



The Washington Flyer
June 22, 2012

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
Benjamin Franklin

Agreement Reached on DC Voucher Program

After months of negotiations, Speaker John Boehner and Senator Joseph Lieberman have secured continued funding for the highly successful D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program (DCOSP). Last Spring, the Administration agreed to reinstate the program after reaching a budget agreement. In February, the President symbolically zeroed out funding for the program in his annual budget proposal. The Department of Education also opposed lifting enrollment caps on program participation. This week, the Speaker's office announced that an agreement had been reached with the Department of Education. As the Speaker noted in a press release, the voucher program is both "effective and cost effective." The Heritage Foundation, which has long advocated for the continuation of the program, noted that although D.C. public schools have an abysmal 55% graduation rate, DCOSP students have a 91% graduation rate. Also, the DCOSP saves taxpayers approximately \$10,000 per pupil annually (\$8,000 DCOSP voucher v. \$18,000 DC public schools). As a result of the agreement, the program will have no enrollment caps and accept new applicants. The AACCS Legislative Office listed the DC Opportunity Scholarship program as one of its legislative priorities for 2012.

Pennsylvania Enacts Abortion Clinic Requirements

On June 19, Pennsylvania lawmakers enacted strict new health and safety regulations for abortion clinics. Only fourteen of the twenty-two existing abortion clinics meet the new regulations. The grisly [conditions](#) found in Dr. Kermit Gosnell's Philadelphia abortion clinic brought attention to the lack of oversight and investigation of clinic facilities. Although Dr. Gosnell's clinic had received numerous complaints, no investigations were made into the veracity of the allegations. A 2011 investigation produced a 261-page report that detailed horrific findings: unsanitary blood-soaked facilities, bags and bottles containing aborted baby parts, botched abortion attempts that resulted in serious complications for several women and eight deaths (seven babies and one woman). Dr. Gosnell now awaits prosecution for his heinous crimes. As a result of that case, abortion clinics will now receive unannounced inspection visits, findings will be posted online, and clinics will be required to meet the same standards as outpatient surgery centers. The Pennsylvania Secretary of Health has characterized these new regulations as a "public health victory" for women.

President Celebrates LGBT Pride Month

For the last four years, President Obama has [celebrated](#) June as LGBT Pride month. In a White House speech, he exhorted the LGBT community to continue to fight for their rights. He also reaffirmed his support for the homosexual agenda. The President also rehearsed the litany of his pro-LGBT actions such as the passage of the Matthew Shepard Act, refusal to support the Defense of Marriage Act, and the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" in the military. Furthermore, the President stated that "Americans may be still evolving when it comes to marriage equality but as I've indicated personally, Michelle and I have made up our minds on this issue." The President's speech invoked language similar to Civil Rights

era leaders with the following statement: “So we still have a long way to go, but we will get there. We’ll get there because of all of you.”

ADF Appeals Photography Case

A Christian photography company is [appealing](#) a New Mexico court’s ruling that would force the owners to pay fines for refusal to photograph a same-sex commitment ceremony. Although the couple was able to secure another photographer, they filed charges with the New Mexico Human Rights Commission. The Commission fined the Elane Photography Company over \$6,600 dollars for violating the same-sex couple’s rights. The Alliance Defense Fund is appealing the troubling ruling in this case, *Willock v. Elane*. “Unfortunately, this is just a snapshot of what’s happening around the country in business, sports, Hollywood, and schools,” writes Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council. “Homosexual activists are absolutely determined to punish people who refuse to embrace and celebrate their lifestyle choices.”

Washington Places SSM on Ballot

After Washington Governor Christine Gregoire [signed](#) legislation legalizing same-sex marriage earlier this year, traditional marriage advocates have gathered more than enough signatures to halt enactment and place the measure before the voters in November. Signature gatherers were able to obtain over 247,000 signatures. Washington was the seventh state to legalize same-sex marriage. The law in question would grant the title of “marriage” to civil unions which already enjoy virtually all of the privileges of traditional marriage in the state. In November, three states—Maine, Maryland, and Minnesota—will also be considering measures that deal with the legalization of same-sex marriage.

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Student Loans and Double Standards](#)

[Senate Signals Left Turn for Central America](#)

[On Contraception Mandate, the Obama Administration Potential Proposed “Accommodation Fails to Protect Religious Freedom and Moral Conscience](#)

[Judge Strikes Down Arkansas School Choice Law](#)