



The Washington Flyer
November 25, 2009

“I recommend a general and public return of praise and thanksgiving to Him from whose goodness these blessings descend. The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the source from which they flow.”

John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

AACS Represented at Education Stakeholder Meeting

As the Department of Education plans to [reauthorize](#) the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly known as No Child Left Behind, several educator stakeholder forums have been held as part of the “Learning and Listening Tour” that Education Secretary Arne Duncan is conducting. At these meetings education groups are invited to express their ideas, concerns, and advice to the Department as a means to collaborate support for ESEA reauthorization. AACS has been invited to and represented at each of these meetings to ensure that faith-based schools continue to be protected.

Last week, the Department held a forum entitled “Educating Diverse Learners” which featured the following panelists: Dr. Alfredo Artiles, Professor of Education Policy, Leadership and Curriculum; Mary Lou Fulton, Institute and Graduate School of Education, Arizona State University; Kris D. Gutiérrez, Professor and Inaugural Provost Chair, University of Colorado; Dr. Judith Moening, Executive Director for Special Education, North East Independent School District (San Antonio, TX); and Dr. Patricia Popp, State Coordinator for Virginia Education Program for Homeless Children and Youth. The panel discussed non-controversial issues of how best to include diverse learners within current programs in the public schools. During the question and answer session, however, a question was raised by a representative from the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) which suggested that the Department should consider the needs of the gay and lesbian students while discussing diverse education strategies. (GLSEN was founded by Kevin Jennings, the current director of the office of Safe and Drug Free schools. Since his appointment, Jennings has been a controversial individual due to his [radical homosexual agenda](#).)

One more forum is scheduled as part of the “Listening Tour,” and AACS will continue to participate in these meetings and to follow the actions taken by the Department. Our primary purpose in participating will be to ensure that language protecting Christian school autonomy remains in the reauthorization of ESEA.

HealthCare Proceeds to Debate in Senate

“The battle has just begun,” said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell after the motion to proceed to debate the health care bill [passed](#) 60-39 on a party line vote. The vote came just hours after several Democrats voiced their agreement to proceed to debate but their dissatisfaction with the overall bill. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) strongly opposes many provisions within the bill; but after negotiating a [\\$300 million provision](#) that would aid in relief for her financially stricken state, she expressed her support to proceed, stating, “I have decided there are enough significant reforms and safeguards in this bill to move forward, but much

more work needs to be done.” While the Democrats had enough votes to proceed to debate, passage of the bill will not be easily won. Several Senators have expressed their deep concerns with the bill, including a “government-run” option, sky-rocketing costs, and public funding for abortions. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) has many reservations about the bill and publicly stated before the vote, “Although I don’t agree with everything in this bill, I believe it is more important that we begin debate on how to improve the health care system for all Americans.” However, she went on to say, “But let me be perfectly clear. I am opposed to a new government-administered health care plan as a part of comprehensive health insurance reform, and I will not vote in favor of the proposal that has been introduced by leader Reid as it is written.”

One of the greatest concerns with the bill continues to be the life issue. While the House passed a pro-life amendment to their version, no language has been added to the Senate bill that would be eliminate fears of federally funded abortions. Because once debate starts on legislation few adjustments are usually made to the bill, Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) analyzed the vote on the motion to proceed as “the key vote on [abortion](#) in the health care debate.”

The White House released the following [statement](#) after all votes had been cast: “The president is gratified that the Senate has acted to begin consideration of health insurance reform legislation. Tonight's historic vote brings us one step closer to ending insurance company abuses, reining in spiraling health care costs, providing stability and security to those with health insurance and extending quality health coverage to those who lack it. The President looks forward to a thorough and productive debate.”

Parental Rights Rally in D.C.

A second rally for the proposed Parental Rights Amendment to the Constitution was held this past week on the Capitol lawn. After a successful [rally](#) held in April, defenders of the Amendment again voiced their support to declare that parental rights are an essential, fundamental right that should be protected by the Constitution. Speakers at the rally included Representative Hoekstra, a representative from Senator Jim DeMint’s office, Gerard Robinson with Black Alliance for Educational Options, William Estrada of Homeschool Legal Defense Association, Dean and Julie Nelson of National Black Home Educators, Steven Groves of Heritage Foundation, and Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform.

The rally occurred on the same day as the designated “[Children's Day](#)” by internationalists and brought to light the need to protect parental rights by amending the U.S. Constitution.

To learn more about the Amendment and the protection of parental rights, please click [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

[House Committee Passes Same-Sex Domestic Partnership Bill](#)

[Congressman Upset about D.C. Gay Marriage](#)

[Pastors "Test" Hate Crimes Law](#)

The Original Presidential Proclamation for the First Thanksgiving, by President George Washington:

General Thanksgiving

**By the PRESIDENT of the United States Of America
A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a DAY OF PUBLICK THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY of NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed;-- for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted;-- for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;-- and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions;-- to enable us all, whether in publick or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us); and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

GIVEN under my hand, at the city of New-York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

(signed) George Washington

Source: The Massachusetts Centinel, Wednesday, October 14, 1789