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“The patriot who feels himself in the service of God, who acknowledges Him in all his ways, has the promise of Almighty direction, and will find His Word in his greatest darkness, a lantern to his feet and a lamp unto his paths. He will therefore seek to establish for his country in the eyes of the world, such a character as shall make her not unworthy of the name of a Christian nation...”

Francis Scott Key, February 12, 1812

California Considers a Tax-Credit Bill

While the State of California’s economy is in a meltdown and the schools have endured massive funding cuts, a beam of light is shining by way of a [proposed tax-credit bill](#) that would provide tax credits to groups and individuals who donate to private school scholarship programs. As with most bills, politics will generally decide the outcome of the legislation, but as Dan Lips, senior education policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation, stated, “Since California is in such a huge fiscal crisis, this could be a way to do two important things: improve opportunity for students and their families to send children where they choose, and save the state money.”

The [Great Schools Tax-Credit Scholarship Program](#), Bill number 279, was introduced by state Assemblyman Mike Duvall in an attempt “to give kids the opportunity to go to schools that are being productive.” Shaun Rundle, a staffer for Assemblyman Duvall also stated the legislation hopes to assist “students to have the opportunity best suited for them and to be in a place where they can excel.” Rundle also declared the necessity to “give money to the schools that are being the most productive,” in an effort to support “what works” as Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has encouraged.

With evidence that shows tax-credits are fiscally responsible and save money on the state level, the program would benefit California’s economy while also enabling parents to choose quality education for their child.

School Choice Gaining Momentum

As students head back to school in the following weeks, [216 Students](#) living in the District of Columbia will not be allowed to attend the school of their choice, after their scholarships were ripped away by Secretary Arne Duncan and Congress back in April. While numerous efforts continue to fight for these students, their parents, and their right to choose, evidence is mounting in support of school choice and the benefits that it brings not only in the academic achievement of the students and the satisfaction of parents, but also in the efficiency of choice programs and their proven ability to save States tax-payer monies.

This summer two documentaries have been filmed that show the ever-growing corruption involved with urban and suburban public schools. [The Cartel](#) takes a focused view on inner city and urban public schools in New Jersey and how funding and more money is not the answer to improving failing schools. No other state, besides New York, spends as much [money per pupil](#) as the Garden State, yet New Jersey schools admit that “only 39 percent of the state’s eighth-graders are proficient or advanced readers, and only 40 percent of its eighth-graders are proficient or advanced in math.” In fact, according to the film “of new high school graduates attending the state’s community colleges, nearly 80 percent require remediation and more than three quarters of New Jersey’s high schools have been warned that they may be placed on the state’s list of failing schools.” The film takes a close look at where the money is going and who is responsible for the current state that these schools find

themselves in, as well as the efforts by individuals to combat corruption, stubborn teacher unions, and failing schools by implementing choice and competition.

Though *The Cartel* focused on urban schools, many parents believe that suburban schools maintain a higher level of conduct and academic achievement. While this may be true in some states, another documentary released this summer focused in on school districts where the schools are boasted to be of the highest quality in the nation yet after careful research and study of the schools parents were horrified to find the truth. [Not as Good as You Think](#) takes a look at middle class suburban schools in California where the “good” schools in the “nice” neighborhoods are being operated and are performing not much differently from those schools in low-income urban neighborhoods. The documentary was based on the book *Not as Good as You Think: Why the Middle Class Needs School Choice* published by the Pacific Research Institute in 2007.

As the school choice movement gains momentum through reports, documentaries, and studies all proving the benefits and necessity for choice and competition in education, it is time that Congress, the Administration, and Secretary Arne Duncan act not only on what they say but also on what has been proven to work and give students the ability to succeed and parents the right to choose their child’s education.

A Suit Against Embryonic Stem Cell Research

This week a lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to [stop federal funding](#) of research that destroys living human embryos. The suit premises from the controversial guidelines set forth by the National Institute of Health on July 7, 2009 which allows for the first time tax-payer dollars to be used to fund this research. Since 1994 a ban has been placed by Congress on the research of human embryos which “are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death.”

Thomas G. Hungar, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs in the suit argued, “the language of the statute is clear. It bans public funding for any research that leads to the destruction of human embryos. NIH’s attempt to avoid Congress’s command by funding everything but the act of ‘harvesting’ is pure sophistry. The guidelines will result in the destruction of human embryos and are unlawful, unethical, and unnecessary.” Proper procedures required by law were disregarded along with the consideration of more effective and less “ethically problematic” adult stem cell research and almost 50,000 comments opposing the new regulations.

The lawsuit was filed by an extensive coalition of plaintiffs, including Nightlight Christian Adoptions, and the Christian Medical Association. Serving as co-counsel will be the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal alliance that focuses on issues relevant to the sanctity of life and religious freedom.

The official complaint filed can be viewed here: [HHS Lawsuit](#)

In Case You Missed It:

[Judge Rules against Abortion Law](#)

[Abortion Clinics in Public Schools](#)

[Reforming and Improving Federal Pre-K](#)

[Obama: "Bearing False Witness"](#)

