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Federal Standards on Education

As the U.S. Federal Government takes over the Bank and Auto industry and is working hard to become the sole provider of Health Care, is Education the next to be hijacked by the Federal Government? Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, is currently on a [“listening tour”](#) to find out what provisions and changes should be made to the current No Child Left Behind Policy. While touring, the Secretary acknowledged that he has seen support for establishing a “common standard,” and expressed his concern for the current state-by-state standards stating a better alternative that he calls “common higher standards, internationally benchmarked” would “get away from each state doing its own thing.” Mr. Duncan reiterated the necessity of developing a national standard by stating, “Let’s do one thing, and let’s hold ourselves accountable.”

Secretary Duncan also commented that, “Parents and students are really smart consumers. They have more options than ever before,” when it comes to choosing higher education, but nothing was said about giving parents more choices when it comes to their children’s earlier education. With the threat of a universal pre-k program and “0-5” before and after school programs looming in Congress, it is evident that a more permanent and dominant role of the Federal government in the affairs of Education and the lives of young children is being rigorously sought after.

Political Correctness Vs. History

After seven years of construction and almost triple the original estimated costs, the Capitol Visitor Center opened this past December. With intentions to make the Capitol more accessible to more Americans, over 15,000 visitors are expected each day. The new center contains statues that were originally displayed in the Capitol, numerous theatres, an enormous cafeteria, along with a gift shop. The center also proudly displays numerous exhibits which tell the story of the Capitol and its history. Or does it? Senator DeMint of South Carolina, after concluding a private tour with the Chief Architect of the Capitol before the center was open to the public was [appalled to find](#) the “Capitol Visitor Center displays are left-leaning and in some cases distort our true history,” including the “most prominent display proclaims faith not in God, but in government.” No mention was made of God and inscribed on marble as “the Nations Motto” was not “In God We Trust,” but rather “E Pluribus Unum,” the Latin phrase meaning “out of many, one.” Senators and Congressman were also outraged when a replica depicting the House Chambers included everything, except for the words “In God We Trust” which is found in the House Chamber above where the speaker sits. Sen. DeMint remarked, “It seems that this idea of secularizing our country is being forced by this federal government, particularly, and their surrogates, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).”

This is not the first time however, that America’s true history and foundations have been covered up for the sake of political correctness. In 2006 Pastor Todd DuBord from California visited the U.S. Supreme Court and was [astonished when the tour guide](#) deliberately pointed to a small image of the Ten Commandments and told the tourists it was an image of the “ten amendments” of the bill of rights. For years courts have fought to maintain images depicting the Judeo-Christian principles through local, state, and federal means. National Monuments such as the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument have all become scrutinized in order to maintain the ideal of political correctness. Yet should history be defined by what is deemed to be politically correct?

Representative Forbes also expressed his disdain in the recent [shunning of the Nation's Biblical foundations](#) stating, “Historical buildings like the Capitol Visitor Center are there to tell the story of our nation. When

religious history is removed from these displays, the American public is not able to observe an accurate depiction of our nation's story.” He further implored, “We owe it to those who have gone before us and to our future generations to provide a complete representation of our nation's heritage. We will continue to fight until this is achieved in the Capitol Visitor Center.” Through the efforts of Representatives such as Forbes and Senators like DeMint, the Capitol Architect has plastered over the words “Our Nation’s Motto” before the inscription of “E Pluribus Unum” and the words “In God We Trust” was placed on a replica of the House Chambers.

Continuing the effort to include the true history of the Capitol and its founding, Congressman Dan Lungren of California has introduced [a bill](#) in the House, along with Senator DeMint in the Senate that would direct “the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of ‘In God We Trust’ in the Capitol Visitors Center.” The bill has 56 co-sponsors and is expected to pass on a bipartisan vote.

While the visitor’s center’s exhibition hall and the center’s website boldly proclaims, “We have built no national temple but the Capitol. We consult no common oracle but the Constitution,” a quote made by Representative Rufus Choate in 1833, the center gives no mention to the historical fact that the [Capitol was used as a Church building](#) before Congress actively worked there and continued to be used for a church until after the Civil War. Both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate gave approval for the building to be used in such a manner. While this may be a little known fact, it is history of the U.S. Capitol building and all facts whether politically correct or not should be taught to those who wish to fully captivate the history and foundations that not only built the American Government but were a significant factor in the foundations of the very buildings in which the Government operates.

ACTION: Please contact your [Senators](#) and [Congressman](#) and ask them to support [H.Con. Res 131](#), and the [Senate’s Version](#).

California recognizes Religious Liberty

[Religious freedom was upheld](#) in California after the state threatened to disrupt a Bible study being held in a San Diego home. San Diego County officials came to the home of the Joneses, who hosted the Bible study, and conducted a brief interrogation of the events that transpired at these meetings, such as do you say “Amen” or “Praise the Lord” or even “sing”? After affirming these actions were taking place, the Joneses were issued a citation warning the family “to cease/stop religious assembly on parcel or obtain a major use permit.” Shocked that the County could infringe on their right to freely exercise religion the Joneses knew that obtaining a permit could cost thousands of dollars; however, if they failed to obtain the permit the officials warned “it will get ugly.” Thankfully, with the help of local media their story reached the public and immediately protests began and the county backed down. After an overwhelming stream of criticism came from the public, the County Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard stated, “No one respects [the right to free religious expression](#) more than I do, and no one would find the infringement of such rights more abhorrent.” While the county now claims their misunderstanding and concern was based solely on parking issues, had the public not stood up and protest, religious intolerance may have prevailed.

U.S. Court Upholds “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

Just a few weeks after the President declared the month of June to be “[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month](#)” the GLBT community has received a setback in their agenda as the U.S. Supreme Court decided to upholding current law when dealing with gays serving in the military. This week the Court refused to hear the case that challenged the current policy known as “[Don't Ask, Don't Tell](#),” infuriating those who protested the policy to be unconstitutional. The policy was adopted in 1993 under the Clinton administration after President Clinton’s attempts to allow gays to openly serve failed. The Court found “don't ask, don't tell” is “rationally related to the government's legitimate interest in military discipline and cohesion.” The decision to refuse the case comes just a week after thousands of distinguished military officers and veterans [signed a letter](#) to the Obama Administration and the Members of Congress warning against any attempts to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

In Case You Missed It:

[Congress Establishes Office for Global Women's Issues- Strikes down Pro-Life Amendment](#)

[FRC Opposes New Assistant Deputy Secretary For the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools](#)

[Double Standard on Presidents and their Faith?](#)

[Dr. George Tiller's Family Announced the Closing of Health Clinic Permanent](#)



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