



# THE WASHINGTON FLYER

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

**The Washington Flyer**  
**May 18, 2012**

*Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we've ever known.*

**Ronald Reagan**

## **Education Committee Highlights Parental Involvement**

On Wednesday, a House Education and the Workforce subcommittee held a [hearing](#) to highlight successful state efforts to increase parental engagement in education. The president of the Connecticut Parents Union stated that schools need to aggressively seek to partner with parents rather “than burdening our society with failed schools, overcrowded prison and juvenile systems, and an overreliance on safety nets and social services.” Kevin Chavous (American Federation for Children) promoted private school scholarship programs as a means of empowering parents to choose the best educational options and increase overall satisfaction. When zip codes and poverty doom students to failing and underperforming schools, school choice initiatives give parents the means to find a school that better suits their child’s unique needs. The committee also explored how the proliferation of charter schools has encouraged parental involvement and created “laboratories of innovation.”

## **Pro-Abortion Groups Fail to Attract Millennials**

Nancy Keenan, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), has announced plans to [resign](#) in the wake of a series of pro-life gains nationwide. Keenan explained that she is stepping aside in order to allow younger people to move up within the organization. With the rise of groundbreaking technology, Millennials are not falling prey to the abortion industry claims that unborn children are simply fetuses that can be easily aborted with no adverse effects. In stark contrast to the lack of youth participation in NARAL, Students for Life of America (SFLA) has more than 700 college chapters as opposed to fewer than 300 pro-abortion college groups. Although this positive trend is encouraging, Kristan Hawkins, head of SFLA, notes pro-life organizations need to continue their education efforts among young people.

## **Defense Reauthorization Amendments**

As the House Armed Services Committee works on the annual National Defense Authorization Act for FY2013 (NDAA), several Members have introduced amendments which ensure the religious liberty of chaplains and service members. Since the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” chaplains and service members have found it increasingly difficult to express their religious or moral objections in the military. Rep. Todd Akin (MO) and Rep. Steven Palazzo (MS) offered amendments that were added in the House Armed Services Committee markup of the bill. Rep. Akin’s amendment provides conscience protections for chaplains that enable them to minister according to their faith’s doctrinal creed without fear of reprisal. Rep. Palazzo’s amendment prohibits the performance of same-sex marriage ceremonies on military bases. The Chaplains Alliance for Religious Freedom and the Alliance Defense Fund are working to preserve the freedom of all service members to adhere to their beliefs while they serve our country.

## **Colorado Civil Union Bill Stalls**

Although Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper called a special, extended legislative session, the highly controversial civil union [bill](#) was [blocked](#) in a 5-4 committee vote. The bill's backers did not expect the bill to pass, and opponents say that the issue of same-sex marriage is being used as a political weapon. State Representative Don Coram opined that by opposing the legislation he is upholding the will of the voters. In 2006, Coloradans rejected a similar proposal. Opposition groups such as Compass Colorado launched a series of ads highlighting the nearly \$25,000 a day price tag of holding a special session. Advocates revived the oft repeated rejoinder warning the opposition that they would not be "on the right side of history" and that the legalization of same-sex marriage is "inevitable." The bill appears to be tabled for this session, but its proponents vow to bring the issue up next term. Carrie Gordon Earll, CitizenLink's senior director of Issues Analysis, stated, "Virtually everything in this bill is already in state law. It's about an incremental national strategy to usher in same-sex marriage, and it's naïve to think that this strategy that's worked in other states won't happen in Colorado." To read about the pro-marriage rally, [click here](#).

## **Telemedicine Safety Act**

Rep. Steve King (IA) along with 47 of his colleagues has introduced H.R. 5731, the Telemedicine Safety Act. This legislation seeks to end taxpayer funding for "telemed abortions" and prohibit physicians from doling out abortifacient drugs across state lines. In telemed abortions, physicians participate in videoconferences with female patients and then remotely unlock a drawer in the patient's room that contains the powerful drug, RU-486. There have been well documented cases of severe bleeding and even death associated with RU-486.

## **Alabama Opposes Common Core Standards**

Initially, cash strapped states were quick to adopt the unproven, controversial Common Core Standards (CCS). Only four states have resisted the pressure to join the CCS consortium. Although the CCS promoters extol the "voluntary" nature of the math and reading standards, the connection to millions in federal funds prompted states to craft education reform plans around the standards. Subsequently, further evaluation of the standards and the cost of implementation have led several states to reconsider their hasty decision to adopt the Common Core. Utah and South Carolina have both considered measures to step away from the standards. Recently, the Alabama Senate has adopted a [resolution](#) to "encourage the State Board of Education to take all steps it deems appropriate, including revocation of the adoption of the initiative's standards if necessary, to retain complete control over Alabama's academic standards, curriculum, instruction, and testing system."

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

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

[The New Tolerance Includes Church Vandalism](#)

[NOM Commends North Carolina Voters](#)

[The New York Times Makes a Splash on College Loan Debt](#)

[Letter From Pastor Youcef Thanks Supporters and Urges Prayer](#)