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“Christianity...is in fact, and ever has been, the religion of the people. This fact is everywhere prominent in all our civil and political history, and has been, from the first, recognized and acted upon by the people, as well as by constitutional conventions, by legislatures and by courts of justice.”

Supreme Court of New York

Oklahoma Governor Signs School Choice Program

A huge school choice [victory](#) was won in Oklahoma as the state’s Democrat Governor, Brad Henry, signed into law the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program Act. The new program will allow for low-income families with special needs children to receive a voucher to attend a school of their choice. Parents now will have the ultimate choice in deciding what type of education is best for their child.

According to Betsy DeVos, chairman of the [American Federation for Children](#), “This new program will provide much-needed opportunities to thousands of families struggling every day to ensure that their children are provided with the highest-quality education. We salute Governor Henry for his leadership in enacting this transformational new program, and we congratulate the bipartisan team of Oklahoma legislators who worked together and put politics aside for the sake of helping children with special needs.” The American Federation for Children is a public policy organization working to provide states with school choice programs.

The bill was [passed](#) earlier this year in a bipartisan effort headed by State Representatives Jason Nelson (R-Oklahoma City), Jabar Shumate (D-Tulsa), and State Senator Patrick Anderson (R-Enid). Oklahoma’s new program is the 19th private school choice program instituted in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

DOD Authorization Poses Problems

Just eleven months after liberal democrats in Congress hijacked a Defense Authorization bill with the extremely controversial hate crimes amendment, the democrat leadership is poised to do it again. This could be accomplished by adding two highly contentious amendments to another Defense bill. The Burris Amendment which will essentially override military precedent and allow for military doctors to [perform abortions](#) at military hospitals and facilities, as well as an amendment that repeals the policy known as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, which prohibits homosexuals from serving in the military, are expected to be included on the Defense bill. Both the passing of the Burris Amendment and the repeal of the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Policy could put our military at risk and allow social experimentation to occur within our nation’s security forces while in the midst of two wars.

Pro-life advocates are voicing strong opposition to the proposed amendment that would defy the [US Code Title 10](#) of the Armed Forces, which states:

Section 1093. Performance of Abortions: [Restrictions](#)

(a) Restriction on Use of Funds. - Funds available to the Department of Defense may not be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term.

(b) Restriction on Use of Facilities. - No medical treatment facility or other facility of the Department of Defense may be used to perform an abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or in a case in which the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

The amendment proposed by Sen. Burriss (D-IL) explicitly states that:

Section 1093 of the title 10, United States Code, is amended-

- 1) By striking subsection (b); and
- 2) In subsection (a), by striking “RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF FUNDS.”

By striking these restrictions, not only would military hospitals be required by law to facilitate abortions, but also military doctors would have to be [trained](#) in performing abortions. Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council stated, “Medical facilities would turn into abortion clinics funded entirely by U.S. taxpayers.” Perkins further expressed the potential problems that exist if the abortion ban is lifted, referencing the temporary lift on the ban in the 1990s. He stated, “President Clinton allowed military abortions back in 1993, doctors refused to perform them. Ultimately, the administration had to hire civilians to do the job. With Americans more pro-life than ever, it will be difficult to find men and women willing to destroy the next generation of U.S. soldiers. The military was meant to combat terrorism – not perpetrate it against the unborn.”

Another major threat that lies within the DOD Authorization is the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and the underlying law that prohibits homosexuals from serving in the military. Many concerns have been raised regarding the capability of the military to implement a change in policy while in the midst of fighting two wars. Top officials from every branch of the military asked Congress to [refrain](#) from passing the repeal legislation until a study had been conducted by the Pentagon, and the findings analyzed. However, Congress has ignored the advice from the military's top officials and passed legislation in the House that would repeal the policy. Now leadership in the [Senate](#) wishes to do the same. Many conservatives find it troubling that the democratic leadership in congress, in accordance with the Obama Administration, is working to promote a social agenda and appease special interest groups. This focus has been promoted rather than adhering to the advice of those in command of our armed services and allowing our troops to center their attention on the task at hand.

ACTION: Please Contact your [Senators](#) and urge them to **OPPOSE** the Burriss Amendment as well as the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the Defense Authorization bill.

Conservatives Voice Concern over Kagan Nomination

As the democrat leadership rushes to schedule congressional hearings on Elena Kagan, the new Supreme Court nominee, republicans have received over 40,000 documents on Kagan and await the release of nearly 100,000 more documents from the Obama Administration. Since the nomination was announced, conservatives have not backed away from [voicing opposition](#) to Kagan for her [pro-abortion views](#) as well as her [anti-military and pro-homosexual](#) stance. While Kagan does not have any judicial record and has been very careful in her writings, many conservatives believe she will become one of the most liberal to serve on the highest court.

While serving in the Clinton Administration, Kagan seemed to be very pragmatic in her writings in order to successfully push a political agenda. She has made numerous comments on the subject of life, writing memos on [abortion funding](#), [partial-birth abortion](#), as well as embryo stem-cell research, and [assisted suicide](#). Carrie Severino of the Judicial Crisis Network stated in regards to Kagan's writings, “The documents show a politically savvy Kagan, and bring to the fore the question of whether she would be able to set aside her deeply ingrained political instincts to evenhandedly apply the law.”

Other concerns have been raised on Kagan's background and judicial philosophy. Frank J. Gaffney Jr., President of the Center for Security Policy and host of "Secure Freedom Radio," points out that her activity regarding recruiters at the Harvard Law School shows her to be anti-military. In a recent article, he writes that Kagan was busy [pushing](#) the military recruiters off the Harvard Law School campus during her tenure as its dean. She was also [very supportive](#) of having "what amounted to Saudi recruiters ensconced there for the purpose of enlisting some of the nation's finest young lawyers to work for the industry know as Shariah-Compliant Finance (SCF)." In addition, as dean, Kagan undertook the effort to update and revise the law school curriculum. This update included the removal of Constitutional Law and the addition of International Law in the curriculum. On the Harvard law school [website](#), Kagan said, "This marks a major step forward in our efforts to develop a law school curriculum for the 21st century."

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Obama Nominates Judge who "Empathizes" with Serial Killer](#)

[Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Scott Brown, and Others Opposed to National Standards that Lower Massachusetts's Education Standards](#)



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