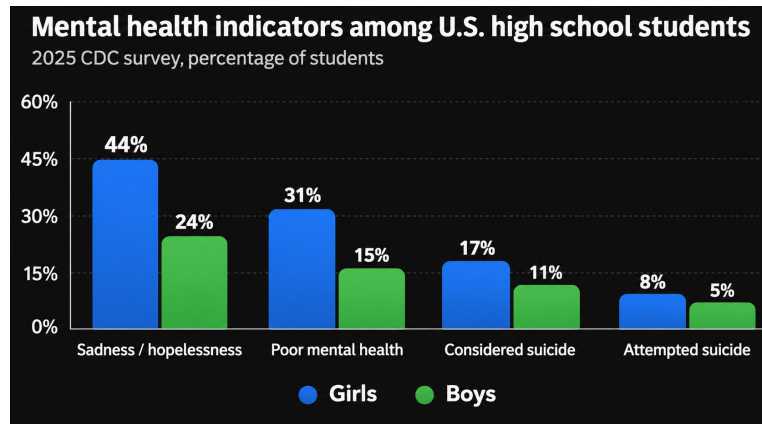
Now, in my growing-up years (yes, I'm old), a Disney film released around Thanksgiving would typically have a wholesome story that might tug at our heartstrings or evoke gratitude and appreciation for what is good and beautiful.

Well, from what I saw in that advertisement last night, Disney is (and has been) up to something quite different. The upcoming feature film is called "Hexed," and from the ad, it seemed to me to be aimed at young girls and focused on dark, supernatural forces that can't possibly be a positive influence on young minds.

I kept thinking about it this morning, so I looked up the movie online – and here is the description:

- **Story:** A misunderstood teenage girl named Billie Doe discovers she has magical powers and enters a mysterious world of witches, spells, and enchanted creatures.
- **Themes:** Magic, witchcraft, self-discovery, identity, and belonging.

My suspicions about the film's theme were confirmed, further deepening my concern for the well-being of girls in our society, many of whom are already grappling with identity and mental health issues, loneliness, and suicidal thoughts. Young people in our culture face serious challenges, but girls are faring worse.



Now, I'm not saying that this or other Disney films are the cause of this, but it certainly can't be a good thing to encourage teens and younger children to explore witchcraft during these critical years of self-discovery. And when our girls (and boys) are barraged with messages in our culture and society that run counter to what is true, good, and beautiful, well, it's little wonder what we are witnessing among the young.

These concerns feel especially acute to me after hearing Rachel Campos-Duffy, the keynote speaker at our "Friends of the Family Banquet" on Saturday night. Before an audience of more than 900, Rachel delivered an eye-opening look at some of the cultural messages deliberately aimed at our children and grandchildren, especially girls.





Social media influencers and teen-idol celebrities, for example, have been recruited by groups like Planned Parenthood to target girls, encouraging sexual experimentation and cheering abortion, with no concern for the loneliness and desperation left in its wake.

Rachel's message was sobering, and for the PA Family Institute team that fights the cultural battle, the stories and examples were all too familiar. But for many in the audience, it was a wake-up call that revealed the extent to which the enemy is targeting our children. As Rachel said, "If you're not talking to your daughters about all this, someone else will."

In my on-stage portion at the banquet, I quoted Dr. James Dobson from his 1990 book, *Children at Risk*, in which he wrote:

Children will be the prize to the winners of the great civil war of values. Those who control what young people are taught and what they experience—what they see, hear, think, and believe—will determine the future course of the nation.

He was right. Friends, we know there is a lot at stake, and that God has called us to be Salt and Light in this culture. At PA Family, with your prayers, support, and engagement over the years, we have truly helped push back on behalf of children and families, and for that, I'm grateful. We continue to fight, and by God's grace, we'll rescue more and more from the one who seeks to harm them. Thank you for partnering with us.

Sincerely,



Michael Geer
President & CEO
Pennsylvania Family Institute

P.S. I really wasn't expecting the Bills-Rams game to be the fodder for a Perspective email, but here we are!

P.P.S. Elections are a crucial way we can impact our culture for good – but only if we vote. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, and you can access our online voter guide at pafamilyvoter.com. We also have print copies available in bulk that are suitable for distribution at church. You can [order them here](#).

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