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*"I am sure that never was a people, who had more reason to acknowledge a Divine interposition in their affairs, than those of the United States; and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them."*

George Washington

### D.C. Rally for School Choice

Several prominent leaders [rallied](#) with hundreds of children in Washington D.C. this week to send a message to both Congress and the Administration that [school choice works](#). Republican House Leader John Boehner (R-OH) joined Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT), D.C. Councilman Marion Barry, and former U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings as they publically issued their support for the D.C. Scholarship Program after it was abruptly halted earlier in the year. While children already enrolled in the program were allowed to continue their schooling in the school of their choice, [216 families](#) initially accepted along with many other prospects were told the program was over and their scholarships were no longer legitimate. The scholarship program allows children of low income families to be given a voucher and to use that voucher to attend the school of their choice. [Evaluations](#) of the program published earlier this year found the program to be successful, not only academically but also with parental satisfaction.

Other speakers who joined the hundreds of children on the Capitol lawn included Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony H. Williams, former D.C. Councilman Kevin P. Chavous, BAEF Founder and Chair Dr. Howard Fuller, D.C. BAEF Executive Director Virginia Walden Ford, and Bruce Stewart, former Head of School for Sidwell Friends. "Every child deserves an opportunity to receive a quality education, which is why it is imperative that low-income families in Washington, D.C. continue to have access to an opportunity scholarship to choose the best learning environment for their children," [Rep. Boehner stated](#). "This program has transformed lives and given children and their families a hope for a brighter future. It must continue, and we will keep fighting to ensure that it continues to benefit students and parents in this city. Instead of terminating this program, we should extend it and look for ways to give similar choices to children and families in other cities across America."

Since the decision was made to end the program, bills have been [introduced](#) in the House and Senate to reinstate the program, yet little attention has been given to them. While the children continue to chant "Put Kids First" at rallies held throughout the city, it is time Congress stop serving special interests groups and unions and start listening to the constituents and residents of the city.

### Report on Pregnancy Resource Movement

Earlier this week the Family Research Council was [pleased to release](#) their first ever innovative report on the tremendous work and efforts put forth by Pregnancy Care Centers around the nation. *A Passion to Serve, A Vision for Life* is the first comprehensive report that looks at the details and success of thousands of pregnancy care centers and the services they provide. The report focused on two key initiatives: "The impact of pregnancy resource centers on women's, adolescent, maternal and child health," and "How the movement's growth is driven by the public's desire to support abortion alternatives." According to the executive summary of the report, "A Passion to Serve lays out in detail, through statistical summaries, case studies and client stories, the

extraordinary social service contributions made by the nation's PRC's meeting the needs of women, youth and families."

The report was released at the National Press Club following a live webcast that [hosted](#) "several physicians, clients served by the centers, and presidents of three national pregnancy center networks representing more than 2,300 cross-affiliates in all 50 states." The experts in the field were able to share detailed stories of how the pregnancy centers were positively affecting their communities while experts on a more national platform expressed the need and desire to establish more care centers.

To download a copy of the report and to read more about the success of these pregnancy centers please click on the following link: <http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?c=PASSIONTO SERVE>

### **Pulpit Freedom Sunday**

As liberal and anti-Christian activists have tried to censor pastors and their freedoms to preach on the Biblical perspectives of the positions of elected candidates and officials, the Alliance Defense Fund and nearly a hundred pastors will be participating in the second annual [Pulpit Freedom Sunday](#) to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religious expression. According to Erik Stanley, Senior Legal Counsel for ADF, the organization "is not trying to get politics into the pulpit. On the contrary, the whole point is that churches should be allowed to decide for themselves what they want to talk about. The IRS should not be the one making the decision by threatening to revoke a church's tax-exempt status. We need the government to get out of the pulpit."

Since the establishment of the Constitution, preachers were allowed to regularly preach on candidates and the political positions by which they sided; however, in 1954, the Johnson amendment, essentially a gag order placed on churches and religious organizations, was added to the Federal Tax Code, and has had a chilling effect on many pastors as they do not want to risk being investigated by the IRS and lose their tax-exempt status. ADF argues that "pastors have a right to speak about Biblical truths from the pulpit without fear of punishment. No one should be able to use the government to intimidate pastors into giving up their constitutional rights," yet many anti-faith organizations such as Americans United for Separation of Church and State have continued to bring about frivolous law suits in order to censor the church.

The event that will take place on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, "is a strategic litigation plan which... is intended to restore the right of every pastor to speak Scriptural truth from the pulpit about moral, social, and government issues," reports ADF.

### **The Battle against Same-Sex Marriage**

As thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender advocates are [expected to march](#) on Capitol Hill next week in an effort to secure "marriage equality" and "equal rights" for all, the fight for traditional marriage in the District of Columbia is becoming strenuous. With the majority of D.C. Council members supporting same-sex marriage rights, a [vote is expected](#) to be determined by the end of the year and as early as the beginning of November. While conservative organizations are fighting hard to preserve traditional marriage and grassroots efforts have been stronger than ever before, the fight is taking a toll and leaders are caving in to the pressures of the GLBT community.

Many prominent D.C. leaders and outspoken African-American pastors have been working tirelessly demanding that the Board of Election and Ethics authorize a ballot initiative, allowing the people of the District to decide, yet the city code prohibits a referendum on issues relating to the Human Rights Act. Because no referendum will be issued, "There will definitely be a backlash because people will say: 'You didn't listen to us. You didn't even ask us, and you blocked our opportunity to vote'," Gary Imhoff, a community activist, predicts.

Conservatives are worried that same-sex marriage in the District would open the floodgates for same-sex marriage to be legalized in other states. If the present bill passes and no actions are taken by Congress to intervene, the District will be the first jurisdiction south of the Mason-Dixon Line to legalize same-sex

marriages. Activists are already planning how this decision could boost initiatives in their own states, and many believe this will be the first step to repealing the federal provision of [DOMA](#).

While the battle can be long, standing strong on the principles of the Bible will always produce strength and courage that no man can disrupt. Leaders and activists of traditional marriage are still fighting hard in the battle for Biblical marriage and the battle has yet to be finished.

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

[New Safe and Drug Free Schools Director Not so Safe](#)

["ENDA and the Path to Same-Sex Marriage"](#)

[Rep. Kline seeks to Fully Fund IDEA](#)

[Abortion Complicates Health Care Bills](#)

[Anti-Abortion Amendment Fails in Senate Committee](#)



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

