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Public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures. The doctrine they preach, the obligations they impose, the punishment they threaten, the rewards they promise, the stamp and image of divinity they bear, which produces a conviction of their truths, can alone secure to society, order and peace, and to our courts of justice and constitutions of government, purity, stability and usefulness. In vain, without the Bible, we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions. Bibles are strong entrenchments. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses, and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience.

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James McHenry, Signer of the Constitution

Maine Voters Repeal Same-Sex Marriage Law

Defenders of traditional marriage celebrated a victory this week, as Maine residents voted to repeal the same-sex marriage law that had been passed by their state legislature earlier this year and signed by their Governor, making Maine the first state to overturn a same-sex marriage law enacted by the legislature. Same-sex marriage has been legalized in five states, but has never been approved when put to a vote by the people. In an attempt to be the first state to confirm same-sex marriage by the vote of the people, hundreds of supporters showed up and rallied, only to be disappointed in the end. In fact, Maine has joined 30 other states in [voting for traditional marriage](#), reiterating the notion that the legislatures and courts are out of touch with the people.

While the pro-gay marriage lobby “Protect Maine Equality” raised \$4 million dollars, nearly double what the pro-traditional group “Stand for Marriage” raised, the outcome was not a shock. In fact, going into [the election](#), public opinion polls showed the public split down the middle on the issue. After receiving the results, Jesse Connolly, manager for Protect Maine Equality, stated, “At the end of the day we’re going to see a positive result. We might not see that tonight. It might be [tomorrow](#).”

Though the pro-gay marriage lobby is not taking a day off from their efforts, the defenders of traditional marriage have achieved a huge victory. According to Frank Schubert, chief organizer for Stand for Marriage, “The institution of marriage has been preserved in Maine and across the nation.”

The Eleventh Hour

Entering into the eleventh hour on healthcare, the life issue stands to be the most contentious issue holding back the necessary votes to put Pelosi’s healthcare bill before the assembly for a vote. Currently, 40 pro-life Democrats are the obstacle that stands between the bill and its final passage. Although Democratic Congressional leaders have consistently been meeting with the “[blue-dog](#)” Democrats, those democrats who tend to be conservative and pro-life, in efforts to strike a deal that would garner their support, little progress has been made.

Rep. Stupak (D-MI), one of leaders of these pro-life Democrats, has been very diligent to ensure that health care reform does not allow federal funding for abortion by any means. [Phony compromises](#) have been offered in the form of amendments to the bill, including a proposed amendment by Rep. Ellsworth (D-IN) that calls for

private contractors to directly work with abortion providers rather than the federal government. However, according to Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), chairman of the pro-life caucus, this is “yet another phony amendment designed to subsidize and expand the abortion industry cloaked in [deceptive language](#). The new language makes clear that abortion will be included in the public option. Under the new arrangement, instead of an HHS employee issuing blood money checks for elective abortions, HHS will pay a contractor to issue checks for abortion on demand.” Rep. Smith further explained, “It is a distinction without a difference. The public should not be fooled nor should any pro-life Democrat.”

Leaders in Congress are desperate to pass health care as soon as possible and are intending to do so by the weekend; however, if the “blue-dogs” stick together and oppose the current bill as it stands without any protections for the unborn, Democrats will be lacking the votes needed to do so, as all Republican Members of Congress have already expressed their opposition to the bill.

As the eleventh hour has come, it is essential that Representatives be reminded that abortion is not healthcare, and any government funding to cover abortion would be an act that defies the wishes of the majority of American people and their beliefs.

***ACTION:** Please contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to **OPPOSE** the health care reform bill currently being considered in Congress. Votes in the House of Representatives are scheduled to take place this weekend. Contact information can be obtained at the following links: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.*

“Let Me Rise”: A School Choice Documentary

Congressional Members who have not openly supported school choice in the past are speaking out in support of the D.C. Scholarship Program, leading the way to further school choice in the district and throughout the states. The D.C. Scholarship Program grants scholarships to children of low-income families to go to the school of their choice. It provides a way to escape from the lowest performing public schools in the nation and allows the parents to be directly involved in choosing the best education for their child.

Senator Joe Lieberman, a leader in the Senate for D.C. school choice, wrote an op-ed in [The Washington Post](#) and stated, “The program gives the parents of disadvantaged children a choice that's available to the more affluent, including many in Congress and the Obama administration. It is a program that teachers unions and many in Congress strongly oppose. However, the program is working, and accordingly, it should be reauthorized.” He continued to say, “There are low-income children in the District who can't wait for their local schools to turn around. Without programs such as this one, their opportunity will be lost forever.”

The President’s Omnibus spending bill which passed earlier this year included language that would ultimately [phase out](#) the D.C. Scholarship program stripping away scholarships that were recently awarded to over 200 students. Those already enrolled in the program were allowed to finish out their remaining schooling in the program, but no new scholarships were to be awarded. Since the Administration proposed to phase out the program, parents, students, and school choice advocates from around the nation have joined the fight to “put kids first” and educate the nation on the benefits of school choice. [Rallies and protests](#) have been held throughout the summer and fall months in order to garner support and demand that Congress and the Administration reauthorize the program.

With this issue gaining attention in the nation’s capitol, the Heritage Foundation, in an effort to spread the word to all states about the fight for school choice, has produced “[Let Me Rise](#),” a 30 minute [documentary film](#) about the background of the program, the stories of those involved, and the benefits of granting parents the choice for their child’s education. Through the efforts of many parents, students, schools, and leading school choice advocates, the fight to preserve parental choice in education in the nation’s capitol is on the path to victory. In fact, Senator Durban (D-IL), who originally introduced the language into the omnibus bill that stripped away the funding for the program, acknowledged after visiting a school that participates in the program that “many students are getting a [good education](#) from the program.” He has also made assertions that the program could be reauthorized.

In Case You Missed It:

["House Call" on Congress](#)

["The Price of Prop 8"](#)

[GOP Announces Health Care Alternative](#)



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