



**The Washington Flyer  
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*“The government of the United States is acknowledged by the wise and good of other nations, to be the most free, impartial, and righteous government of the world; but all agree, that for such a government to be sustained for many years, the principles of truth and righteousness, taught in the Holy Scriptures, must be practiced. The rulers must govern in the fear of God, and the people obey the laws.”*

Emma Willard, American Historian, 1843

**Oral Arguments Heard on Proposition 8**

This week, a three judge panel of the California Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on the constitutionality of Proposition 8, the state constitutional amendment passed in November 2008 that upheld the traditional heterosexual view of marriage and effectively made same-sex marriages unconstitutional. Five months prior to this voter referendum, the California courts had ruled that same sex marriages were legal and subsequently 18,000 couples sought legal recognition. After Proposition 8 was enacted, a flurry of lawsuits, amicus briefs, and petitions were filed on both sides. In August of this year, District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* that banning same sex marriage was unconstitutional. Defenders of Proposition 8 appealed the ruling; and on Monday, oral arguments were presented before the California Court of Appeals. One justice on the panel, Judge Stephen Reinhardt, made headlines after [refusing to remove himself](#) from the case after reports surfaced of his wife’s employment as executive director for the southern California chapter of the ACLU, one of the groups that played a lead role in opposing Proposition 8. During the oral arguments, Lawyer Charles Cooper defended heterosexual marriage as a foundational pillar of society, while Theodore Olsen countered that there should be no discrimination against homosexuals in marital status recognition. A ruling is expected sometime next year. An appeal will likely occur regardless of the victor in this latest battle.

**Important Pro-Life Amendment Added to Women Veterans Bill of Rights**

On December 1, 2010, by voice vote, the House of Representatives passed the Women Veterans Bill of Rights that includes strong pro-life language. Although the original intent of Rep. Robert Filner’s bill was to ensure that women veterans receive comprehensive healthcare and treatment from physicians with specific training in women’s health issues, the resolution contained broad language that pro-life groups [feared](#) would be used as a basis for several controversial, taxpayer funded procedures. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Chairman of the Pro-life Caucus, successfully requested to add a [crucial amendment](#) that cited previous measures that prohibit veterans’ hospitals from performing abortions. In the Congressional Record, Rep. Smith cited the many veterans’ benefit packages that he has sponsored in the past and his continued commitment to ensure that the increasing number of women veterans receive quality healthcare and gender specific services such as childcare services, trauma counseling, and survivor benefits.

**Letter Urges President to Retract National Motto Comment**

Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA), Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, along with 42 members of Congress sent a [letter](#) to President Obama urging him to issue a correction to a speech he made while traveling in Indonesia last month. During a visit to the University of Indonesia the President [remarked](#), “But I believe that the history of both America and Indonesia should give us hope. It is a story written into our national mottos. In the United States, our motto is *E pluribus unum*—out of many one... Our nations show that hundreds of millions

who hold different beliefs can be united in freedom under one flag.” According to the members who make up the bi-partisan caucus, this was a false statement. The letter states, “*E pluribus unum* is not our national motto. In 1956, Congress passed and President Eisenhower approved the law establishing ‘In God We Trust’ as the official national motto of the United States.” The letter also addressed three scenarios in the last few months where the President failed to acknowledge God or the Creator as the source of our inalienable rights. The letter reads, “Additionally, during three separate events this fall, when quoting from the Declaration of Independence, you mentioned that we have inalienable rights, but consistently failed to mention the source of the rights. The Declaration of Independence definitively recognizes God, our Creator, as the source of our rights. Omitting the word ‘Creator’ once was a mistake; but twice establishes a pattern.” The 42 members who signed onto the letter requested the President [issue a correction](#) to the speech in Indonesia and stated their willingness to have a meeting with the President to discuss the matter further.

### **“Common Sense Concepts” series**

The American Enterprise Institute recently launched a new initiative, the Project on Values and Capitalism, to educate Christian college students on a variety of social and economic issues. A part of this project includes the publication of the “Common Sense Concept” series. These concise and informative books tackle subjects such as economic cycles, environmentalism, and capitalism and can be easily integrated into classroom curriculum. Renowned policy experts demonstrate the compatibility of Christian morality and free enterprise concepts. Visit [CommonSenseConcept.com](http://CommonSenseConcept.com) to learn more.

### **AACS Welcomes New Staff Member and Congratulates Another**

We are pleased to welcome Courtney Holloway to our AACS Legislative Office to serve as the Legislative Assistant. An alumna of Christian schools, Courtney has a passion for Christian education and a strong interest in and knowledge of the issues that we monitor in our D.C. office. For the last five years, Courtney has taught history and government at Ko’olau Baptist Academy in Kaneohe, Hawaii. We are excited to have her joining our staff in D.C. The AACS would like to publicly say thank you to Sarah Griffith for her excellent work in our Legislative Office. Her gracious, cheerful attitude and tireless work have been a tremendous help to our work at AACS, and we have greatly appreciated her passion and commitment to helping the cause of Christian education. While we are sad to see Sarah go, we are excited for her and her upcoming wedding plans and offer our sincerest congratulations.

### **In Case You Missed It:**

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[CA Parents 'Trigger' Failing Schools](#)

[Military Chiefs Urge for Delay of Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal](#)

[Rep. John Kline to be Chair of House Education and Labor Committee](#)



Editor: Maureen Wiebe  
Staff Writer: Sarah Griffith  
Legislative Office, 119 C Street SE, Washington, DC 20003  
Phone: 202.547.2991 • Fax: 202.547.2992

