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Lexie's Law

This week, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law a bill which gives parents of disabled, foster or educationally challenged children the choice of where to best educate their children based on their needs. "Lexie's Law," named after a student with special needs, came about after the AZ Supreme Court struck down a voucher program aiding challenged children. The new bill will not only enable the 473 disabled and foster children who were enrolled in the program that the Court struck down to continue their vouchers, but will also expand the programming by allowing a [\\$5 million corporate tax credit](#) to businesses who help fund a scholarship program that keeps the children enrolled in a private school that will best meet their specific needs.

Despite the criticism from teacher unions, the law continues to gain support from parents, teachers, legislatures, taxpayers, and children alike. According to Chip Mellor, President of Institute for Justice, "Arizona's political leaders acted quickly to save these scholarships because they know that school choice works for children and taxpayers, just as lawmakers in states nationwide are recognizing." [The Alliance for School Choice](#) also praised the decision stating, "Today's passage of a new, and more robust school choice program in Arizona is a key victory for Arizona families, is smart public policy, and is a lifeline to the students whose educations were endangered." John Schilling, the interim president of the Alliance for School Choice continued, "This decision is also a moral victory for families, who have fought hard to preserve educational opportunity for their children against an onslaught of litigation brought by special interest groups. In the end, Governor Brewer and the legislature helped these families prevail over the special interests."

"A Tale of Two Murders"

This past week Americans profiled two horrific acts of violence as Dr. George Tiller, known for his heinous acts against the unborn, was murdered in his church. A day later, America also witnessed a United States Army recruiter be murdered and another seriously injured, as they were fulfilling their duties in the great country they serve. Both acts of violence were horrific and unacceptable, yet the [difference in response](#) to both incidents is perhaps even more chilling. Within hours of the announcement of George Tiller's murder, the President appropriately [released a statement](#):

"I am shocked and outraged by the murder of Dr. George Tiller as he attended church services this morning. However profound our differences as Americans over difficult issues such as abortion, they cannot be resolved by heinous acts of violence."

Attorney General Eric Holder also [dispatched U.S. Marshals](#) to protect "appropriate people and facilities around the nation," in response to the murder of George Tiller. While authorities believe Tiller's murderer acted alone, precautionary steps were taken.

In response to the murder of a U.S. Army Private, William Long, on home soil, the President stated absolutely nothing. Attorney General Eric Holder also made no comment and no U.S. Marshalls were directed to other recruiting stations, despite authorities, including the FBI, unsure if the suspect, a newly converted Muslim, acted alone or as evidence may be suggesting had ties with other domestic terrorists.

It was not until three days after the attack and an outcry from conservative media links and American citizens alike, that the President released this statement:

“I am deeply saddened by this senseless act of violence against two brave young soldiers who were doing their part to strengthen our armed forces and keep our country safe. I would like to wish Quinton Ezeagwula a speedy recovery, and to offer my condolences and prayers to William Long’s family as they mourn the loss of their son.”

Understanding the busy schedule of the President, it is still difficult to believe a simple statement or condolences to the family were not a priority. In fact, the President was even given a superb opportunity to denounce the actions of the perpetrator and give his respects to the soldiers and their families not even 24 hours after the attack when he announced the new Secretary of the Army. Again, nothing was said or mentioned. Some critics believe the President did not make comments regarding the attack earlier, [fearing its impact](#) when he traveled to the Middle East later in the week to reach out to Muslims.

While the President may not have made his remarks as hastily as many would have hoped, others were perturbed even further by the choice of words the President used and his ignorance to denounce the reasons behind the attacks. Bloggers criticized his word usage in response to the attack on the recruiters claiming “senseless act of violence” was a ignorant view of the evidence that suggests the actions were not senseless but rather planned and operated with a goal in mind. The President’s comments of being personally “shocked and outraged” when learning of the death of an abortion doctor compared to his “deeply saddened” statement of the attack on the U.S. soldiers also seemed a bit out of touch with many Americans.

Benjamin Franklin once stated, “Words may show a man’s wit, but actions his meaning.” While the President addressed both horrible incidents in words, his actions to remain silent for three days when a soldier was murdered by a terror suspect, compared to his rapid response to the murder of an abortion doctor have brought some questioning of his meanings.

Flag and General Officers Speak Out

On March 20, 2009, the President was presented with over a thousand signatures from Retired Armed Force Veterans along with [a letter](#) supporting their position that “homosexuality is incompatible with military service.” Generals and Admirals along with many veterans who have held distinguished offices within the military signed the letter which stated, “Our past experience as military leaders leads us to be greatly concerned about the impact of repeal on morale, discipline, unit cohesion, and overall military readiness.” They urged the President to support the current law, which was passed in 1993, stating [the dangerous effect of instituting gays in the military](#). With thousands of servicemen, veterans, medal recipients, and heroes signed onto the letter, perhaps Congress and the President will lend a listening ear and support the men and women who proudly serve us by continuing to protect their mission, discipline, and morale rather than adhering to special interest groups who seek nothing more than to further their own political agenda.

Schoolchildren’s Health Protection Act

U. S. Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO) reintroduced this week the [Schoolchildren's Health Protection Act](#). The bill will [prohibit schools](#) from distributing the “morning after pill” to minors without parental consent. After a recent court ruling which now requires the FDA to allow the emergency contraceptive pill to be made available over the counter to girls as young as seventeen, it has also become policy to make the pill available through their schools without any consent from the young girl’s parents. Under regulations through Medicaid, SCHIP and Title X funding, schools who receive the funding must make available contraceptives, including emergency contraceptives such as the morning after pill.

Congressman Lamborn stated, “The so-called morning after pill can induce abortion, if conception has occurred, and has no place in our public school health clinics. This bill would prohibit federal funds from going to any school that distributes or provides emergency contraception or a prescription for such contraception.” The Schoolchildren’s Health Protection Act, H.R. 2458, currently has 44 co-sponsors.

ACTION: Please [contact your Congressman](#) and ask him to SUPPORT the Schoolchildren’s Health Protection Act, H.R. 2458.

In Case You Missed It:

[New Hampshire Legalizes Same-Sex Marriages](#)

[Group Aims to Block D.C. Marriage Bill](#)

[Religious Freedom Prevails In CA](#)

[President Declares June 2009, "GLBT Pride Month"](#)

[400 Seniors Recite the Lord's Prayer in Protest to ACLU Lawsuit](#)



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