



# THE WASHINGTON FLYER

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**The Washington Flyer**  
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*Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined.*

**Patrick Henry**

## **Secretary Duncan Meets with LGBT Students**

In an effort to highlight June's designation as "LGBT Pride Month," Secretary of Education Arne Duncan participated in a [meeting](#) with eight student representatives from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Network. The students discussed their school experiences and dialogued about efforts to stop bullying. They also discussed the need for teacher sensitivity training and increased data collection about bullying and harassment of LGBT youth. According to the students, the Civil Rights Data Collection survey should be used to help assess LGBT issues and inform policymakers about possible solutions. The Department of Education has hosted two other summits on bullying prevention and plans to conduct another summit later this year as well. Many have noted that bullying prevention efforts are being hijacked by homosexual activists who push for indoctrinating curriculums, sensitivity training, and the formation of GSA clubs in public schools. The Alliance Defense Fund has authored model anti-bullying guidelines that seek to prevent bullying against all students for any reason.

## **Parental Rights Amendment**

The Home School Legal Defense is spearheading efforts to garner support for adding the Parental Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. Representative Trent Franks has [introduced](#) HJ Resolution 110, and Sen. Jim DeMint has introduced the companion bill, SJ Resolution 42. Mike Farris, founder of HSLDA and seasoned constitutional lawyer, felt compelled to author this amendment after several Justices expressed doubt about the fundamental rights of parents in the case *Troxel v. Granville* (2000). The case focused on a state decision to override some parents' wishes involving third party visitation rights. Since the state felt that it was in the best interest of the child to allow the visits, the parents were stripped of the right to decide who would be granted access to their child. During the case, Justice Antonin Scalia, a strict constructionist, argued that he was hard pressed to rule in favor of the parents since parental rights are not addressed in the Constitution. Since that monumental case, international treaties such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child have threatened to further erode parents' ability to rear, educate, and guide their children in the manner that they deem best. If the UN treaty is adopted, parents would no longer be allowed to practice corporal punishment or compel their child to attend church services. Ultimately, governmental prerogative would supersede parental decision making. To read the text of the amendment, [click here](#). To view the FAQ document, [click here](#).

## **ENDA Hearing**

On Tuesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing on S. 811, the Employee Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA). The House version, H.R. 1397, has 165 co-sponsors this

Congress. The bill states that an employer cannot “fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment of the individual, because of such individual’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.” At the hearing, Kyle Broadus became the first openly transgender person to testify in the Senate. Craig Parshall, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Religious Broadcasters, was the sole [witness](#) for the minority. Although ENDA is unlikely to pass this session, sponsors of the bill held this hearing to highlight the bill. Several Senators reasoned that the measure would promote fairness, reduce discrimination in the workplace, and benefit employers. Mr. Parshall contended that adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes would infringe on the religious liberty of employers to hire those who share their deeply held beliefs and open the floodgates for litigation. He also cautioned against allowing the courts to define who qualifies as a religious employer.

### **Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rallies**

Last Friday, the second wave of “Stand Up for Religious Freedom” rallies was [held](#) in cities across the country. Thousands attended over 150 rallies to show their support for religious freedom. Rally coordinators are continuing to highlight the unconstitutionality of the Health and Human Services mandate stemming from the healthcare law. In Washington, D.C., Rep. Michele Bachmann and pro-life activist Lyla Rose delivered stirring speeches in Senate park. Ben Johnson, LifeSiteNews.com bureau chief, stated that “It’s a test of our strength and our resolve, an attempt to set a binding precedent, and it’s an attempt to weaken our resources against the more serious attacks that are to come.” The Supreme Court is expected to announce its decision about the healthcare law by the end of June.

### **Prayer Caucus Update**

The [Congressional Prayer Caucus](#), led by Representative Randy Forbes, seeks to highlight the importance and role of prayer for people of all faiths, collect and distribute information about prayer, and use the legislative process to support faith-based initiatives. Since the group’s inception in 2005, membership has grown to over 150 Members of Congress. The bipartisan group has fought to include religious inscriptions on national memorials, keep the right to hold National Day of Prayer observances, and maintain religious liberty for all. Their current projects include encouraging Colorado Governor Hickenlooper to litigate on the behalf of the state’s right to observe the National Day of Prayer and sponsoring legislation to include President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s prayer on the World War II Memorial. To learn more about the caucus’ work, [click here](#).

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

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

[New Research on Children of Same-Sex Parents Suggest that Differences Matter](#)

[Teachers Unions Earn “F” for Wisconsin Recall Abuse](#)

[Proverbial Shutdown Averted](#)

[Planned Parenthood Celebrates Defeat of Religious Liberty Measure in North Dakota](#)