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"Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity... and leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system."

-Samuel Adams, October 4, 1790

North Carolina Favors School Choice

In an effort to organize a case for school choice in North Carolina, the [John Locke Foundation](#) conducted a [survey of private schools](#) in the state to gather information and data that is not normally reported to the public. The results were categorized in four areas: academic environment and students, personnel, finance, and attitudes towards school Choice.

According to the Academic environment in which the study was conducted, the average private school enrollment consisted of 198 students. The actual school enrollments ranged from four to 942. No schools reported a classroom size of more than 30, and the average class size contained 14 students. The study also found that two-thirds of the schools served students with learning difficulties or disabilities and almost 50 percent of those responding had the capacity to enroll more students with such difficulties.

The results also reported the private schools to have an average of 28 personnel, or on-site, full-time staff. Eight of those individuals were found to hold non-teaching positions, while twenty individuals were members of the teaching staff.

Perhaps the most important data received from the survey found that in general private schools strongly support school choice options such as voucher programs and tax credit programs, as long as their autonomy and mission would not be interfered with by the government. In fact, 70 percent of private schools reported they would not enroll children whose families received government funds if it would infer increased oversight and regulations from government officials. Schools also strongly opposed the idea of abandoning admissions standards in order to receive students whose families receive vouchers or tax credits.

Overall, according to the financial aspects regarding each student, the cost annually for each student was well below the national average. In fact, according to the schools which responded the average tuition costs for an elementary student was \$5,000. A \$5,500 scholarship would cover a middle school student, and \$6,000 scholarship would cover the costs of a high school student.

As states all over the country are beginning to see the benefits of offering school choice programs and parents are becoming more satisfied after being given the option of choice, it is hopeful that school choice will become a prominent aspect in the education of all Americans.

Not So Pro-Choice After All

This week, the House Appropriations Committee held a full committee markup of the Fiscal Year 2010, Financial Services Appropriations bill. The bill removes the ban on federal funding for domestic partnership

benefits, and it legalizes medical marijuana. This bill also includes language which would allow for publicly funded abortions in the District of Columbia.

While in markup, several great amendments were offered to the bill, including an amendment which would prohibit tax-payer monies from being used to fund abortion, while other amendments focused on allowing the D.C. scholarship program to continue.

Representatives Todd Tiahrt and Lincoln Davis [offered the amendment](#) to reinstate the full restriction on taxpayer funded abortions in D.C., but the amendment failed by a vote of 26-33. This means that not only will D.C. residents be funding abortions through their taxes, but in reality all Americans will be funding these “services,” due to the budget system in the District. The Washington D.C. budget must be approved by Congress and the money essentially gets placed in a “slush” fund, meaning there is no real distinction between the D.C. tax-monies and the federal tax-monies. Allowing this restriction on the funding of abortions in the District to be removed, would open up the funding of abortions on all American tax-payers.

Two other amendments focused on the rash decision to cut all funding for scholarship programs that would allow underprivileged families a choice in regards to their children’s education. Representative Frelinghuysen offered two amendments in order to save the D.C. Scholarship program. The first struck down the language which did away with the scholarship funding, opening the program back up and allowing more students to apply. This amendment failed by a vote of 23-36. The second amendment would have allowed the program to be opened up to only the siblings of those students already involved in the program. It also failed with a vote of 25-34.

After Members fought hard to secure the scholarship program and deny abortion providers from receiving tax-payer monies, the bill passed through committee and now heads to the House floor for a final vote without any of these amendments attached. Sadly, Congress feels that a parent has a choice to decide if their child should live or not, but they do not have a choice in where to send that child to receive an education. If this bill passes our tax-payer monies will be given to kill the unborn children, but not to educate those children who have been “chosen” to live.

ACTION: Please contact your Representative and urge him/her to oppose the FY 2010 Financial Services Appropriations bill as it currently allows for federal of abortion and eliminates a successful school choice program for DC students.

Let the Hearings Begin!

As the hearings begin next week for the [confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor](#) as the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Senators are becoming more concerned by her rather [lengthy record](#) and her continuance of speech blunders. The recent overturning of a decision she made as an appellate judge also is cause to be concerned.

Critics believe that Judge Sotomayor is perhaps the most extreme judge ever to be nominated to the highest Court. With previous decisions she has made being overturned by the very court she has been selected to serve on, and her clear desire to judge based on “[empathy](#)” rather than “impartiality,” it is concerning to see where the judicial branch is heading.

Other concerns are based on Judge Sotomayor’s interpretation on the right to life. In a recent meeting with Senator DeMint she expressed that she has never thought about the rights of the unborn. Whether or not you support abortion or oppose it, a Justice should be extremely familiar with the rights that every American is endowed, including life.

As Judge Sotomayor is expected to give an account to Senators in the hearing next week regarding her record, it is important that Senator’s remember to fulfill their Constitutional duty in fully examining the nominee to see that she is not only qualified academically but exhibits an understanding of the rights which we are endowed by our Creator and interpreting the law as our founding fathers originally intended.

ACTION: Please contact your Senators urge them to oppose the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court.

In Case You Missed It:

[Student Forced to Change Pro-Life Shirt](#)

[Conservative Groups to File Suit against the FDA regarding Plan B](#)

[Tax-Credit Scholarships Help the Poor Succeed](#)



Editor: Maureen Wiebe
Staff Writer: Sarah Griffith
Legislative Office, 119 C Street SE, Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 202.547.2991 • Fax: 202.547.2992

