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Do as I say, Not as I Do

Common sense would suggest that those who oppose or threaten the existence of school choice programs in the states would obviously be strong proponents of the public school system. However, when talking about U.S. Congressional Members this is not the case. In a continuing study conducted by the Heritage Foundation since 2000, U.S. Senators and Congressman alike have practiced private school choice in their own lives, despite many of their efforts to hinder the existence of such programs.

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) a product of private schooling and a parent of children enrolled in private school, was the architect of legislation that is threatening to end the D.C. Scholarship Program, a program which allows children from low-income families to receive federal funds to enroll in the private school of their choice. According to the study conducted by Heritage, Senator Durbin is not alone. "Thirty-eight percent of Members of the 111th Congress sent a child to private school at one time." The study lays out the following points about these [findings](#):

- 44 percent of Senators and 36 percent of Representatives had at one time sent their children to private school;
- 23 percent of House Education and Labor Committee Members and nearly 40 percent of Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Members have ever sent their children to private school;
- 38 percent of House Appropriations Committee Members and 35 percent of Senate Finance Committee Members have ever sent their children to private school; and
- 35 percent of Congressional Black Caucus Members and 31 percent of Congressional Hispanic Caucus Members exercised private-school choice.

The irony lies in the fact that these Members of Congress, many of whom recently and blatantly threatened the existence of school-choice programs, feel so strongly about the current status of the public education, they send their own children to private schools. Perhaps these Members have claimed the motto, "Do as I say, not as I do."

Throughout the 2007-2008 legislative sessions, great incentives and support was given to states for the introduction of school choice programs. During that time period 44 states introduced school choice legislation. According to the Heritage report, "Private-school scholarship programs benefited approximately 171,000 children in 2008- a growth of 89% since 2004." While the momentum and support for these programs was strong, with a new Administration and leadership in 2009, the support has come to an abrupt halt with threats to the existence of these programs. President Obama, whose two young daughters attend a very prestigious private school in D.C., signed into law the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. This Act included the provision to cancel the D.C. Scholarship Program, despite the recent reports of the program's success among students within the District.

Though states would not necessarily be financially dependent on the federal government for these programs, a lack of support from the new Congress and Administration would seem to make it difficult for these states to create new scholarship programs or even to proceed with many of the programs already started. American's should be afforded the same rights that their Representatives practice and be given the responsibility and choice as parents to educate their children where they know is best.

U.S. Capitol Bible Reading Marathon

“So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and It shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” -Isaiah 55:11

From May 3 through May 7, hundreds will participate in the 20th Annual U.S. Capitol Bible Reading Marathon. The marathon will be 90 hours of continuous Bible reading starting in Genesis and continuing throughout Revelation. Congressmen, pastors, police chiefs, teachers, nurses, school children, and others will participate by reading Scripture on the steps of the Capitol building, 24 hours a day for 4 ½ straight days. According to the International Bible Reading Association, “the event serves to honor the Bible as the Holy Word of God.” With the marathon, hundreds will pray for the nation and hope in the promise “that our proclamation of His Holy Word will have a profound effect on our city and nation.”

The U.S. Capitol Bible Reading Marathon, established by Dr. John Hash and Dr. Corinthia Boone in 1990, to “proclaim the Bible’s importance to our nation’s past, present and future,” provides an opportunity for people of all ages, political parties, cultures, and backgrounds to come together in support of this mission. “We are living in a time of confusion, but the Bible is a book that has answers to every problem in the world. Our objective is to get people to read it,” states Dr. Hash.

For more information on this event please visit: [DC Bible Marathon](#) or [International Bible Reading Association](#)

Selling 17-year-olds a Plan B

“Were the power of judging joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control, for THE JUDGE would then be THE LEGISLATOR. Were it joined to the executive power, THE JUDGE might behave with all the violence of AN OPPRESSOR. ”

–As quoted by James Madison in Federalist Paper #47

With the slamming down of one U.S. District Justice’s gavel, parents nationwide lost the rights to protect their children, and the health of young women was skyrocketed to an incredibly dangerous level. Justice Edward Korman urged the FDA to reconsider their policy that restricted over-the-counter sale of “Plan B,” a birth control, or abortion pill to customers less than 18 years of age. The [FDA released on Wednesday](#) its concordance with the ruling and is set to now allow 17-year-olds to purchase the pill with no doctor’s prescription or parental consent.

While it is illegal for a 17-year-old to purchase Sudafed or other cold medicines, it is perfectly fine for a 17-year-old girl to buy an abortion pill much stronger than any other birth control pill resulting in a higher degree of dangerous side-effects. U.S. Representative Mike Pence [condemned the decision](#) stating, “The recent FDA decision to allow 17-year-old girls the ability to access the morning after pill is tragic. Now minors will be able to walk into a drug store and terminate a potential pregnancy without the consent of their parent or doctor. Under the guise of reducing ‘unwanted pregnancies,’ this decision erodes the rights of parents to supervise the health of their children. The FDA is putting aside the health of young girls in order to advance a culture of abortion-on-demand.”

The pill is [designed to kill](#) a fertilized egg by not allowing it to implant inside the mother’s womb. The object is to take the pill within 72 hours of unprotected sex to insure that the egg has not already been implanted resulting in pregnancy. The debate over the restriction of the pill has been an ongoing process where politics has taken a large role. Supporters of the pill would like to see all restrictions removed including all age restrictions. This, however, would open the risk for even younger girls and would encourage risky behavior, not to mention the loss of parental rights. According to Wendy Wright, President of Concerned Women for America, “This decision is driven by politics, not what is good for patients or minors. Parents should be furious at the FDA’s complete disregard of parental rights and the safety of minors.”

Time and time again parent’s have lost their God-given rights to protect their children and care for them, even amidst the hardest and most difficult times in life through baseless, politicized, and oppressive pounding of a Justice’s gavel. Representative Mike Pence continued his opposition stating, “Also troubling is the reality that

this recent decision was made possible by an unelected federal judge. This is more judicial activism that replaces the will of the American people, and their elected representatives, with the perceived wisdom of unelected judges. For the health and safety of our children, it is critically important that parents and their elected policymakers reassert their rightful authority over the area of public health policy.” Perhaps it is time for justices to go back to the classroom and read the intentions for which the Judicial Branch was founded upon.

In case you missed it:

[Economy takes a toll on Private School tuitions](#)

[State Rankings on Pro-Life Issues](#)

[12 New Policies that Undermine Civil Society](#)



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