



The Washington Flyer
April 3, 2009

Stimulus Dollars Reach Schools. The first allotment of federal stimulus dollars, \$44 billion, went out to public schools this week. Funds allotted for education in this bill doubled the education budget from its level under President Bush. A large portion of the funding is intended to save teachers jobs. However, provisions have been set in place for some funding to be used for school construction projects. State schools systems also have the opportunity to compete for additional funding for innovative initiatives designed to improve teacher quality and academic test scores.

The Administration is keeping a strict watch on the education funding going to states. Secretary Arne Duncan has made it clear that he will “come down like a ton of bricks” on any state not using the funding exactly as instructed. South Carolina Governor learned this first hand when his request to redirect some of the state-allotted funding toward paying down state debt was refused. As a result [he declined to accept the funding.](#)

The U.S. Department of Education also released guidelines this week on how the education funding could be used for students in private schools. As before, funds can be used to provide student services through a private school if the provisions of previously set regulations are met, including the “Individuals with Disabilities Act” and “Adult Education and Literacy Act.” Visit the [Department of Education](#) for more information.

The Fight to Protect Parental Rights. Parents of faith-based communities are being challenged to raise their children in an era where it is unpopular to set standards or rules. Discipline now walks a fine line with abuse, and even the U.S. Supreme Court has favored children’s rights over parental rights in certain cases because “parental rights” is not explicitly stated in the U.S. Constitution. While children are encouraged and almost forced to attend public schools at a younger age, it is now clear that Senator Hillary Clinton’s famous phrase, “it takes a village to raise a child” is not too far-fetched.

The United Nations created an international treaty, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which allows governments to intervene on behalf of “the best interests of the child,” meaning the government would take priority over parental decisions. While this may be appropriate in cases such as abuse, the treaty is outlined so that parents must demonstrate or prove that they are good parents, rather than the state intervening based on evidence. This treaty has been ratified by 193 nations, but the United States has never joined because of the efforts of conservatives to point out the threats the treaty presents to parental rights. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is a strong supporter of the CRC, and many believe she will work to push the Senate to ratify the treaty. Furthermore, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a strong advocate of the CRC and is reportedly pushing the Obama Administration to move towards ratification [pushing the Obama Administration to move towards ratification.](#)

In an effort to protect parental rights and prevent government interference, Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) has introduced a constitutional amendment along with 70 cosponsors that would “explicitly establish the Rights of Parents,” leaving no room for argument or future disagreement when lawmakers and judges are faced with such issues. Rep. Hoekstra understanding the importance of a parent’s role in the life of a child states, “The right of parents to raise their children as they see fit is under direct attack by government and the courts.” His solution, The Parents’ Rights Constitutional Amendment, “is about preserving that right for parents as opposed to empowering policymakers either in Washington or any other organization.” He has a Web site, www.parentrights.us, with more information and a [place for people to sign](#) indicating their support.

Not only will the Parents’ Rights Amendment nullify the U.N treaty, but it will also allow parents to make decisions that best suit their children. The amendment’s language was carefully written to “preserve parental rights, while protecting

children who are in danger of abuse or neglect.” Representative Hoekstra believes securing a U.S. constitutional amendment is essential to protecting and preserving parental rights and the child-parent relationship.

Many pro-family organizations are standing alongside Representative Hoekstra in support of his constitutional amendment. American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) and the Home School Legal Defense Association have been on the forefront fighting for the preservation and protection of parental rights. Dr. Keith Wiebe, President of AACCS, believes “the primary responsibility for raising children lies with the parents, not the government, and this amendment to the U.S. Constitution reinforces this fundamental principle.”

The Home School Legal Defense Association has a Web site regarding the CRC and the Parental Rights Amendment. Visit www.parentalrights.org for more information.

***ACTION:** Please encourage your Representative to support the Parental Rights Amendment (H.J. Res. 42). Contact information can be obtained at www.house.gov.*

REMINDER: **Deadline for comments on conscience-protection regulation reversal is April 9th.** Please visit [A Doctor's Right](#) or [Freedom 2 Care](#) for information and to submit your comment. This regulation will require medical professionals to perform abortions and other procedures even if it violates their own moral or religious beliefs. For more information, please contact Randy Pate at 202-546-4400.

Family-Friendly Social Networking. Millions of Americans are joining popular social networks such as Facebook and Myspace in order to monitor their child’s profile and to protect them from inappropriate elements. Now there is an alternative. Over 291 million Americans can now access Tangle.com, the “largest content safe, family friendly social network” available to families. Tangle allows individuals to access all the benefits of a social network without the fear or submission to unwanted and inappropriate themes or images. Churches and Faith-based schools are finding this new tool to be very successful in keeping their students and members connected while protecting them from any harmful content. Before being published on the Web site, all content and material uploaded or submitted to Tangle.com is protected and monitored closely by a Community Care Agent. While Facebook and Myspace may contain questionable content, Tangle promises to provide a “family-friendly marketplace to enable people to interact, communicate, and build a community online in a safe and monitored environment, providing a safe haven where the entire family can safely enjoy the benefits of social networking without the concern of abusive, gratuitous or inappropriate content.”

For more information visit www.Tangle.com.

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