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“America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America, because we are freedom’s home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.”

President George W. Bush, September 14, 2001

D.C. Parents Practice Civil Disobedience

In an [attempt to decry](#) the President’s and Congress’ actions to strike down funding for the D.C. Scholarship Program, six nationally recognized educational leaders including “former Democratic D.C. Councilman Kevin P. Chavous, longtime D.C. education activist and executive director of DC Parents for School Choice Virginia Walden Ford, the Rev. Anthony Motley, Black Alliance for Educational (BAEO) Board Chair Dr. Howard Fuller, BAEO President Gerard Robinson, and education reform leader Darrell Allison” all blocked the entrance to the Department of Education as 50 families from the District joined D.C. Councilman Marion Barry for a rally outside.

Their act of [civil disobedience](#) was in response to the recent action by the Administration to cancel the program and rescind the scholarships for [216 students](#) after promising these students from low-income families that their scholarships would not be canceled. According to former Councilman Chavous, “Two weeks ago, it became painfully clear that the Obama administration was not going to allow 216 previously accepted children to enroll in schools of their choice through the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP). As much as I support our President and Education Secretary Arne Duncan, this action reeks with hypocrisy.” Virginia Walden Ford also remarked, “President Obama and Secretary Duncan must stop ducking this issue and answer immediately why it makes sense to deprive low-income kids of the opportunity to go to better schools. As a product himself of private school scholarships, the President's actions are bizarre and misguided.”

While police did arrive, no arrests were made and the rally remained very civil. As for their success, only time will tell, but these supporters of school choice are not backing down and have already planned another rally to be held at the U.S. Capitol on September 30th. Their efforts to have the President and the Department of Education back the program are essential in seeing the program reinstated by Congress. As Dr. Howard Fuller pointed out, “If the President and Secretary Duncan want to keep their promise of ‘funding what works, regardless of ideology,’ it’s time to walk the talk and stand up for a program that gives low income students in D.C. a way to seek a viable educational future.”

President Speaks to School Children

As the President [addressed children](#) throughout the country on their first day back at school, he outlined a clear message on the importance of staying in school with a focus on personal responsibility. His speech, perhaps one of the most conservative, principled speeches he has given since taking office, came after days of criticism from all sides. While most believed the President should be given an opportunity to address the students as Presidents have done in the past, many parents and teachers alike were concerned with the “study guides” or “teacher plans” which were released by the Department of Education for use in classrooms. After much criticism, the White House changed the wording in the documents so that the statement which encouraged students to find

ways to “help the President” instead encouraged students to write down ways that they can achieve their short-term and long-term goals.

Last week, Representative John Kline, ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee, called on the President to allow parents to review his speech prior to the address, and the White House complied by [posting the text of the speech](#) Monday, the day before he spoke. In an op-ed titled “[The President’s Teachable Moment](#),” Rep. Kline further explained the concerns over the President’s address to school students: “The objections from parents and school leaders were not simply a matter of political preference or rash ideological rejection. Rather, it was a very visible demonstration that in this country, education is largely viewed as both a local right and a local responsibility. Parents, teachers, and local school leaders believe they—not the federal government—are best equipped to design courses and develop assessments to ensure educational excellence for their students.”

Rep. Kline concluded his article by stating, “President Obama delivered a positive, uplifting message to students this week. The fact that many Americans were rubbed the wrong way by what amounted to a federal recommendation about what to teach, and how to teach it, is a signal that no matter how well-intentioned, education reforms simply cannot be dictated from Washington. That’s the lesson policymakers should have learned on the first day of school.”

Another Case against Stem-Cell Research

A huge breakthrough came for those in the fight against using embryonic stem cells for research, after a new study conducted at Stanford University found that [fat cells can be transformed](#) into multi-purpose cells that are “embryonic-like.”

Stanford University’s Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Institute found the fat cells were able to transform into the three main tissue types of the body. While previous research conducted found that fat cells were able to transform into muscle cells, this is the first time the research showed the cells to be “embryonic-like,” even more so than the transformation of adult stem-cells. Many are [welcoming the idea](#) of using fat cells for research, not only due to less controversy surrounding the use of embryos, but also for the abundant supply of fat cells in the nation.

Texas Law Requires Bible be Taught in Schools

“The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.”

-Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775

Texas is moving in the right direction as each school district is now required to [include Bible literacy](#) elective courses or implement Bible literacy into current classes. The mandate comes after a bill was passed in 2007 requiring that all school districts implement curriculum which adheres to the importance of the Bible as a historical document by the 2009-2010 school year. Teachers are to use the Bible only for its historical significance and literary accomplishments, rather than actually teaching the principles derived from the Bible or promoting a particular faith.

Jonathan Saenz, a lawyer for Liberty Legal, praised the initiative. “This is a huge victory for the people of Texas and, I think, for people across the country for academic freedom. There are 1,300 references to the Bible in the works of Shakespeare alone. Over 60 percent of the allusions studied in English come from the Bible. Students are going to be better academically and culturally when they hear about the Bible.” He went on to explain the students’ desire for the curriculum stating, “Students more and more have been demanding the courses. The problem has been that school districts have been threatened for offering the courses. Now they’ve got the state board of education’s clear guidelines, and support from the attorney general.”

In Case You Missed It:

["Gay" Man Sues Bible Publisher](#)

[Michigan VA Hospital allows Chaplain to Visit, Pray, and Read Bible](#)

[UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization pushes Abortion Information on 12-year-olds](#)

[Obama Pitches Health Care Reform to Students Prior to Speech](#)



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